



Contemporary Youth Orchestra

Student Handbook



CYO changes lives through the study and performance of new and contemporary music and introduces students to opportunities in the creative arts industries.

Vision

CYO creates experiences that excite the imagination, develop independent thinkers, and inspire confidence through new and contemporary music. CYO facilitates students' technical and creative growth in a supportive community.

Values

CYO values the benefit of music education and real-life experience. Our programs provide our students with valuable insight on a variety of careers in the arts by:

- Inspiring, creating and discovering new music in an educational setting;
- Collaborating with some of the most exciting contemporary musicians on the scene today, and;
- Exploring innovations in contemporary music.

Beliefs

We believe that music education provides value and benefit to a new generation.

We believe that programs that are exciting and relevant to young people will foster creativity in their learning.

We believe that experiential learning is the best way to inspire young people to greatness.

Ensembles and Programs

The Orchestra

Our advanced full orchestra is the only youth orchestra in the country dedicated to the practice and performance of new orchestral literature. Each year, we commission new works for orchestra and perform with some of the leading performers in the orchestral world. The Orchestra has performed with legendary rock musicians including Jason Mraz, Melissa Etheridge and Ben Folds. The Orchestra strives to not only bring audiences to their feet but also engages students to take an active role in their education. Orchestra members participate in monthly sectionals to help fine tune each performance. The Orchestra meets Saturday mornings.

Strings: 8:30am - 12:30pm.

Winds, Brass and Percussion: 10:00am - 12:30pm.

Sectionals

Sectionals for ALL instrumental members of the full orchestra take place 1-2 times per month on Tuesdays or Thursdays: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

Origins

Origins helps students achieve individual goals that require greater mastery of their instruments. Each musician joins a small ensemble of two to five members and receives the focused attention of a dedicated coach. In addition to this ongoing expert guidance, monthly masterclasses feature the nation's leading orchestral musicians and music industry gurus. Imagine performing more challenging repertoire for these remarkable artists and receiving individual guidance from their perspectives. It's the kind of coaching that takes you to another level.

Origins meets Tuesday evenings: 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

College Audition Prep Program

College Audition Preparation Program (CAPP) gives you an inside track on the entire process of auditioning. Being prepared to do your best requires rigorous preparation carried out in a mindset of confidence and positivity. Working one-on-one with professional musicians, students and parents learn the tips and techniques to ensure your ultimate performance. We'll lead you step-by-step through a proven method designed to nurture individual excellence and take the guesswork out of creating a bulletproof recording for college, competition or festival auditions. Individualized meetings with CAPP faculty help organize, prepare for and submit the music school portion of the college application. Professional recording time is included in the fee.

CAPP meets Tuesday evenings: 5:00pm - 6:15pm

Concerto Competition - Performance

Each season the musicians in the Orchestra are provided the opportunity to audition for our annual concerto competition. A new concert has been implemented for Season 25: *Concert Two: Eclectic Concerti*. We will feature up to 3 student musicians on this program.

Musicians may perform a solo work that has full orchestral or string orchestra accompaniment. The requirements for the competition are as follow: 1. The composer of your selected work MUST have lived until at least 1919; 2. The piece does not need to be memorized; 3. You must submit a letter of recommendation from your private teacher to liza@cyorchestra.org; 4. You must provide your own piano accompanist for the audition.

We encourage the musicians to think outside the box for these concertos and to challenge themselves with studying pieces that are not considered standard repertoire.

Auditions are held Sunday, October 13th at Tri-C Metro. [Musicians can sign up for this opportunity here.](#)

Schedule and Alerts

Schedule

The entire season schedule can be found at the end of this handbook. The schedule is subject to change. CYO will communicate all schedule changes in advance via email and Remind.

Emails

All musicians and parents are automatically added to the email list after the rosters are finalized. *The main form of communication is email.*

Remind

CYO uses both email and the [Remind app](#) (available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#)) to keep in touch. CYO will automatically add you to our Remind channel using the provided phone numbers in the registration.

