

Bergen Youth Orchestras Handbook

Mission Statement

The Bergen Youth Orchestras is a Not For Profit Organization, dedicated to providing young musicians with an exceptional training environment and the ability, opportunity and knowledge to perform diverse orchestral literature.

BYO Ensembles

BYO Symphony

Eugene Minor, Conductor

For advanced musicians. The BYO Symphony explores and performs orchestral literature from the standard to the unusual and rare repertoire. The BYO Symphony plays three major concerts a season at various venues. Occasionally extra run out concerts are given.

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:45—9:30 pm
St. Paul's Church Parish Hall
113 Engle Street, Englewood, NJ

Audition Fee: \$35.00

Seasonal Tuition: \$525.00

Opportunities to perform with outstanding professional soloists is part of the BYO Symphony experience. Members of the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra have appeared with the Symphony.

BYO Symphony Requirements

Woodwind and Brass:

Scales: All major keys, full range of instrument

Articulation: Legato, staccato and double tonguing.
Triple tonguing for brasses.

Intonation: Excellent in prepared music.

Transposition:

Clarinet: An understanding and moderate ability to transpose from "A" to "C" parts.

Bassoon: Ability to play in tenor clef

Horn & Trumpet: Advanced ability

Trombone: Ability to play in alto & tenor clefs.

Sight Reading: Fluid. Players should have the ability to (with effort) adequately perform music at the same level as the suggested audition pieces.

Timpani & Percussion:

All rudiments of technique

Ability to tune timpani

Ability to play three to five timpani

For mallet instruments: All major scales

Sight Reading: Same as Woodwind & Brass

Strings:

Scales: All major keys full range of instrument in all positions in 3 octaves

Bowing: Advanced technique in legato, staccato, spiccato and martelé

Intonation: Same as Woodwind & Brass

Sight Reading: Same as Woodwind & Brass

Suggested Audition Pieces

or

**Alternate pieces of similar level
to be chosen by student**

Flute: Hindemith or Poulenc Sonata

Piccolo: Vivaldi Concerto

Oboe: Bellini, Haydn or Mozart Concerto

Clarinet: Mozart or Weber Concerto

Bassoon: Mozart or Weber Concerto

Horn: Mozart or Strauss Concerto

Trumpet: Haydn or Hummel Concerto

Trombone: Rimsky-Korsakov Concerto

Tuba: Haddad Suite

Timpani: Delécluse Etude

Snare Drum: Delécluse, choose from First Etudes

Xylophone: Bach Keyboard Transcriptions (simple) or Shostakovich
"Age of Gold" Polka

Violin: Mozart All Concertos (Fast Mvts)

Viola: J.C. Bach, Hoffmeister or Handel Concertos (Fast Mvts)

Cello: Haydn Concertos

Bass: Vivaldi Sonatas

BYO Philharmonia
Eugene Minor, Conductor

For strong intermediate musicians. Repertoire from arrangements to original standard works are studied and performed. The BYO Philharmonia plays two concerts per season.

Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm
St. Paul's Church Parish Hall
113 Engle Street, Englewood, NJ

Audition Fee: \$35.00
Seasonal Tuition: \$525.00

BYO Philharmonia Requirements

Woodwind and Brass:

Scales: All major keys, full range of instrument
Articulation: Legato, staccato and double tonguing for brass.
Intonation: Excellent in prepared music.
Sight Reading: Fluid. Players should have the ability to (with effort) adequately perform music at the same level as the suggested audition pieces.

