DC YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM







Every dream has a beginning.

DCYOP makes it possible.

BEGINNING STUDENT HANDBOOK 2026-2027 Program Year

2026 DC Youth Orchestra Program

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About DCYOP







MISSION

For more than 65 years, our mission has been to empower young people to transform their lives through music and community.

WE BELIEVE

- All young people should have access to the transformative power of music education.
- Students are supported in their personal journeys when meeting them where they are.
- Excellence is fostered through diversity, inclusion, and community.

DCYOP Staff

Administration:
Loretta Thompson, Executive Director - loretta@dcyop.org
Allison Giovanetti, Senior Operations Coordinator- allison@dcyop.org

Programs:
Evan Ross Solomon, Artistic Director - evan@dcyop.org
Katie Blake, Program Manager - katie@dcyop.org
Rashida Coleman, Director of Engagement - rashida@dcyop.org

Development:
Sylvia Garcia, Development Associate - sylvia@dcyop.org
KellyAnn Nelson, Director of Development - kellyann@dcyop.org

DCYOP Teaching Artists

Anthony Asero — Percussion
Erin Baker — Harp
Amylia Barnett — Bassoon
Erika Cuffy — Bassoon/Flute
Fabio Dantas — Violin/Viola
Asa Dawson — Bass
Ken Giles — Violin
Claire Hebeisen — Violin
Corey Hewitt — Percussion
Keith Kelsey — Flute
Brandon Lewis — Violin/Viola
Yuan-Ju Liu — Violin
Liya Ma — Violin
Na'Vaughn Martin — Bassoon
Kevin McKee — Trumpet
Brian Moten — Trumpet/Trombone
Matthew Paiz — Cello
Brookes Pennell — Violin
Rachel Pereira — Cello
Denna Purdie — Cello
Joanna Ramirez — Flute
Heidi Remick — Viola
Lauren Riley — Oboe
Faith Ring — Clarinet
Kristopher Ring — Trombone
YaShauna Swan — Violin/Viola
Samuel Thompson — Violin
Ian van Nuys — Saxophone
Kaitlyn Walker — Violin/Viola
Josalyn Walker — Violin
Alyson Wyckoff — Violin/Viola

LOCATION + *Communication*

Program Rehearsal Location:

Takoma Elementary School
7010 Piney Branch Road NW, Washington, DC 20012

Contacting Us:

Phone: (202) 795-8550
Program Questions: tim@dcyop.org
General Questions: frontdesk@dcyop.org
Donations & Sponsorships: development@dcyop.org
Tuition Support: rashida@dcyop.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday – Saturday 9 am – 5 pm
DCYOP offices are closed on Sunday and Monday

Stay Up to Date By Following Us Online:

dcyop.org
facebook.com/dcyop
instagram.com/dcyop/
linkedin.com/company/dcyop/
youtube.com/@DCYOPmusic4all

DCYOP REGISTRATION PLATFORM

DCYOP's registration platform is a program called Jumbula.

You will use Jumbula to log into your DCYOP account to register and to update payment information or other general account information.

Visit https://dcyop.jumbula.com/Login and follow the instructions provided in the program.

To update your payment information please follow the instructions below:

- Go to https://dcyop.jumbula.com/Login
- If you do not remember your login, click "forgot password".
- Choose Payment methods from the top right menu.
- Click on "Add payment method".
- Add the credit card information and check the box that says, "Set this credit card as preferred." You may still need to pay any overdue installments manually by clicking on them and entering the information again.
- Contact frontdesk@dcyop.org for further assistance.

DCYOP SATURDAY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The timing of your child's rehearsal depends on the level in which they are enrolled.

DCYOP Staff will be on-site from 8:00am to 4:00pm.
Classes and rehearsals run from 9:00am to 3:30pm.
A Floor Monitor will be available to assist families during classes and rehearsals.

Registration for beginner students is for a full program year and open only in the fall to new students.

DCYOP COMMUNITY *Agreements*

Guidelines to ensure a safe and respectful environment.

Communication: DCYOP will communicate with families primarily through email and the DCYOP website. Please ensure a correct email is on file with the DCYOP staff. It is the responsibility of all participants, students, and guardians to regularly check DCYOP's website and their email for messages and announcements from the administrative and program staff.