If another parent/guardian would like to be added to this messaging platform, you can click [here](#) to sign up for reminders, or for text only alerts please enter number 81010 and text the message @orchestra25.

For Origins, you can [click here](#) or sign up by texting the number 81010 and sending @origins25. Origins Members will be automatically added to our Remind channel using the provided phone number. *We highly recommend both musicians and parents use the Remind app as this allows us to quickly communicate last-minute schedule changes, cancellations for weather, etc*

Weekly Schedule and Location

The Orchestra
Saturday Mornings
AUDITORIUM
8:30am - 12:30pm - Strings
10:00am - 12:30pm Tutti

Origins Chamber Music
Various rehearsal spaces
Tuesday Evenings
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Performances and Rehearsals for all groups take place at Tri-C Metro unless otherwise announced.

ADDRESS

*Cuyahoga Community College - Metro Campus
2809 Woodland Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115*

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From East: 90W to 77S take exit 162
(Woodland Ave/30th) Left on 30th / Left on
Woodland
(parking garages 5 and 6 on right)

From West: 90E to 77N take exit 162
(Woodland Ave/30th) continue onto to
Woodland
(parking garages 5 and 6 on right)

From South: 71N to 490E to 77N take exit
162 (Woodland Ave/30th) continue onto
Woodland (parking garages 5 and 6 on right)

Parking

Free parking is available in the underground lots 5 and 6. There is also surface parking in lot 7. **Do not** park in designated Rock and Roll Hall of Fame parking spots.

Navigating Tri-C

Elevators are located in Stairwell 5

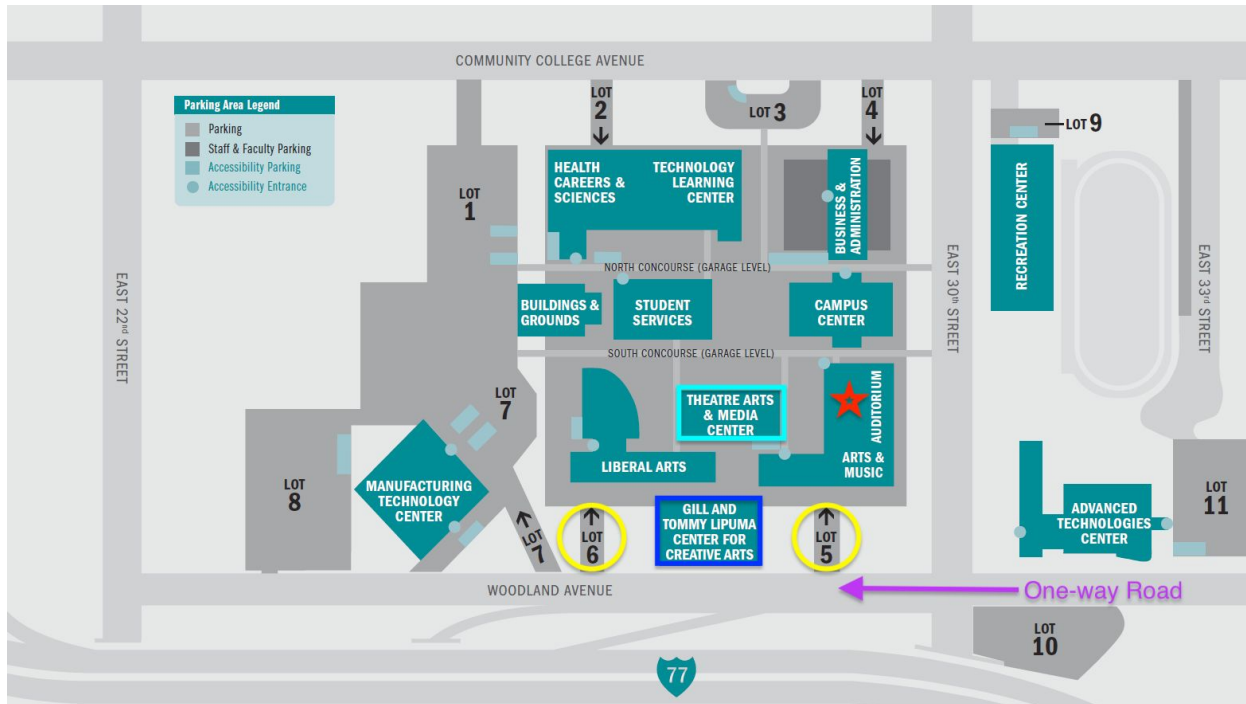
To Access Auditorium (MAM): Use the stairwell marked
STAIRS TO PERFORMANCE VENUES or Stairwell 5 or Elevator 5