Timpani & Percussion:

All rudiments of technique
Ability to tune timpani
Ability to play three to four timpani
For mallet instruments: All major scales
Sight Reading: Same as Woodwind & Brass

Strings:

Scales: All major keys through 4 flats and 4 sharps full range of instrument in position in 3 octaves
Bowling: Good technique in legato, staccato, spiccato and martelé
Intonation: Same as Woodwind & Brass
Sight Reading: Same as Woodwind & Brass

Suggested Audition Pieces

or

**Alternate pieces of similar level
to be chosen by student**

Flute: Vivaldi or Mozart Concerto (Fast Mvt)

Oboe: Marcello or Albinoni Concerto (Fast Mvt)

Clarinet: Stamitz Concerto (Fast Mvt) or Weber Concertino

Bassoon: Weissenborn Etude or Eccles Sonata

Horn: Mozart Concerto (Fast Mvt) or Kopprasch Study

Trumpet: Arban Study or Haydn Concerto (Any Mvt)

Trombone: Transcriptions of Baroque Sonatas (Vivaldi, Corelli)

Tuba: Air and Bourrée J.S. Bach arr. William Bell or Kopprasch Study

Timpani: Saul Goldenberg Intermediate Etude

Snare Drum: Morris Goldenberg Intermediate Etude

Violin: J. S. Bach Concerto No. 1 (1st Mvt) or
Mozart Concerto No. 3 (1st Mvt)

Viola: Telemann Concerto (Fast Mvt)

Cello: Brahms Sonata No. 1 (1st Mvt)

Bass: Marcello or Eccles Sonata

BYO Junior Strings

Joseph Dubbiosi, Conductor

Not suitable for non-reading (early Suzuki) students.

Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 7:00—8:30 pm
St. Paul's Church Choir Room
113 Engle Street, Englewood, NJ

Audition Fee: \$35.00

Seasonal Tuition: \$525.00

Technical Requirements:

Student should be taking private lessons.

Student must be able to sight read whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth notes and rests and a combination thereof.

Student must be able to play scales and read notes in the keys of C, D, G, A and F major.

Student must be able to play the above note values with single bows and 2 notes to a bow.

All players must have acceptable intonation.

Dynamics: Loud, medium, soft, crescendo, decrescendo.

BYO Junior Strings Requirements

Violin:

Student should have knowledge of third position on all 4 strings.

Should have ability to sub-divide eighth and sixteenth notes.

Must be able to play two octave scales in above listed keys.

Viola:

Same rhythm, bowing and scale requirements as violin.

No third position, but extensive use of fourth and extended third finger required.

Cello:

Same rhythm, bowing and scale requirements as violin.

Must be able to use third and fourth position (minimum fourth position) on all strings.

Must be able to use half and extended first position.

Bass:

Same rhythm, bowing and scale requirements as violin.

Must be able to play a two octave G major scale and one octave scales in C, D, A and F major

Must be able to read fourth position notes.

Suggested Audition Pieces

or

Student's choice of equivalent level

Violin: Vivaldi, Concerto in A minor, 1st mvt.

Kuchler, Concertino in D, 1st mvt.

Viola: Vivaldi, Concertino in D Minor, 1st mvt

Pergolesi, Nina

Cello: Handel, Sonata in E minor, 2nd mvt.

Mozart, Sonatina in C

Bass: Saint-Saens, Ninette at Court

Lee, Rigaudon (Applebaum 20 Progressive Solos)

BYO Policies

Auditions

Each student who wishes to play in the Bergen Youth Orchestras program is required to audition whether or not they have played the preceding season (the exception is returning percussionists). Auditions consist of:

- A prepared piece of student's choice
- Scales chosen by adjudicator(s)
- Sight reading

String Seating Auditions

At the third or fourth rehearsal of the season, the conductor will assign passages from music being rehearsed (up to four excerpts). The student is given **two weeks** to prepare. During the rehearsal two weeks later each student one by one is tape recorded. After comparing each student's playing, seats are assigned for the season. If the student's playing is deemed less than satisfactory, he/she may be placed on probation and may be asked to play for the conductor to show progress.

If a student misses the seating audition (for whatever reason) and cannot make it up (at the convenience of the conductor), he/she will be assigned last chair in the respective sections.

Music

Every student will be given a folder containing music for the upcoming concert(s). It is the responsibility of the student to mark (in pencil) any additions or changes they are given. Students must bring a pencil with eraser to rehearsals. At the end of concerts the music and folders will be left with the conductor.

