



**WYO**  
MUSICIAN & PARENT

**HANDBOOK**

2017-2018

## *A Note from the Executive Director*

Dear WYO Families,

Welcome to the 2017-18 season with the Williamsburg Youth Orchestras! As the new Executive Director, I look forward to meeting families who are new, and welcoming back our returning families. Though new to this role, my family and I have been part of WYO for the past 4 years since we moved to the Williamsburg area. As a WYO parent and board member for the past 4 years, I had the pleasure of being involved with all that WYO offers. I am especially excited this season about getting to know each of our members personally and working together with our conductors, parents, and WYO Board of Directors to serve our members in providing a fun, collegial, and supportive music environment while challenging our students to be the very best musicians possible. Also, my vision is to make our wonderful organization well known in the greater Williamsburg area so that we can share the talents and services that WYO extends to our community.

Our programs include the three concerts, concerto competition, winter chamber program, and summer music camp. This season, we will have the Fall and Winter Concert, and will close the season with the Side-by-Side concert with the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestras (WSO). The winner of the concerto competition will be featured as the soloist in the Winter Concert. Every other year, our sister organization, the WSO, performs the Side-by-Side concert with us under the direction of Maestro Janna Hymes. In preparation, our Symphony will have a coaching session with the WSO musicians. The winter chamber program will start in January 2018 open to non-members. Each chamber groups work with a coach for 6 weeks and will perform in a free concert in March that is 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 plus a game with prizes will be provided. Also, a fun social event is planned twice a year by our Student Ambassadors who are the representatives of WYO in the community. In addition, several outreach opportunities are planned during the season. Our first event will be in October with The Arc of Greater Williamsburg, a wonderful organization that promotes and protects the rights of people with developmental disabilities. Our partnership with the WSO will provide opportunities for masterclasses, free sit-in on their rehearsals, Instrument for Kids program (free loan), and discounted tickets for our members. More information can be found on our website, [wyomusic.org](http://wyomusic.org).

As you can see, we have a full, exciting year ahead of us. We have our mandatory parent meeting on the first rehearsal date, **September 11**. 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 all of you in person and to another successful year!

Sincerely,



Tanya Song  
WYO Executive Director

# Rehearsal Times

Rehearsals take place on **Monday** evenings at  
**Berkeley Middle School.**

## String Orchestras Rehearsal Times

*Concert String: 6:15-7:15 pm*  
*Chamber String: 7:15-8:30 pm*

With Ms. Davis in the Orchestra Room

Symphony Orchestra rehearses  
*7:00-9:00 pm*

*With Dr. Grandis in the Band Room*

## WYO Concert Dates & Dress Rehearsal Information:

*Please mark your calendar now!*

Fall Concert: Sunday, November 12, 2017, 4 pm

Kimball Theatre, Merchants Square

**Dress rehearsal** schedule will be:

1:15 - 2:15 PM – String Orchestras

2:30 - 3:30 PM - Symphony

Winter Concert: Sunday, February 11, 2018, 4 pm

Kimball Theatre, Merchants Square

**Dress rehearsal** schedule will be:

1:15 - 2:15 PM – String Orchestras

2:30 - 3:30 PM - Symphony

Side-by-Side Concert with WSO: Sunday, April 29, 2018, 4:30 pm

Location: TBA

# 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](mailto: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 and String Orchestras, 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 a charge of \$5.00. Due to copyright laws, we cannot provide PDF files for sheet music.

## 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:**

- 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 assumed and 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 \$300 for the String Orchestras and \$350 for the Symphony Orchestra. Starting in 2017-18 season, an activity fee of \$12 will be added for each member. Activity fee covers the cost of social events and an identical WYO t-shirt which will be required for WYO outreach events and functions. In subsequent years, returning members with t-shirts in good condition and fit will pay a reduced activity fee. Payment is due in full at the time of audition for returning members and for new members, payment will be due after notification of acceptance but not later than at the first rehearsal on September 11, 2017. 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. 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.

# PARENTS!

Please join us at the **mandatory** parent meeting of the year:

**Monday, September 11, 2017**

**Berkeley Middle School, Art Room**

**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)
- Field Trip (February)
- Grant Writing (ongoing)
- Program Ads (Sept – early Nov)
- Photography and Video/Media
- Show Runners (stage management & set-up at each concert)
- Spring Raffle Fundraising (January-April)

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

If you have questions, please contact  
Michael Leruth, President at [president@wyomusic.org](mailto:president@wyomusic.org).  
**president@wyomusic.org**

## Connect with WYO and on Social Media!

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/  
pages/Williamsburg-Youth-  
Orchestras](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Williamsburg-Youth-Orchestras)

Twitter: @music\_WYO

Instagram: @music\_WYO

## Sign up for WYO updates by Text on:



On smartphone, go to link:  
[rmd.at/wyouthorch](http://rmd.at/wyouthorch) and follow instructions to  
sign up.

To get text notifications: Text **#:81010** and  
type **@wyouthorch** under the message.

# WYO Opportunities Throughout the Year

\*\*Details for the following will be posted at [www.wyomusic.org](http://www.wyomusic.org)\*\*

## WYO's First Outreach Event on October 26, 2017

WYO Strings and Symphony members will perform for the residents of the Windsor Meade of Williamsburg, senior living retirement community.