To Access Main Stage (MTA): Use Auditorium E Stairwell or Elevator 5

Quick Abbreviation Key

Map Name - Performance Space Title (Abbreviation)- Venue Description

- * Theater Arts & Media Center - Main Stage (MTA) - chamber music performance space
- * Arts & Music - Auditorium (MAM) - larger performance space
- * Gill and Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts - Black Box Theater / Fran and Jules Belkin Theater (CCA)



Membership Policies

MEMBERS PAGE

The members page on the website, [found here](#), is password protected. The password is **cyo25!** In this section of the website you will find a downloadable pdf of the handbook, schedule and the absence request form.

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE

Membership is a commitment each student makes to the organization, their colleagues and themselves. Musicians should arrive early enough to be warmed up and ready to play prior to the printed start time of rehearsal. Percussionists require more time due to the amount of instruments needed and complicated setups.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Students are **required** to participate in their school music program if one is available. If you have an unavoidable scheduling conflict/issue in school, a note from your school counselor or music teacher is needed in order to excuse you from this requirement.

Musicians are **required** to participate in private instruction.

Should either of these expectations not be adhered to, the CYO reserves the right to dismiss the student. Tuition will not be refunded.

ABSENCES

The Orchestra and Origins make every effort possible to avoid schedule conflicts. We completely understand the busy life of today's high school student. Each student is permitted TWO (2) absences per concert cycle.

Examples of excused absences:

- ACT, SAT, PSAT testing
- Orchestra, band, chorus performances, dress rehearsals
- Illness/family emergencies

Examples of unexcused absences:

- Prom hair and makeup appointments
- Gigs. You may not schedule a gig during rehearsals.

All absences must be submitted via the [online attendance form](#).

If a student exceeds the maximum allowable number of absences, continued participation in the Orchestra / Origins will be at the discretion of the ensemble director.

BEHAVIOR

All CYO Members should aim for the highest professional standards of behavior, treating fellow musicians, CYO staff and volunteers, the facilities and equipment of our residence with respect. Participating in an ensemble requires a commitment to attend rehearsals and performances, and individual absences impact the entire ensemble's ability to perform at the highest level.

Alcohol and drug use is not permitted and grounds for dismissal from the orchestra.

CYO has a zero-tolerance policy on bullying or harassment **of any kind**. Such behavior is subject to expulsion without a refund.

Only water is permitted in any rehearsal or performance space.

TOBACCO

We do not tolerate substance use of any kind during CYO time. This includes, but is not limited to, cigarette smoking, vaping, alcohol use and/or drug use. Any student found to be engaging in inappropriate behavior will be dismissed immediately from the organization. Furthermore, Tri-C is a tobacco-free campus and has a similar zero-tolerance policy (<http://www.tri-c.edu/policies-and-procedures/tobacco-free/index.html>). The ramifications of breaking Tri-C's policy are serious, and include being removed from Tri-C's campus permanently.

AUDITIONS

General auditions are held for the Orchestra and Origins each spring. Auditions last between 10-15 minutes and are closed to parents and other listeners. Audition information can be found at cyorchestra.org/auditions. Once a member is accepted into a program, they do not have to re-audition for the next season.