Music Stands

All students must bring a portable music stand to all rehearsals and concerts (Exceptions: Percussion, Tuba and String Basses).

Rehearsals

Being a member of the Bergen Youth Orchestras program is a privilege and a responsibility. Since its founding in 1968, the Symphony has gained a reputation as one of the finest youth symphonies in the metropolitan area.

Please remember the following for each rehearsal:

PUNCTUALITY. Rehearsal schedules will be issued. All orchestra members are asked to arrive 10 to 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled time to be properly warmed up and to help in chair setup. All rehearsals (unless you are otherwise informed) will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 113 Engle Street, Englewood, NJ.

REHEARSAL CONDUCT. During rehearsal, your utmost attention, concentration and cooperation are expected

BE PREPARED. Each student should remember to bring his/her instrument, folder with music, music stand and pencil to each rehearsal.

Along with this, practice of the music rehearsed each week should be a part of each member's daily practice schedule. It is strongly recommended that each member share the music with his/her private teacher on a weekly basis for additional guidance.

Attendance Policy

It is very important that parents and students understand that making the highest quality of music is in the quality of preparation itself. For that reason, attendance is critical and any absence, regardless of the reason, is detrimental to the student and his/her ensemble. Each member in each section is crucial to develop the sound, balance and artistic level that an ensemble is striving to achieve. Please make BYO a priority when scheduling your activities. To help you plan for this, review and post all schedules as soon as they are received.

Attendance for all rehearsals and concerts is mandatory. Three tardies will constitute one unexcused absence.

Students will be allowed two unexcused absences per concert period.

An absence may be excused for illness, mandatory activity required by the school in which the student is enrolled, or religious activity—each of these on a case-by-case basis. In some cases notes may be required. Absences for “too much homework”, school theatrical productions, sporting events or anything unmusically school oriented are unexcused absences.

The stipulations for absences are as follows:

If a musician will be absent due to illness or any other emergency, a call must be made to the BYO office (201-569-1625) at least 24 hours before the missed rehearsal, if possible. Please leave a message at the BYO office if calling after the rehearsal has already begun.

Absences may not occur over two consecutive rehearsals.

Absences may not include the dress rehearsal or concert.

Students who are chronically absent or late may be put on probation.

A student may be dismissed from an ensemble after a third absence in a concert period.

Missing more than 25% of a rehearsal will constitute one half of an absence.

Tuition will not be refunded to dismissed students.

Probation

If a student is chronically late, absent or disruptive to the point that the quality of his/her ensemble is compromised, he/she will receive a letter of probation that will stipulate what behavioral changes are necessary in order for the student to remain in their ensemble. Students who are put on probation may be asked to play selected passages from the

current repertoire for the conductor at any time. It is the conductor's prerogative to determine whether the student is at an acceptable level of technical and musical preparation to continue with the ensemble.

Student Conduct

It is the obligation of the BYO artistic and administrative staff to maintain a professional code of conduct at rehearsals and concerts and teach students the responsibilities and behavior required of a professional musician. BYO reserves the right to place on probation, or even dismiss, any student from an ensemble due to disruptive behavior. In such cases tuition will not be refunded.

Severe Weather Procedure

If there is bad weather or a severe storm on the day of a rehearsal or concert, the Music Director and Administrative Director will decide whether or not to cancel the rehearsal or event, and the information will be available on the BYO voice mail no later than 4:00 pm. If in doubt, please call 201-569-1625.

Concerts

Each member of an ensemble is expected to play all scheduled concerts. Missing a performance may be grounds for dismissal from the ensemble. If for any acceptable reason a musician is unable to play a concert, he/she must let the BYO office know AT LEAST four weeks in advance.

Concert Dress

Girls: Long black skirts or dress black pants, black or white blouse, black shoes.

Boys: Black or **dark** navy blue slacks and jacket, white shirt, long dark tie, black shoes and dark socks.

