

Dr. David Grandis, Symphony Orchestra Conductor
Ms. Rebecca Nixon, String Orchestras Conductor
Mr. Jordan Stehle, Junior Concert Band & Wind Ensemble Conductor
Tanya Song, Executive Director

The Williamsburg Youth Orchestra was established in 1995 by local musicians and parents to give area students the opportunity to play in a full orchestra. Thanks to support from arts commissions as well as private and corporate donations, WYO has expanded to include a string orchestra, a chamber music program, and a summer music festival, in addition to its full orchestra. The WYO Symphony Orchestra, conducted by David Grandis, remains the only full orchestral experience available to school-age musicians in the Williamsburg area. The WYO String Orchestras, conducted by Rebecca Nixon, build ensemble musicianship and playing skills. WYO expanded an addition to its programs to include a full season of middle school to early high school level wind & brass groups, Junior Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, conducted by Jordan Stehle. These groups perform a minimum of three concerts together each season.

WYO Contact Information

TANYA SONG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ● 910-200-9703 ● manager@wyomusic.org

JASON CHEN, PRESIDENT ● wyopresident.chen@gmail.com

DAVID GRANDIS, DIRECTOR, SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ● dfgrandis@wm.edu

REBECCA NIXON, DIRECTOR, STRING ORCHESTRAS ● allstrings26@gmail.com

JORDAN STEHLE, DIRECTOR, JUNIOR CONCERT BAND AND WIND ENSEMBLE
● stehlejordan@gmail.com

MAILING ADDRESS:

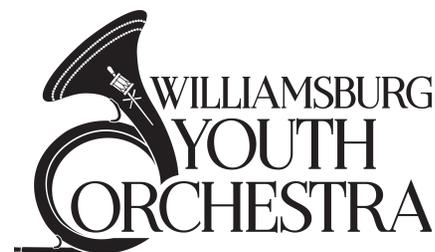
PO Box 1502
WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23187-1502

WYO is affiliated with the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) through the Williamsburg Music Association. WSO offers our members valuable opportunities to enrich our music education. Please be on the lookout for masterclasses and other educational opportunities by frequently visiting our website, wyomusic.org and WSO's at williamsburgsymphony.org for programs and offerings.



Musician and Parent Handbook

2022-2023



A Note from the Executive Director

Dear WYO Families,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the 2022-2023 season with the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra! As the Executive Director, I look forward to meeting families who are new, and welcoming back our returning families. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, WYO is operating fully with our programs and community events in partnership with the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. I am excited to make this season even stronger with much growth and accomplishments. I am especially grateful for our wonderful conductors, Dr. David Grandis for the Symphony Orchestra, Ms. Rebecca Nixon for the String Orchestras, and Mr. Jordan Stehle for the Junior Concert Band and Wind Ensemble. WYO's mission and vision to nurture and grow our talented and motivated students to develop their full potential will be achieved with your support and commitment.

Our programs include the three concerts, concerto competition, winter chamber program, and summer music camp. This season, we will have the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concert. The Winter Concert will be our biennial Side-by-Side Concert with the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. The winner of the concerto competition will be featured as the soloist in the Spring Concert. The winter chamber program will start in January 2023 which is open to non-members. Each chamber groups work with a coach for 6 weeks and perform in a concert in March that is free and open to the public. Along with the concerts, we plan to have Bring-a-Friend Nights, social events, and outreach opportunities. Bring-a-Friend Night is a rehearsal night where our members invite their friends who are interested in knowing more about WYO. Their guests will sit-in during rehearsal, and a light reception will be provided. Also, a fun social event is planned twice a year by our Student Ambassadors who are the WYO representatives in the community. In addition, several outreach opportunities are planned during the season. Our first event will be in November with The Arc of Greater Williamsburg, a wonderful organization that promotes and protects the rights of people with developmental disabilities. Our partnership with the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra will provide opportunities for masterclasses, free sit-in on their rehearsals, Instrument for Kids program (free loan), and discounted tickets for our members. Also, the Winter Chamber groups will visit local senior living facility to perform for its residents. More information can be found on our website, www.wyomusic.org.

As you can see, we have a full, exciting year ahead of us. We will hold our mandatory parent meeting on the second rehearsal date, **September 12th**. This is the one and only required meeting for parents. Please make every effort to attend and join us. We will be discussing the programs and signing up for volunteer committees. I look forward to seeing you in person and to a successful 2022-2023 season!