SEATING AND ENSEMBLE PLACEMENTS

Seating and ensemble placements for both ensembles are at the discretion of the ensemble directors. Seating placement auditions occur prior to the beginning of each Season, usually in late August. Information about seating placement auditions will be emailed to students at least 2 weeks prior to the audition dates.

MOBILE DEVICES

The use of cell phones, mobile devices, and other electronics is strictly prohibited during rehearsals and concerts.

MEDIA

Concerts and rehearsals are recorded and photographed. All members are expected to allow photo, audio and video recordings and to sign a release allowing CYO to make all images and recordings available for the sole benefit of the organization. Photographs may be made available for purchase at cyorchestra.smugmug.com

TICKETS

The Orchestra sells general admission seating for most performances at \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets with a guest artist are priced according to guest artist and venue needs. Ticketing for most concerts is available through Eventbrite. Tickets are nonrefundable.

Most Origins concerts have free admission.

TRAVEL

CYO does not provide transportation to rehearsals or concerts.

INSTRUMENTS

CYO is not responsible for instrument maintenance, insurance or damage. Students are encouraged to maintain current insurance on their instruments.

SCHEDULE

The schedule is subject to change. Please [click here](#) and enter the password to download the Season 25 Calendar for the most current information. The season schedule is also located at the back of this packet.

MARKETING

We ask students and families to spread the word about CYO and our ensembles performances. Personal invitations and referrals are often the best way for other students and families to learn about CYO! We also ask that you follow CYO's social media accounts and share our posts!

[instagram.com/cyorchestra](https://www.instagram.com/cyorchestra)

twitter.com/cyorchestra

[facebook.com/ContemporaryYouthOrchestra/](https://www.facebook.com/ContemporaryYouthOrchestra/)

Concert Attire

PERFORMANCE DRESS

All students (Orchestra and Origins) are required to purchase Exclamation Point shirts in advance of the first scheduled performance.. The t-shirt and black pants or jeans will serve as our concert attire for performances. All students should have a pair of black dress pants, dark jeans and clean shoes for performances. CYO will provide all students with specific instructions on how to purchase a shirt and will extend a discounted rate for the purchase. This information will be provided via email. Out of respect for the students around you, please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne or aftershave to rehearsals and concerts.

Tuition and Financial Aid

TUITION

Tuition for The Orchestra is \$550. Tuition for Origins is \$400.

For students who have been invited to and select both ensembles, total tuition will be discounted to \$850.

CAPP is \$250 per semester or \$500 for the year.

Invoices will be sent via email to parents and guardians, and are due in full per the invoice unless payment plans are arranged with CYO. Tuition should be paid by credit card or check (made payable to Contemporary Youth Orchestra). Failure to provide tuition payment on time may result in late fees or musician suspension. Payment plans are available.

A student who participates in both the Orchestra and Origins will receive over 250 hours of personal instruction not including masterclasses. This averages out to a cost of about \$3.40 an hour.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

CYO is committed to equity and will provide needs-based financial assistance. [You can click here to apply for financial assistance.](#) We will also send out additional information about financial assistance via email. Please contact Kim Deichler at kim@cyorchestra.org if you have any questions. **We believe that no student should be turned away for financial reasons.**

LATE TUITION

Tuition not paid in full by the deadline will incur a \$10 late fee.

TUITION REFUNDS

Students who are unable to participate in either ensemble may only receive a tuition refund prior to September 30th. After this date, tuition payments are non-refundable.

For Parents

Parent volunteers are critical to the success of this organization. Throughout the year, we seek parent assistance with special events, concert activities, audition support and chaperone duties. If you are available to volunteer for the parent committee or would like to know more about volunteering with CYO, please email Kim Deichler at kim@cyorchestra.org.

Contact Us

Kim Deichler, Executive Director
kim@cyorchestra.org

Liza Grossman, Music Director
liza@cyorchestra.org

Ben Kipp, Director of Origins
ben@cyorchestra.org

Leo Zimmerman, Marketing Coordinator
leo@cyorchestra.org

Our Website
www.cyorchestra.org