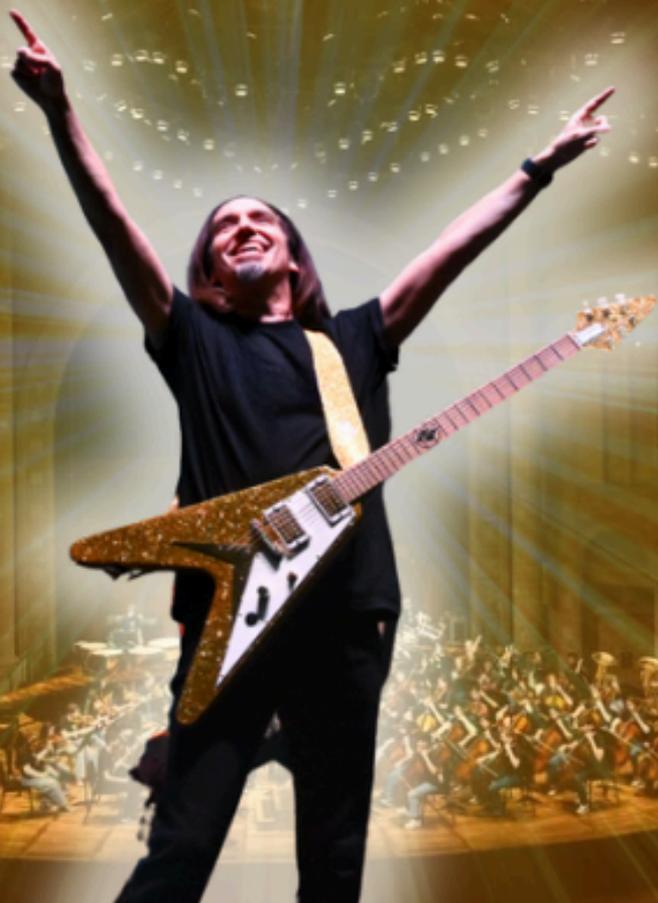


One Symphonic Night...

ROCK THE ORCHESTRA

NEIL  ZAZA

CONTEMPORARY
YOUTH ORCHESTRA



**A VERY SPECIAL EVENING OF NEIL'S GREATEST HITS AND DEEPEST CUTS
AS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD THEM BEFORE!**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2026 | 7PM
THE MALTZ PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

WELCOME TO CYO'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shayne Smith (he/they) is honored and humbled to step into the role of Executive Director of the Contemporary Youth Orchestra and to return to his home state of Ohio. He is continually inspired by the talent, curiosity, and dedication of the region's young musicians — and by the community that gathers to champion them. Shayne holds a Bachelor's degree in K–12 Music Education from Ashland University and a Master's degree in Human Rights Practice from the



University of Arizona, where his studies centered on building supportive and inclusive spaces for marginalized youth.

Before coming to CYO, Shayne served as Director of Performing Arts at Flagstaff High School in Arizona, where he led band, orchestra, and theater programs. In the classroom and throughout his professional work, he is known for fostering creativity, collaboration, and a strong sense of belonging. He believes every young person deserves the opportunity to experience the challenge, confidence, and joy that come from making music and works to remove barriers so that students from all walks of life feel welcomed, supported, and empowered to create unapologetically.

Shayne's leadership extends beyond the school setting. He has served as President of the San Juan Island Pride Foundation, Education Director for the Flagstaff Arts Council, and Youth Outreach Coordinator for the Flagstaff Pride Organization- roles that reflect his ongoing commitment to youth empowerment, advocacy, and community engagement.

As Executive Director, Shayne is proud to steward CYO's extraordinary artistic legacy. Tonight's performance is a reflection of the courage, artistry, and dedication of these young musicians. He is grateful to share this moment with you and looks forward to continuing to support CYO students as they explore bold repertoire, discover new possibilities within the music industry, and experience the joy of making music together here in Northeast Ohio.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Neil Zaza is a legend whose influence stretches across the Cleveland and Akron regions and beyond. His successful and prolific career is a testament to his exceptional talent in guitar playing, songwriting, producing, and his remarkable versatility across diverse musical settings.