Sincerely,



Tanya Song
WYO Executive Director

David Grandis, WYO Symphony Orchestra Director



David Grandis is currently the Director of Orchestras at the College of William and Mary, Music Director of the Virginia Chamber Orchestra, and Music Director of the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra. Mr. Grandis' guest conducting opportunities have included the Bordeaux National Symphony Orchestra, Toulouse's Capitol National Orchestra, Nice Philharmonic Orchestra, Sofia New Symphony Orchestra, Minsk Philharmonic Orchestra, and Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. Past positions as Assistant Conductor have also included: the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra in Maryland, the Capital City Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., the Baltimore Opera Company and the National Philharmonic, where he served as Cover Conductor. In 2021, he was awarded a conducting prize at the International Conductors Workshop and Competition in Atlanta. A specialist of the French repertoire, David Grandis has established long relationships with prominent composers and their descendants: he recently completed research on the symphonic works of Max d'Ollone, contributed to restore a lost score from Jean Françaix, and is currently developing several projects involving concerts and recordings of this repertoire for Naxos. David Grandis has an equal interest in both symphonic and lyric literature. His doctoral thesis, *A la recherche du chant perdu* ©, analyzes the French style of opera singing and celebrates the era of the RTLN and its lyric company. It has been published in French and English. He has regularly served as Assistant Conductor at the Lyon National Opera in France and was invited by Albert Lance to conduct productions of Gounod's *Faust* and Puccini's *Il Tabarro*. Further lyric conducting engagements include several performances of Puccini's *La Bohème* with the Long Island Opera Company. A native of France, David Grandis completed his formal musical training in several conservatories and earned a B.M. in Musicology in France, a M.M. in conducting under Donald Schleicher at the University of Illinois in Champaign, a Graduate Performance Diploma under Gustav Meier at the Peabody Institute, and a D.M.A. in conducting under James Smith at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has participated in several master classes with Marin Alsop, Gustav Meier, Rossen Milanov, Misha Kats, John Farrer, Daniel Lewis, Donald Thulean, Philip Greenberg and Adrian Gnam.

Rebecca Nixon, WYO String Orchestras Director



Rebecca Nixon began her study of the cello under the instruction of Louise Lang. Throughout Mrs. Nixon's career, she has performed with the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra, the Wooster Symphony Orchestra and the Alliance Symphony. Mrs. Nixon also performed at the Kennedy Center with the Wooster Symphony Chamber Orchestra. While attending Bowling Green State University, she studied cello with Dr. Alan Smith, conducting with Dr. Emily Freeman Brown, and earned her Bachelors of Music in Music Education. In addition to earning her music degree, Mrs. Nixon has also earned her Orff Certification and is working on Suzuki Certification.

Mrs. Nixon taught Summer Institute for Strings at Bowling Green State University, assisted teaching string programs in Bowling Green, Ohio and Toledo, Ohio and taught orchestra and music theory at The Magnet School for the Arts in Newport News, Virginia. Mrs. Nixon also judged Assessments for Newport News Public and Williamsburg/James City County Schools and conducted the Newport News All-City Middle School and High School Orchestras.

Currently, Mrs. Nixon conducts the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra's Concert and Chamber Strings, teaches privately, and is the Orchestra Director for the Toano Middle School.

WYO Board of Directors

Jason Chen, President	Mei-Li Beane	Song Kang
Jenny Hindman, Vice-President	Tina Brooks	Nathan Mortier
Sara Stein, Treasurer	Dexter Daniel	Jack Wagner
Beth Shamaiengar, Secretary	Donna Herman	

Williamsburg Youth Orchestras Mission Statement

The mission of the Williamsburg Youth Orchestras is to help talented and motivated young musicians in the region develop their full potential as orchestra performers by providing them with the music education programs and performance opportunities that they need. To meet its mission, the WYO has the following goals:

- To bring together the finest young musicians from the area to rehearse and perform under the leadership of excellent conductors and section coaches;
- To further students' appreciation and understanding of music by rehearsing and performing different styles of classical and contemporary literature;
- To support, extend, and enhance local school music programs, as well as to provide home school students with an opportunity to participate in an orchestra;
- To provide experience rehearsing and performing within different types of ensembles;
- To develop a large and appreciative community audience for WYO concerts.