Place: Windsor Meade's Kensington Ballroom

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm

## WYO Chamber Music Program, January-March

### **Trios! Quartets! Quintets!**

Playing chamber music is one of the most gratifying, 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 18, 2018**. 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 \$180 for six, one-and-half hour sessions for WYO orchestra members and non-members. Financial assistance and payment plans are available. Registration due **December 11, 2017**, to be eligible. Forms are available on the website.

### **Concerto Competition** *for Symphony Orchestra members*

Saturday, November 18, 2017  
4:30 PM

Location: Ewell Hall at W&M

Checkout the website for details on the Concerto Competition.

### **WYO Summer Chamber Music Camp**

A fun yet intensive  
chamber music camp  
for string players ages 6-18!

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

**August 6-10, 2018**

## **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 by September 25, 2017 to serve for the 2017-18 season.

# About Our Conductors

## David Grandis, WYO Music Director and Symphony Orchestra Conductor



Conductor David Grandis is currently Music Director of the Virginia Chamber Orchestra and of the College of William and Mary Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Grandis' guest conducting opportunities have included the Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Bordeaux National Symphony Orchestra, Nice Philharmonic Orchestra, Sofia New Symphony Orchestra and Minsk Philharmonic Orchestra. He is regularly Assistant Conductor at the Lyon National Opera. 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.

A native of France, Dr. Grandis led the University Orchestra in Grenoble and created his own chamber orchestra in Nice. Upon completing his formal musical training in several conservatories and earning a B.M. in Musicology in France, he continued his conducting studies in the United States. He subsequently served as Assistant Conductor at the University of Illinois in Champaign where he received a M.M. in conducting under Donald Schleicher; at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, where he earned a Graduate Performance Diploma in conducting under Gustav Meier; and lastly at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he recently completed a D.M.A. in conducting under James Smith.

He has participated in several master classes with Marin Alsop, Gustav Meier, Rossen Milanov, Misha Kats, John Farrer, Daniel Lewis and Donald Thulean.

Dr. Grandis has an equal interest in both symphonic and lyric literature. His doctoral thesis, *A la recherche du chant perdu*, analyses the French style of opera singing and celebrates the era of the RTLN and its lyric company. It is published in French and in English by MJW Édition, Paris. He has also studied voice for several years and performed roles in productions of Pagliacci (Silvio), Werther (Albert), Pelléas et Mélisande (Pelléas), Faust (Valentin), and Die Zauberflöte (Papageno). Albert Lance invited him to conduct productions of Gounod's Faust and Puccini's Il Tabarro in France. Dr. Grandis recently returned as Assistant Conductor at the Lyon National Opera for Strauss' Capriccio.

## Amy Davis, WYO String Orchestras Director



Amy Davis currently serves as the orchestra director at Berkeley Middle School in Williamsburg, VA, where she has the privilege of teaching over 120 strings students in the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. She has been a violist with the Virginia Symphony for the past twelve years and is also a core member of the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. Previously, Amy has served on the faculty of the Csehy Summer School of Music in NY, the Academy of Music in Norfolk, Virginia and Young Musicians of Virginia in Virginia Beach, VA. She is a former teaching assistant at the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts and taught chamber music and viola sectional rehearsals for many years for the Hampton Roads Chamber Players and the Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia. Amy has studied and performed at the International Musicians Seminar in Prussia Cove, England and is a former member of the Jerusalem International Symphony in Israel and the National Repertory Orchestra in Colorado. Amy was a three year recipient of the Talented Students in the Arts Fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival and School, where she served as a mentor to younger violists in the Aspen Sinfonia and Concert Orchestras. Amy earned Master of Music degree in viola performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore as a student of Victoria Chiang and Bachelor of Music degree from Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Dr. David Grandis, Music Director and Symphony Orchestra Conductor  
Ms. Amy Davis, String Orchestras Director

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 Amy Davis, build ensemble musicianship and playing skills. These groups perform a minimum of three concerts together each season.

## WYO Contact Information

TANYA SONG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ● 910-200-9703 ● [manager@wyomusic.org](mailto:manager@wyomusic.org)

MICHAEL LERUTH, PRESIDENT ● [president@wyomusic.org](mailto:president@wyomusic.org)

DAVID GRANDIS, MUSIC DIRECTOR & SYMPHONY CONDUCTOR ● [dfgrandis@wm.edu](mailto:dfgrandis@wm.edu)

AMY DAVIS, DIRECTOR, STRING ORCHESTRAS ● [stringswyo@gmail.com](mailto:stringswyo@gmail.com)

### MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 1502  
WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23187-1502

*Visit the WYO Website Regularly  
for general information and important updates*

[www.wyomusic.org](http://www.wyomusic.org)

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 save the date for the upcoming masterclasses in 2017 and frequently check our website and WSO's at [williamsburgsymphony.org](http://williamsburgsymphony.org) for programs and offerings.

- ❖ Jennifer Koh, violin soloist on September 24, 2017
- ❖ David Shifrin, clarinetist on November 15, 2017

Masterclasses are open to the public but for those who are interested in participating, application will be available on both of our websites soon.