It has been a privilege to work with Neil. Beyond his professional expertise as a

consummate musician, his approachable personality and eagerness to collaborate make the experience truly rewarding. We have been planning this concert for two years. I have enjoyed every conversation and meeting- especially arranging the music for tonight's performance. Watching Neil rehearse and interact with the musicians of CYO only reinforced why we asked him to join us; he is generous, excited to inspire the next generation, and an absolute pleasure to be around.

While Neil has performed for decades, this evening marks a milestone: the first time a full concert of his compositions has been arranged for and performed by an orchestra. We are confident you will be awed by the incredible performances from the CYO musicians, Neil Zaza, and his band.

We also encourage you to join us in celebrating the vibrant music-making community here in northeast Ohio. It is often easy to take for granted how fortunate we are to have so many creative and hardworking musicians who collectively make Cleveland one of the country's most exciting and important artistic communities.

Kris Morron

Music Director and Conductor



NEIL ZAZA

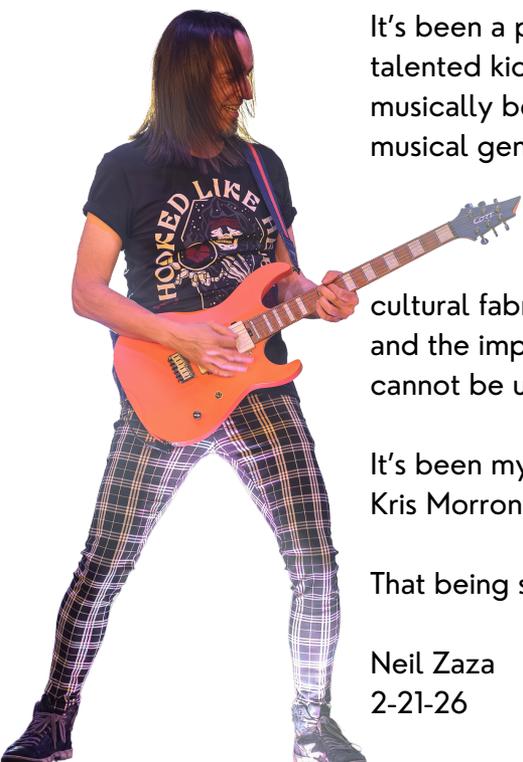
The Melodic Master of Guitar!



NOTES FROM NEIL

As an artist, our musical output is somehow analogized to being our "children" in some regard. We have a special relationship to each one with its own particular memory and interaction unique to the song itself. We love each one, but are challenged constantly by them whether during performance or second guessing our choices during composition. Ultimately, we become painfully aware that through it all, we love each and every one of them for precisely what they are, unconditionally.

So it is with this heart that I find myself hearing (and more importantly) feeling something very new with this material as it is reimagined for you on stage tonight. With Maestro Morron's new arrangements and orchestrations, I am hearing and sensing a freshness and a renewed commitment with these pieces. Songs that I've been a bit too comfortable with over the years sound invigorating again! Pieces that I might have retired because I thought I had said all there was to express in them somehow have a new life for me.



It's been a pleasure to work with the incredibly talented kids in the orchestra. They are wise musically beyond their years and the next musical generation is in good hands as you'll hear tonight. CYO is such an impressive and more importantly, essential part of the cultural fabric of Cleveland. The work they do and the impact they have on our community cannot be understated.

It's been my honor to collaborate with CYO and Kris Morron. Thank you!

That being said, let's rock!

Neil Zaza
2-21-26

NEIL  **ZAZA**

Who is Zaza?

Guitarist Neil Zaza has been defining melodic guitar playing with his instantly recognizable style, technique and songwriting for decades. Internationally acclaimed by fans around the globe, Neil's playing and music fuse technical feats with soulful, visceral melodies all wrapped up in songs that you don't need to be a guitarist to enjoy or appreciate. He transforms the guitar into the song's "lead singer" as he always jokes.