About Our Conductors

Jordan Stehle, Junior Wind & Brass Ensemble Director



Jordan Stehle earned his Bachelor's in Music Education from Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania and his Masters in Music with a concentration in Kodály from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. He currently teaches general music and beginning band in the Williamsburg-James City County Public School system and with the Early Child Music School. In addition to his teaching, Jordan has worked with the Virginia Department of Education on several Fine Arts education development teams, standards review committees, and professional development design. Jordan was selected as a GRAMMY Music Educator of the Year semi-finalist in 2021 and 2022. Jordan is an active performer in the area and has commissioned new solo works for tuba and percussion ensemble, and for band and orchestra.

Rehearsal Times

Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings at Berkeley Middle School.

Strings Orchestras:

Concert Strings 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm
Chamber Strings 7:15 pm - 8:30pm
With Ms. Nixon in the Orchestra Room

Junior Concert Band : 7:00 pm and 8:00pm

Wind Ensemble: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm (7-8pm with Jr. Concert Band)

With Mr. Stehle in the Art Room

Symphony Orchestra:

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

With Dr. Grandis in the Band Room

WYO Concert Dates:

Please mark your calendar now!

Fall Concert: Sunday, November 6, 2022, 4 pm

Concerto Competition: Saturday, January 28, 2023, 4 pm

Side by Side Concert with WSO: Sunday, February 5, 2023, 4 pm

Winter Chamber Concert: Sunday, March 26, 2023, 4 pm

Spring Concert: Sunday, April 30, 2023, 4 pm

**** WEATHER CANCELLATION PROCEDURE ****

If WJCC public schools are cancelled for the day, or if students are dismissed early and after-school activities are cancelled, WYO will be cancelled.

If WJCC schools let out at a normal time, but the weather and conditions are becoming dangerous for the evening, a decision will be made and an email will be sent out no later than 5:00 pm. You may call 910-200-9703 for cancellation questions. If we decide to hold WYO rehearsal as scheduled, but you decide not to attend, please call/email and let us know your intentions.

PARENTS!

Please join us at the MANDATORY parent meeting of the year:

Monday, September 12, 2022 (2nd rehearsal)

Berkeley Middle School, Cafeteria

7:15 PM

Your attendance is crucial to the success of WYO!

We will discuss our goals for the year and the parent-driven committees for fundraising, activities, and general support of WYO's programs.

Each family is asked to volunteer roughly 10 hours over the course of the year through participation in one of the following committees:

- Bring-a-Friend Night (publicity, Sept. & Feb.)
- Concert Publicity (ongoing)
- Concert Day Helpers (student supervision & help in the lobby)
- Corporate Donations (ongoing)
- Grant Writing (ongoing)
- Program Ads (Sept – early Nov)
- Photography and Media
- Show Runners (stage management & set-up at each concert)
- Spring Raffle Fundraising (December -April)

We will pass around a sign-up sheet at the Parent Meeting and provide more information.

If you have questions, please contact

Jason Chen, President at wyopresident.chen@gmail.com

Connect with WYO and on Social Media!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Williamsburg-Youth-Orchestras

Twitter: @music_WYO

Instagram: @music_WYO

CONCERT ATTIRE

Symphony Orchestra:

- Ladies: Long black dress, long black skirt or dress pants and black blouse (long sleeves preferred - no sleeveless, please), black stockings and black dress shoes. No skirts shorter than calf-length.
- Gentlemen: Black dress pants, long-sleeved black shirt, black straight tie, black socks and black dress shoes.

String Orchestra and Junior Concert Band and Wind Ensemble:

- Ladies: Full-length black skirt with black stockings or black dress pants with black socks, long sleeved white blouse (no sleeveless, please) and black dress shoes. No skirts shorter than calf-length.
- Gentlemen: Black dress pants, long-sleeved white shirt, black socks and black dress shoes.

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE AND PRIVATE LESSONS

Individual practice between rehearsals is expected, and taking private lessons on your orchestral instrument is essential, as an increasing mastery of your instrument is indispensable to you and your contribution to the ensemble. Students are encouraged to ask private teachers for help with the WYO music when needed, and to ask conductors and section leaders questions during rehearsals and breaks.

TUITION & FEES

Tuition for the year is \$350 for the String Orchestras, \$350 for Junior Concert Band and for Wind Ensemble, and \$400 for the Symphony Orchestra. For all members, an activity fee of \$20 will be charged. Activity fee covers the cost of social events and an WYO t-shirt which will be required for WYO outreach events and functions. For financial assistance, please contact the Executive Director. Tuition assistance application can be found on WYO website. Members are expected to participate for the full season unless special arrangements have been made prior to the start of the season. Refunds will not be issued for those who discontinue mid-year.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

Participation in a school music program (at any school where such a program is available) for at least one semester per school year is required. This requirement can be satisfied through participation in band, orchestra, or choir. This policy does not apply if a program for your primary instrument is not offered at your school. The Executive Director has the final discretion for granting an exemption to the policy. Please contact the Executive Director about this policy.