Courtesy and Respect for Each Other: All students, parents, and guardians are expected to behave courteously and respectfully towards each other, their conductor and teachers, administrative staff, and board members. Courtesy and respect are expected at rehearsals, performances, and any DCYOP activity or event.

Arrive Fully Prepared: Students are expected to come to every rehearsal fully prepared, having practiced their music. They should bring their instrument, music, and any necessary accessory they need to participate fully in rehearsals (ex: pencils, extra strings, rosin, reeds, mutes, rock-stops, etc.). DCYOP does not sell musical accessories and is not able to repair instruments on-site. If a student loses their music, they can download and print it from the DCYOP Music Library.

Rehearsal/Class Etiquette: During rehearsals and classes, DCYOP students should focus their full attention on their musical work. Use of cell phones or other electronic devices, and all other non-musical tasks, are prohibited. Students should remain seated and ready to play at all times, except during assigned breaks. Parents and guardians are not allowed in ensemble rehearsals and must wait in designated parent waiting areas, which are subject to change each Saturday.

DCYOP staff may take disciplinary action with students who are disruptive or behaving disrespectfully as needed to preserve a beneficial class environment for all students.

Respect for Property: DCYOP is a guest at Takoma Elementary School (TES) and is responsible to respect the facility, furniture, and equipment. As such, only TES and DCYOP staff may move furniture or equipment. Students and participants are asked not to remove chairs or desks from their classroom and not touch computers or other classroom equipment in their rehearsal spaces. Food and drink are not permitted in classrooms or in the rehearsal spaces.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend every rehearsal, sectional, and class. In the case of an emergency or unavoidable absence, parents are asked to notify DCYOP as soon as possible by submitting the Attendance Notification Form available in the Attendance Policy document.

Floor Monitors During Rehearsals: Every Saturday, a DCYOP Team member is stationed on each floor to assist students, teachers, and parents. To report an incident on Saturday or receive guidance regarding a situation, please see a Floor Monitor or contact the Program Manager, Katie Blake at katie@dcyop.org.

DCYOP Closure and Cancellation Policy: DCYOP follows the DC Public Schools (DCPS) calendar and policies for closure. If DCPS is closed for weekend activities, then all DCYOP events are cancelled. DCYOP will notify families via social media and email of any closures or cancellations.