"It's always been about the song for me," states Neil. "I remember all the tunes that really moved me when I was growing up and it wasn't about the guitarist playing 128th notes. It was about an inexplicable connection I felt drawing me to wear out my records as I couldn't get enough of that rush of the song itself! That's what I try and do with my music today. It's always about the song!"



To see Ohio native Neil Zaza's influential impact on guitar across the globe, merely tune into the legion of thousands of fanatical fans performing his international hit, "I'm Alright" on YouTube.



Touring around the world for most of the year, Zaza has established a fanatical following around the globe with his songs “I’m Alright”, “In My Dreams” and “Bari” to name but a few. His records feature top players and bands such as Van Halen’s **Michael Anthony**, Dream Theater’s **Jordan Rudess**, Journey’s **Steve Smith** and **Ross Valory**, **Todd Sucherman** of Styx, **Peter Frampton**, **Stu Hamm** and others in the service of his pop-infused anthems that feature as much soul-stirring melody as they do drop-jaw guitar pyrotechnics.

He has shared the stage with Steve Vai, Joe Satriani, Nuno Bettencourt and played guitar for **Nelson**, **TM Stevens**, **Danger**, **Danger’s Ted Poley** and **Firehouse’s** Indonesian tour as well as been the featured guest soloist with the Akron Symphony Orchestra.



ZAZA BAND

LEAD GUITAR

Neil Zaza

RHYTHM GUITAR

Mark Bovee

BASS

Brandon Covey

DRUMS

Adam Hradisky

KEYS

Mike Schirch

SET LIST

All My Life - Overture

Magnus 212

Go!

Cinematic

Bari

Gumdrop Fantasy

Baroque Sky

Wild Horses

Big Rock

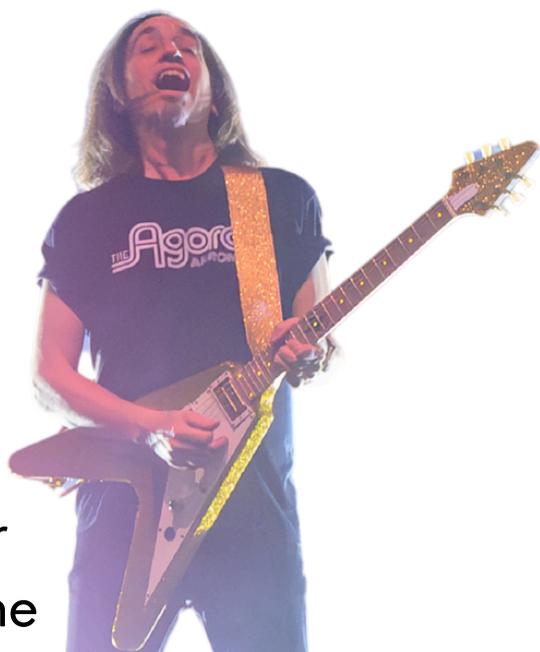
My Dearest

In My Dreams

Higher and Higher

Somewhere in Time

I'm Alright



All arrangements by Kris Morron and Neil Zaza and engraved by Alex Berko except "I'm Alright" arranged by David Kempers



CYO MUSICIANS

FLUTE

- ! Skyler Granoff
principal
Hyunjun Kim
- ! Rhys Serquina
Cora Bruce
Arisa Boonpongmanee
Cara DuBois