REHEARSAL CHECK-IN AND SIGN-OUT PROCEDURE

To ensure the safety of our members, check-in and sign-out policy is implemented. All students may be dropped off at or escorted to the rehearsal location. The ED or a parent volunteer will check people in on a sign-in sheet. To sign-out at the end of rehearsal, parents of elementary and middle school students **MUST** come inside to sign-out the student(s). High school students may sign themselves out. List of individuals authorized to pick up student(s) will be collected at registration and kept on file by the Executive Director.

WYO Policies

The very best youth orchestras are those in which conductors and students get to know each other as musicians and form a true artistic community. This is why the musicians who join WYO are asked to make a year-long commitment to each other and to the study and performance of great classical music.

ATTENDANCE

- **Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts.** Students who discontinue participation mid-year will not be allowed to return to WYO at a later point in the season. Exceptions to this policy will be considered if attendance is affected by serious circumstances beyond the student's control (a medical problem, bereavement, etc.).
- Any scheduling conflict with a rehearsal or performance, partial or whole, must be reported to the Executive Director in writing (manager@wyomusic.org) as soon as it arises. Once received, the absence request will be forwarded to the conductor for approval. Last-minute absences on the day of a rehearsal should be reported to the Executive Director by phone at 910-200-9703.
- Rehearsal begins promptly with tuning. If you are not in your seat when the 'A' sounds, you will be considered tardy. Students are encouraged to arrive about fifteen minutes before rehearsal to setup, warm-up and gather focus.
- **Repeated tardiness or absence will jeopardize a student's standing in the ensemble:**
 - Two tardy arrivals will constitute one unexcused absence. After two unexcused absences, students will receive a warning. Students who accrue three or more unexcused absences may be subject to a dismissal from the ensemble, with no tuition refund given.
 - Whether excused or unexcused, missing two or more rehearsals per concert cycle may disqualify a member from performing in the concert.

REHEARSAL AND CONCERT CONDUCT

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a polite and professional manner at all rehearsals and concerts. This includes behavior in and around all parts of the building before, during and after rehearsals and concerts. Always keep in mind that we are guests in our rehearsal and performance spaces. We must show our appreciation for our hosts' hospitality by behaving politely and leaving facilities clean and neat. If a conductor deems a student's behavior to be disruptive to rehearsal in any way, they will issue one warning; a subsequent disruption will be considered grounds for permanent dismissal from WYO without a refund of tuition.

FOOD AND DRINK

Under no circumstances are we allowed to eat or drink in the rehearsal rooms. Only water bottles will be permitted. Please keep all school areas litter-free during break.

PLACEMENT AUDITIONS

All new and returning members to the Symphony must audition for seating. In both Symphony, String Orchestras, and Junior Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, each musician is placed where the conductor feels he/she will best benefit the ensemble as a whole. Conductors reserve the right to assign parts according to members' availability as well as ability and to adjust seating assignments as the season progresses.

CARE OF MUSIC

Music and folders will be distributed to students at the first rehearsal of each concert series. If a student misplaces their folder, **a replacement folder will be provided for \$5.00.** Due to copyright laws, we cannot provide PDF files for sheet music.

WYO Opportunities Throughout the Year

Details for the following will be posted at www.wyomusic.org

WYO's Outreach Event on November 10th, Thursday

The Arc of Greater Williamsburg partners with WYO for a night of performance and Arts & Craft night with its members. Please visit www.thearcgw.org.
Place: Williamsburg Presbyterian Church; Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

WYO Chamber Music Program, January-March

Trios! Quartets! Quintets!

Playing chamber music is one of the most gratifying and fun experiences a musician can have. In the WYO Chamber Music Program, students learn a set of musical skills that compliment and strengthen their orchestra skills. Playing in small, chamber ensembles helps students at all levels learn to play with independence and confidence.

Students who enroll in the Chamber Program will receive six rehearsal sessions with a professional ensemble coach. The Chamber season begins in January and culminates with a performance on **March 26, 2023**. Each ensemble meets on a mutually convenient day and time for students and coaches for an hour and half to rehearse under the direction of professional coaches. Strings, woodwinds, and brass are welcome, contingent on enrollment.