Concerto Competition

The competition is for members of BYO Symphony who have been members for at least one full season. The competition will be held in December and the winner will perform with the Symphony at its third concert (usually in May). To enter a competition, a player must obtain and complete, with all appropriate signatures, a Concerto Competition Application Form. These forms will be available after the competition is announced. The completed form must be handed to the Administrative Director at least three weeks prior to the competition date. Each contestant must obtain the conductor's approval of the concerto chosen to ensure that the orchestra is capable of accompanying the soloist. The musician, his/her family, or teacher must confirm in writing the availability of the orchestra parts. Contestants may audition using their music, but are expected to play from memory in concert. Contestants must obtain their own accompanists for the audition. No unaccompanied auditions allowed.

Tuition, Audition Fees & Financial Aid

There is a non-refundable \$35.00 audition fee that must be paid at the time of audition. If there is more than one student from the same family, the audition fee is \$30 per member. Parents should be present at the audition to complete the audition form and pay the audition fee. Students who do not complete the form and/or pay the audition fee will not be able to perform in any BYO ensemble.

The tuition fee for the BYO Symphony is \$575.00 for the full season.

The tuition fee for the BYO Philharmonia and BYO Junior Strings is \$525.00 for the full season.

We offer a discount for families with more than one child in our program.

Tuition payments are due by the second rehearsal for each member of BYO. If this should cause a financial hardship, you may call BYO to request a scheduled payment plan.

Financial Aid is available on a need only basis. Financial aid applications must be completed at the time of audition. Prior to the tuition deadline, parents of the student will be informed of the amount of financial aid that will be given.

Parents' Responsibilities

If you are an Orchestra Parent...

You are expected to help your musician arrive at rehearsals promptly (10 to 15 minutes ahead of scheduled time). Be certain that each orchestra member is prepared with instrument, music, music stand and pencil. Encourage your child to practice on a daily basis. It is strongly recommended that each child work with a private teacher.

As an orchestra parent you automatically become a member of the auxiliary, The Friends of Bergen Youth Orchestras, and are expected to attend the organizational meeting called in the fall. Here the fund-raising, social and educational plans of the program are outlined. You may also be asked to lend a helping hand when assistance is needed for mailings, refreshments, ushering, etc.

Your efforts will include:

- Selling tickets to all concerts
- Selling ads and/or soliciting donations for advertising/concert program journal
- Supporting the fund-raising activities of the Friends group
- Lending a helping hand for rehearsals and concerts.

BYO Bios

Eugene Minor, Music Director of the Bergen Youth Orchestras and Conductor of BYO Symphony and BYO Philharmonia, is a native of Los Angeles, where he studied and began his professional career. In addition to his conducting activities, he has composed five symphonies, a piano concerto, and several vocal works. His opera, *Thespis*, a reconstruction of the lost opera by Gilbert and Sullivan, was given its premiere in 1974 in Los Angeles, and in 1978, the BYO Symphony premiered his *Requiem: In Memoriam Dmitri Shostakovitch*. He has appeared as guest conductor of the New Haven Symphony and the Orchestral Society of Philadelphia. He twice has been given grants by the New Jersey State Council of the Arts. In addition, he has received grants from the American Music Center. Mr. Minor has studied with William Smith, associate conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and has served as assistant conductor of the Trenton Symphony, guest conductor of the New Jersey All State Orchestra and the New Jersey Regional Orchestra. In addition to his musical activities, he has stage-directed numerous theatrical productions.

Joseph Dubbiosi, Conductor, BYO Junior Strings is a graduate of New Jersey City University, receiving his Bachelors/Masters degrees and supervisory certificate in education. He has studied with Louise Behrend, Jaques Rubenstein and Nicholas Cerrato. He is currently the district specialist of the Bergenfield Public School System, where he developed a successful string and orchestral program on the middle school level. He is also the Director of the Bergenfield Summer Enrichment Music Program and is an adjunct professor at NJCU. He enjoys performing as a violinist and conductor throughout the New York Metropolitan area.