CLARINET

- Lainey Miller
Emie Sachs

BASS CLARINET

- Emie Sachs

BASSOON

- ! Caleb Zelch
principal
William Bach

HORN

- Michelle Saab
Thalin Rao
Tyke Braswell
Ela Kaymak

TRUMPET

- ! Andrew Saab
principal
Cassidy Lavrich
Jonathan Gotfryd

TROMBONE

- Jackson Johnson
Jacob Emigh
Anna Blue
Jacob Emigh

BASS TROMBONE

- Logan Connell

TUBA

- Madalynn Long
Sthudhi Sibi

VIOLIN I

- ! Alexander Jin
concertmaster
- ! Abigail Choi
assistant concertmaster
Logan Lam
David Wang
Priya Srivastava
Fiona DeMilta
Yusuke Takatori
Samantha Keller
Rosie Horvath
- ! Hope Sun
Jianna Qu
Arynne Chang

VIOLIN II

- Anya Ustin
principal
Kerissa Shiepis
Zoe Wagner
Jake Starosto
Shriya Selvan
- ! Jason Shear
Matias Gonzalez Valderrey
Emily Chilcote
Annie Wei
Adrienne Riffle

VIOLA

- ! Jonah Paponetti
principal
Julia Koops
Jacob Isakov
Carmela Pulig
Liliana Woods
Kamil Balci

CELLO

- ! Nicholas Jacques
principal
- ! Natalie Chang
Sophia Zhang
Iara Gonzalez Valderrey
Brian Du
Henry Miller
Michaela Holland
Jane Peck
Reyna Pierce
Kyurim Kim
Sonia Vakharia
Maria Zarjetskiy
Vibha Balasubramaniam
Lucy Marshall

DOUBLE BASS

- ! Bird Welty
Reine Hinton
Asha Gupta

HARP

- Milo Haren

PERCUSSION

- ! Jacob Nellis
principal
- ! Matthew Gordon
principal
Theo Grimes
Charlie Fisher

KEYBOARDS

- Miles Hoehler

- ! Student Leadership
Committee Member



SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

**Aurora High School
Avon High School
Beachwood High School
Beachwood Middle School
Beaumont School
Brady Middle School
Brecksville-Broadview
Heights High School
Brunswick High School
Chagrin Falls High School
Chagrin Falls Middle School
Hathaway Brown School
Hawken School
Hawken Upper School
Highland High School
Holy Name High School
Hudson High School
Kenston High School
Laurel School
Mayfield High School
Medina High School**

**Nordonia Hills High School
North Olmsted High School
North Ridgeville High School
North Royalton High School
Orange High School
Orange Middle School
Rocky River High School
Rocky River Middle School
Shaker Heights High School
Solon High School
Solon Middle School
Saint Columbkille Parish School
Stow Munroe Falls High School
Strongsville High School
The Mastery School of Hawken
University School
Valley Forge High School
Walsh Jesuit High School
Westlake High School**

CONTEMPORARY YOUTH ORCHESTRA



Connect with us
on social media!
Find us on
Facebook and
follow us on IG:
@cyorchestra

OUR VISION

CYO creates experiences that foster imagination, develop independent thinkers, and inspire confidence through new and contemporary music.

OUR MISSION

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

ABOUT CYO

Contemporary Youth Orchestra (CYO) includes advanced ensembles that focus on the study and performance of orchestral works by living composers. CYO's mission is to change young lives through contemporary music. Made up of talented young musicians ages 12 to 18 and representing 39 schools in Ohio, CYO fosters students' technical ability and creative growth in an inspiring and supportive community.

CYO, proudly in residence at Case Western Reserve University, inspires and nurtures young musicians as they are challenged to explore creativity, enhance their work ethic and increase their capacity to function as a team. CYO musicians bring the energy of youth and the quality of professional playing to the concert stage.



CYOverture offers students who play violin, viola, cello, bass, and harp the opportunity to learn important skills such as how to follow a conductor and how to collaborate within a large ensemble by synchronizing bowings, actively listening to other sections of the ensemble, and achieving balance and blend while playing advanced level string orchestra music.



LEARN MORE



OPEN REHEARSAL SIGNUP



SAXOPHONE & CLARINET INSTRUCTION

Kevin Giordano

*Over 25 years
experience full-time
teaching saxophone
and clarinet.*



**BOOK A
LESSON!**

(216) 533-7602
Kevin@KGWinds.com





SUMMER IS BLOSSOMING IN 2026!