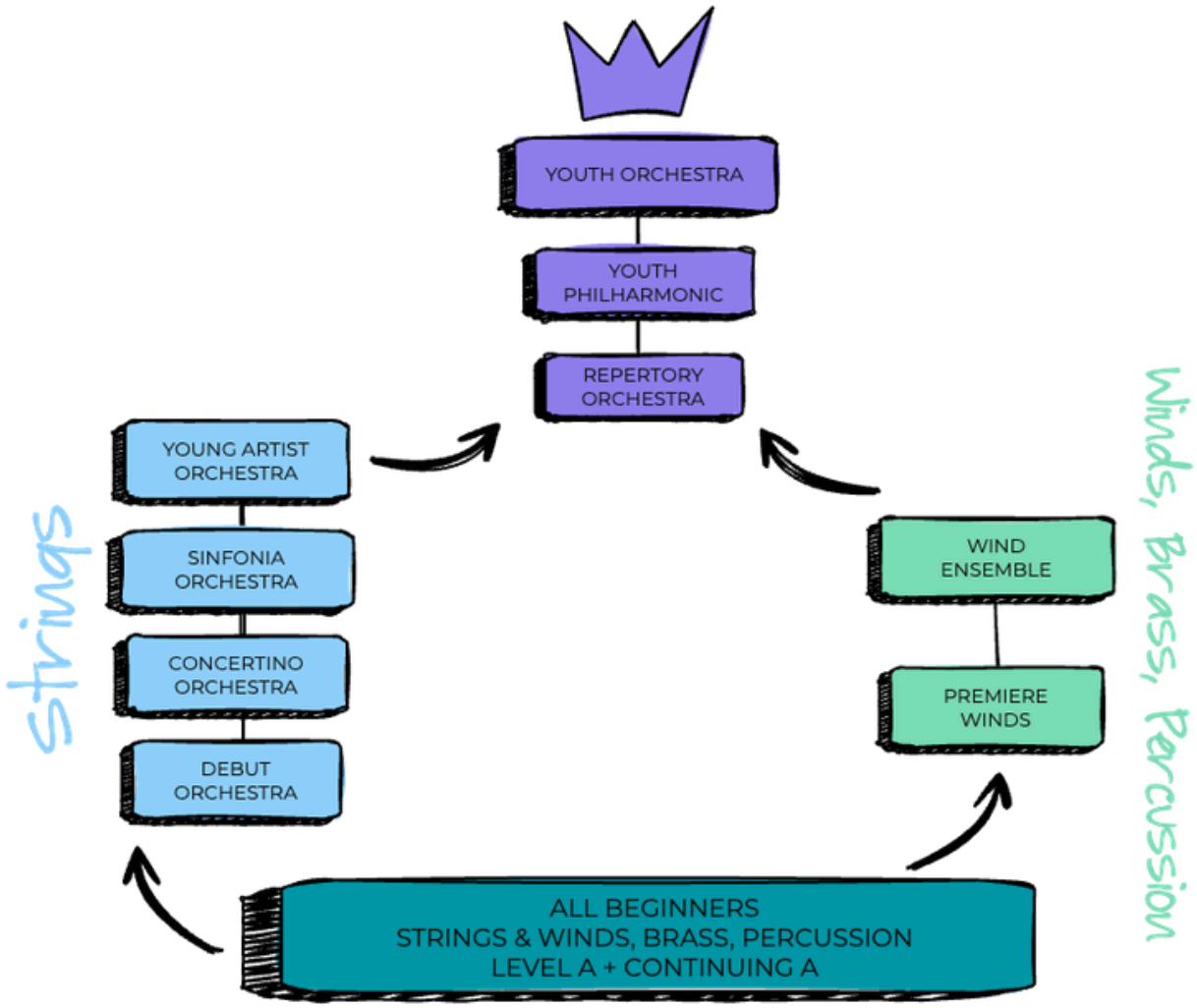
DCPS/DCYOP Building Policy: DCYOP must follow DCPS policies regarding facility access, entrance, and buildings.

- All adults must present their ID to TES Security upon entering the building.
- Parent participants for beginners are allowed one adult per student. Multiple adults or siblings are not permitted in the classroom.
- Additional parents and family members are welcome to wait in the school's annex during classes or rehearsals.

Additional Policies provided during the registration process:

- DCYOP Attendance Notification Form
- DCYOP Registration Policies for the 2026-2027 Season
- DCYOP Media Release Waiver
- DCYOP Code of Conduct and Bullying Prevention Plan

GROW WITH DCYOP *Programs*



Learn about more of our programs and opportunities throughout the DC region for all levels of musicians at dcyop.org/programs or by scanning this code. What can you accomplish at DCYOP?

There is a place for every child at

DC YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

PLACEMENTS FOR *Beginners*

If your child is new to music, we welcome your family with arms wide open! The DCYOP staff and teaching artists are skilled at helping students build strong musical foundations and in helping them grow with confidence at their own pace. This program is not remedial—it is intentionally structured to support long-term musical development.

