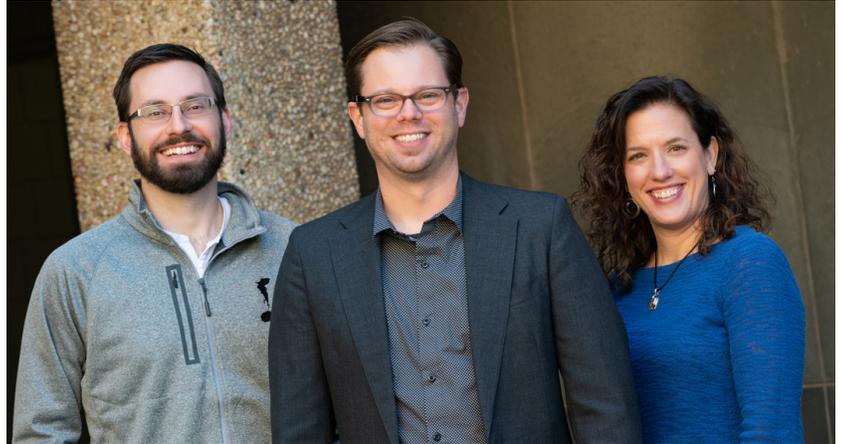




Kristopher Morron named Music Director and Conductor

“This opportunity is like a dream come true... I can’t wait to bring all my experience and infectious enthusiasm for music making to the role.”

Kristopher Morron, center, with Ben Kipp, Director of Educational Programming and Kimberly Deichler, Executive Director



After an extensive, year-long process that included the evaluation by students, parents, board members, staff, community partners and Tri-C Creative Arts leaders, Contemporary Youth Orchestra is delighted to welcome Kristopher Morron as Music Director and Conductor.

“Kris is clearly a professional who is uniquely equipped to join our team in taking the students’ learning experience to a new level” said Kimberly Deichler, Executive Director. **“He is a professional musician with an eclectic and remarkable depth of knowledge as a performer, writer, and arranger in addition to his 15 years as a teacher and conductor. I am thrilled for Kris to join our team of professionals poised to realize the CYO vision of being a national leader in new music.”**

“This opportunity is like a dream come true,” said Morron, “I can’t wait to bring all my experience and infectious enthusiasm for music making to the role.”

Since the age of 10, Kris has been creating and performing an exceptionally broad variety of music with incredible musicians from around the world. His trombone studies eventually led him to study Jazz at Cuyahoga Community College and Bowling Green State University where he earned a Bachelor of Music with an emphasis in music education. He has been a member of notable Cleveland-based groups including *Aphrodesiatics* (funk), *Mifuné* (afro-electronique), *Trepanning Trio* (experimental folk), *Revolution Brass Band* (New Orleans-style brass band), and *Hybrid Shakedown* (afrobeat). While with these bands, he toured the country, recorded numerous albums, and had opportunities to open for and perform with world-class musicians including Noel Gallagher, Antibalas, Ozomatli, and Seun Kuti to name a few.

Kris began teaching band and orchestra and working as a conductor in 2004. He received a Master of Arts

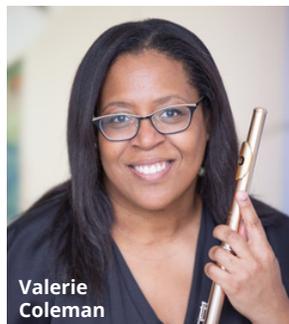


Kristopher Morron
with members of Season 27

from Case Western Reserve University in 2015 serving as a graduate conductor for the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony. He is committed to inspiring students to be creative collaborators, and leaders in their communities. **"Music education is about a lot more than the music," said Kris, "we're creating a space where students can be themselves while pursuing excellence as musicians, citizens, and individuals."**

"In addition to performing, conducting, and educating, Kris's versatile background includes writing and arranging music from many different genres," said Ben Kipp, Director of Educational Programming. "Our students will benefit from having a person at the podium who understands what it takes to create vastly different kinds of music, including the innovative repertoire we are performing."

As a writer, Kris has contributed original music to the web series *Ringer\$* and the animated short *Astral Shift*. He organized a 20th Anniversary concert for Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* creating arrangements of music from the film. He's written or arranged for *The Lakewood Project*, *Carlos Jones and the P.L.U.S. Band*, *Cat's on Holiday*, *Champion Bubblers*, as well as the various ensembles he's directed and bands he's performed with.



"I'm excited to have the opportunity to work with an organization that is dedicated to performing music written in the last 100 years. Through contemporary music CYO is bringing the rich, vibrant, and unique stories of a range of composers to the stage," said Kris. "For example, our next concert features the incredible composition, *Umoja, Anthem for Unity* by composer and flutist Valerie Coleman," a piece *The Philadelphia Inquirer* says: "arcs from serene peace to racing tension before emerging in sunlit joy." Kris added, **"I am honored to have the opportunity to teach our students about this work, Ms. Coleman, and what influenced her to write *Umoja*."**

Kris's role as Music Director complements CYO's residency within the Creative Arts Academy at Tri-C Metro. **"Tri-C has played an essential role in my own development as a musician, so I understand first-hand what it means to so many students in Greater Cleveland," said Kris. "I'm looking forward to joining the collaboration and introducing a diverse range of students to the transformative world of music and the contemporary arts."**

Kris makes his conducting debut with Contemporary Youth Orchestra on Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 6:00 PM at Tri-C Metro Campus. **Information about CYO's upcoming performances can be found at cyorchestra.org**

CYO Vision Statement

CYO is recognized as a leader in new music, expanding the boundaries of what it means to be an orchestra. Proudly in residence at the Creative Arts Academy of Cuyahoga Community College, CYO fully leverages the partnership to maximize the positive impact music can have on the many communities we both serve. CYO annually commissions new works from composers who do not traditionally have a voice on orchestral stages, with a current focus on up-and-coming artists, people of color and women. CYO studies, performs, and commissions non-traditional pieces for orchestra, embracing all genres of music, increasing student access and participation through expanding programming opportunities.



A special thanks to the guest conductors who supported us this Fall as our search for a leader was underway.

Dr. Raphael Jimenez, Director,
Division of Conducting and Ensembles,
Oberlin College Conservatory of Music
Dr. John Roebke, Teacher
Kent City Schools

Dr. Wendy Matthews, Associate Professor
- Music Education - Director of Bands - Wind Ensemble
Kent State University

Dr. Chia-Hsuan Lin, Associate Conductor
- Richmond Symphony,
CYO Interim Music Director (2020 - 2021)