

# Contemporary Youth Orchestras

## Audition and General FAQ



### 1. What is Contemporary Youth Orchestra?

Contemporary Youth Orchestra (CYO) is a 110 piece full orchestra that focuses on the study and performance of orchestral works by living composers. Each concert is dedicated to a specific topic. CYO has performed live with movies, premiered works for orchestra and filled many of Cleveland's venues with legendary rock artists including Ben Folds, Styx, Melissa Etheridge and Jason Mraz. CYO has premiered works by Pulitzer Prize winning composers, leading composers in the entertainment industry, and will perform a number of world premieres and recording projects in Season 25.

### 2. What is Origins?

Origins is CYO's chamber music and masterclass program. Each student in Origins is assigned a chamber ensemble and a dedicated coach. Origins students perform renowned chamber works and also serve as CYO's community ambassadors performing numerous times in the community. Origins students also receive access to every clinician and get first right of refusal to perform in masterclasses. Origins gives students a backstage pass to some of the nation's leading professionals in various fields. We previously brought in members of the Cleveland Orchestra, D'Addario Company representatives, Professors from University of Michigan, Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Maryland.

### 3. Do I need to audition for CYO and Origins in separate auditions?

No. Auditions are held so that we can invite each musician into the ensemble that fits them best.

### 4. Can I warm up before my audition?

Yes, we will have warm up rooms available prior to your audition

### 5. Where does the audition take place?

The audition will take place at Tri-C Metro Campus

Address for your GPS  
2809 Woodland Ave.  
Cleveland 44115

Parking and navigating the campus  
Parking Lot 5 (free)  
Enter through the colorful entrance marked at Creative Arts Academy  
Take elevator or stairs to the 1st floor

### 6. What is auditioning for CYO like?

Your CYO audition will take place at Tri-C Metro Campus. The music director and some faculty will act as the committee. We will hear you play all of the requirements plus have some brief conversation.

### 7. What happens after I audition?

You will receive an invitation to the appropriate level ensemble at your primary email.

### 8. What do I need to play for my audition?

The audition requirements can be found by clicking [here](#).

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### 9. Do I need to have my audition music memorized?

Memorization is not necessary. We want you to feel as comfortable as possible in your audition.

### 10. Why is school music participation required for CYO | Origins students?

CYO is a strong supporter of school music programs, and believes these programs are a foundation of our music community. CYO | Origins are an extended outlet for music and artistic growth and not a substitute for a school music program. If a student is homeschooled or their school doesn't have an orchestra or band program, then this requirement doesn't apply. If you have a REQUIRED class during orchestra or band, a note excusing you from that class is necessary from your school guidance counselor.

### 11. When does CYO rehearse?

CYO rehearses on Saturdays:  
STRINGS: 8:30am – 12:30pm  
WINDS|BRASS|PERCUSSION: 10am – 12:30pm.

CYO members have a SECTIONAL NIGHT with our faculty members on Tuesday evenings, once per month from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

We follow the academic school year as closely as possible. The season concert and rehearsal calendar are made available after a successful audition.

### 12. When does Origins rehearse?

Most Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm

### 13. What should I wear to the audition?

We suggest that you dress in respectful, comfortable clothing that allows you to play your best.

### 14. If I need tuition assistance, when do I apply?

Musicians who are accepted into a CYO program, can apply at any time prior to the deadline on the financial aid form on our forms page. Students must reapply for financial aid every year.

### 15. When and how will I find out the results of the audition?

Results will be emailed to your primary email you provide by June 15.

If you have any questions, please contact Music Director, Liza Grossman  
[Liza@cyorchestra.org](mailto:Liza@cyorchestra.org)