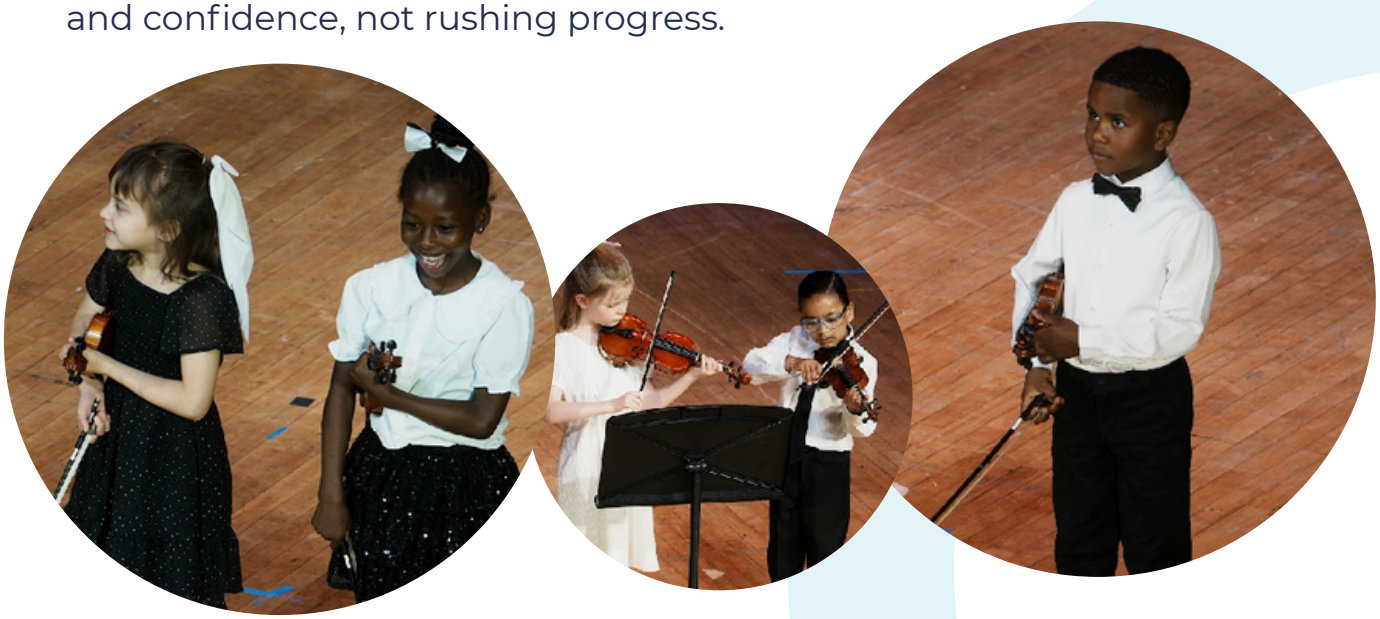
Music is a shared journey. We will be with you every step of the way.

Placement at Beginner Levels:
Beginners are grouped into levels to best support their learning. Currently, DCYOP offers more than 40 beginner classes for new students to music.

- Level A - typically students who are brand new to music or have less than one year of experience on their instrument.

By the end of the year, students may:
- Advance to a Beginner Ensemble or
- Continue in Level A to further strengthen their skills

Many students spend approximately two years in the Beginner Program. **This is normal and encouraged**, as our focus is on building music literacy and confidence, not rushing progress.



PROGRESS *Checks*

For beginner students, we don't hold formal progress checks. Instead, since this is a full year program, teachers will provide feedback to students prior to winter break and an overall assessment at the end of the year.

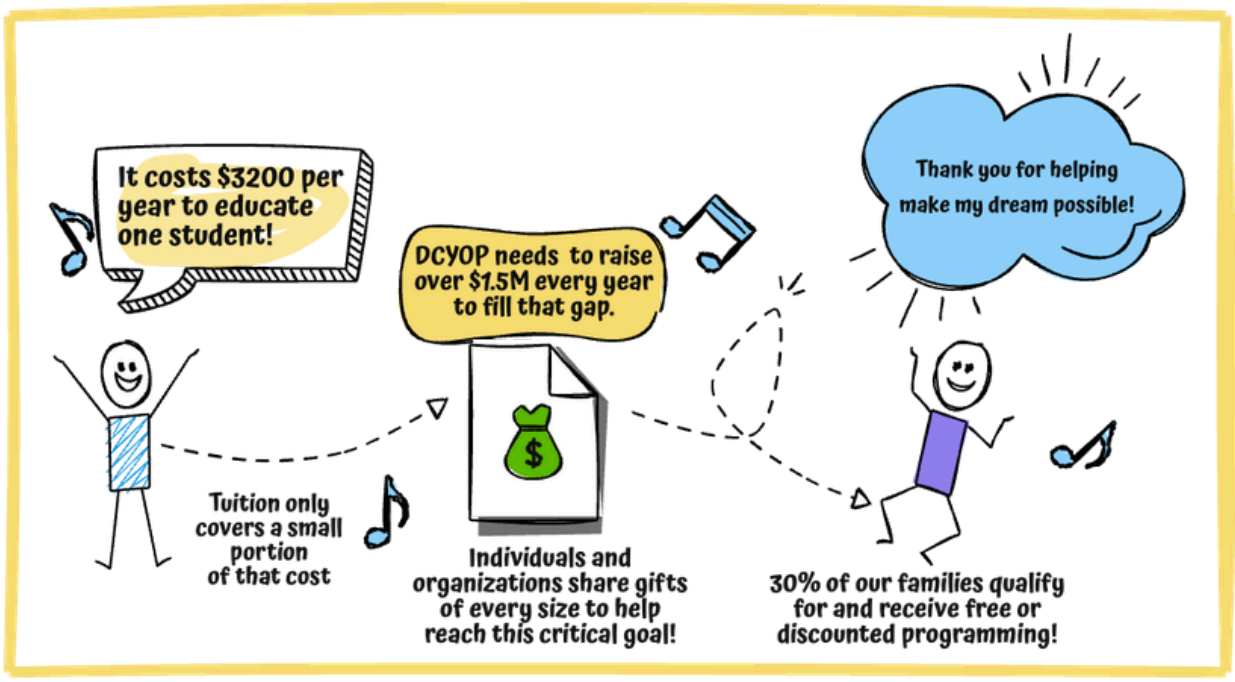
Winter Feedback:
Teachers will provide each student with input on items they can work on over the winter break to continue their growth.