Tuition is \$200 for six, one-and-half hour sessions for WYO orchestra members and non-members. Financial assistance and payment plans are available. Registration due **December 12, 2022**, to be eligible. Forms are available on the website.

Concerto Competition

for Symphony Orchestra members

Saturday, January 28, 2023

4:00 PM

Location: Ewell Hall
at the College of W&M

Checkout the website for details on the Concerto Competition.

WYO Summer Chamber Music Camp 2023

A fun yet intensive chamber music camp for string players for grades 4 and up

Watch the website for details on the WYO Summer Music Camp later in the year.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Student Ambassadors are selected representatives of WYO members who work with the staff and board members to further the mission of WYO. More information will be provided at the parents meeting. Applications for interested members can be submitted through the end of September 2022 to serve for the 2022-2023 season.

WYO CALENDAR FOR 2022-2023

Fall Concert: November 6, 2022 @ 4 PM

Side-by-Side Concert with WSO:

February 5, 2023 @ 4 PM,

Location: Williamsburg Community Chapel (WCC)

Spring Concert: April 30, 2023 @ 4 PM

Concerts held at the **Williamsburg Presbyterian Church(WPC)**, unless otherwise noted: **215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185**

Dress rehearsals will be held on the concert day at WPC:

Junior Concert Band & Wind Ensemble dress rehearsal, 1:00 - 2:15 PM

String Orchestras dress rehearsal, 2:30 - 3:30 PM

Symphony Orchestra dress rehearsal, 2:30 - 3:30 PM

Season Schedule:

**All rehearsals at Berkeley Middle School,
unless otherwise notified.**

September 2022

- ❖ 7 – Fall Season Rehearsal 1 (please note this is Wednesday)
- ❖ 12 – Fall Season Rehearsal 2 & Mandatory Parent Meeting
- ❖ 19 – Reh. 3 & BRING-A-FRIEND #1
- ❖ 26 – Reh. 4

October 2022

- ❖ 3 – Reh. 5
- ❖ 10 – Reh. 6 (Sponsorship/Program Ads Due)
- ❖ 17 – Reh. 7 (RD for Concerto Competition)
- ❖ 24 – Reh. 8
- ❖ 31 – Reh. 9

November 2022

- ❖ 6 – **Fall Concert: 4:00 PM, Location: WPC**
- ❖ 7 – **NO REHEARSAL**
- ❖ 10 – **Outreach Performance with the Arc: 7:00 PM**
Location: Williamsburg Presbyterian Church
- ❖ 14 – Winter Season Rehearsal 1
- ❖ 21 – Reh. 2
- ❖ 28 – Reh. 3

- ❖ 5 – Reh. 4
- ❖ 12 – Reh. 5 (RD for Chamber Music Program)
- ❖ 19 & 26 – **NO REHEARSALS** (Winter Break)

January 2023

- ❖ 2 – **NO REHEARSAL** (Winter Break)
- ❖ 9 – Reh. 6
- ❖ 16 – **NO REHEARSAL** (MLK Day)
- ❖ 23 – Reh. 7
- ❖ 28 – **Concerto Competition: 4:00 PM,**
Location: Ewell Hall at the College of W&M
- ❖ 30 - Reh. 8: Symphony rehearsal at WCC,
Jr. Concert Band and Wind Ensemble,
Strings Orchestras at BMS

February 2023

- ❖ 4 – Reh. 9 dress rehearsal for all groups at WCC
- ❖ 5– **Side-by-Side Concert: 4:00 PM, Location: WCC**
- ❖ 6 - **NO REHEARSAL**
- ❖ 13 – Spring Season Rehearsal 1
- ❖ 20 – **NO REHEARSAL** (President's Day)
- ❖ 27 –Reh. 2 & BRING-A-FRIEND #2

March 2023

- ❖ 6 – Reh. 3
- ❖ 13 – Reh. 4
- ❖ 20 – Reh. 5
- ❖ 26 – **WYO Chamber Concert: 4:00 PM,**
Location: Ewell Hall at the College of W&M
- ❖ 27 – Reh. 6 (Raffle Tickets Distributed)

April 2023

- ❖ 3 – **NO REHEARSAL** (Spring Break)
- ❖ 10 – Reh. 7
- ❖ 17 – Reh. 8
- ❖ 24 – Reh. 9 (Raffle Tickets Due)
- ❖ 30 - **Spring Concert: 4:00 PM, Location: WPC**

*RD- Registration Deadline