Spring Feedback:
Each Spring, teachers provide an overall evaluation for each student, with notes and practice tips, based on progress over the entire year. This is a progress report designed to help them continuing their growth, not an assessment.



Thank you for being part of our DCYOP Community!

Support DCYOP



I pay tuition, so why does DCYOP fundraise?

DCYOP is committed to providing life-changing opportunities for hundreds of students and families just like yours every year. We believe that music education should be accessible to EVERY student, so we keep tuition low and work to eliminate barriers to participation.

When you or someone in your community share a donation, your gift supports: DCYOP teaching artists, concert and rehearsal venues, music and materials, tuition assistance, and more. Every gift makes an impact.

DCYOP makes it easy to share your support. Start a monthly recurring gift, setup payroll deduction or a matching gift at work, sponsor a DCYOP event, or make a tax-deductible gift in the format (online, by mail, via stock, IRA, DAF, in your will, etc.) that works best for you!

Visit dcyop.org/support or contact KellyAnn at development@dcyop.org to learn more about the opportunities, benefits, and impact associated with giving to DCYOP!

Scan here to give a gift today!

Support our Fall Fundraiser

Scan to see the impact of your gift

Every gift makes a difference.

2026-27 PROGRAM *Calendar*

see dcyop.org for latest updates and listings

- September 12, 2026 - Season Kickoff (at TES)
- November 8, 2026 - *A World of Difference*, DCYOP Fall Fundraiser (ticketed event for guests 18+ at the Atlas)
- November 28, 2026 - No Programs: Thanksgiving
- December 12-13, 2026 - Winter Concerts (UDC)
- December 14-January 22, 2027 - No Programs: Winter Break
- January 10, 2027 - Talent Development Program Winter Recital (location TBD)
- January 23, 2027 - Spring Programs Begin (TES)
- February 7, 2027 - Youth Orchestra and the Hong Kong Plucked String Orchestra (Clarice Smith)
- February 13, 2027 - No Programs: President's Day
- March 27, 20207 - No Programs: DC Public Schools Spring Break
- April 24, 2027 - 4th Annual Community Day (TES)
- April 24, 2027 - Registration opens for beginners for 2027-2028
- May 1, 2027 - Chamber Music Recital (TES)
- May 16, 2027 - Spring Concerts (at UDC)
- May 18, 2027 - Generations Concert (Atlas)
- May 22, 2027 - Spring Concerts (Clarice Smith)
- May 23, 2027 - Spring Concerts (UDC)
- May 2027 - Talent Development Program Recital (location TBD)
- May 2027 - Concerto Competition (Potter's Violins)
- July 2027 - Summer Programs Begin (TES)

SEE FULL EVENT DETAILS AND CALENDAR AT DCYOP.ORG

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