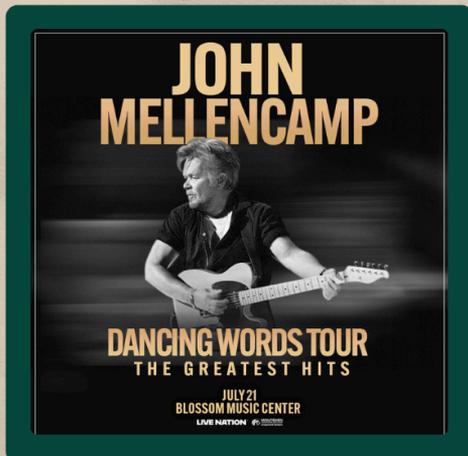
LINDSEY STIRLING

WITH *Pirais!*

DUALITY UNTAMED

AUGUST 18 - CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH
BLOSSOM MUSIC CENTER

PACKAGES AT [LINDSEYSTIRLING.COM](https://www.lindseystirling.com) LIVE NATION  TICKETS AT [LINDSEYSTIRLING.COM](https://www.lindseystirling.com)



JOHN MELLENCAMP

DANCING WORDS TOUR
THE GREATEST HITS

JULY 21
BLOSSOM MUSIC CENTER

LIVE NATION 

PLUS THESE AMAZING SHOWS!

KID CUDI | HARDY | THE BLACK CROWES & WHISKEY MYERS | SAMMY HAGAR | PAUL SIMON | JACK JOHNSON | TIM MCGRAW | PARKER MCCOLLUM | TRAIN | EVANESCENCE | CHICAGO & STYX | RILEY GREEN | FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH | MOTLEY CRUE | ROB ZOMBIE & MARILYN MANSON | O.A.R. | PITBULL & MORE TO COME!



SCAN FOR TICKETS & INFO!



CYO TEAM

CONTEMPORARY YOUTH ORCHESTRA TEAM



Shayne Smith
Executive Director



Kristopher Morron
Music Director & Conductor



Sarah Welty
Orchestra Manager



Alice Hardy-Evans
Educational Assistant

EDUCATIONAL COORDINATORS

Victor Beyens, Violin
Sarah Behal, Viola
Patricia Johnston, Cello & Bass
Ian Wenz, Woodwinds
Kris Morron, Brass
James Maher, French Horn
Hunter Wirt, Percussion

CYO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Danielle Stephenson, President
Deanna Nebel, Vice President
Scott Frodyma, Secretary
Heather Vercillo, Treasurer
Kerry Davis
Barry Gabel
Todd Stephenson
Nina Kidd
Bobby Sweeney
Madi Wayt

Thank you to the amazing Maltz staff
without whom this performance would not be possible!

Jason Cohen

Director of Operations

Aria Smith

Technical Director

Lindsey Halbrooks

Production Manager

Jessica Rosenblatt

Box Office and Marketing Manager

Jordan Davis

House Manager

Mariah Hamburg

Box Office & Administrative Coordinator

Many thanks to the staff and our support team at
Case Western Reserve University where CYO is proudly in residence.



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY**
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Music

Nathan Kruse, PhD

Professor, Department of Music
Department Chair

Ryan Scherber, PhD

Associate Professor of Music Education
Director of Bands
Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies in
Music Education

Nicholas Strawn

Performance and Operations Assistant

Zoe Buff

Operations and Events Team Member



MINUTEMEN WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Proud Sponsor of Contemporary Youth Orchestra

We believe in the power of music to transform young lives. Thank you to the talented musicians, dedicated instructors, and supportive families who make CYO exceptional.

Your commitment to excellence in youth music education inspires our entire community. We're honored to support the next generation of artists as they develop their talents and pursue their dreams.

THANK YOU SPONSORS



MINUTEMEN
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS



THE
GEORGE
GUND
FOUNDATION

Barry & Sam Gabel



Jim and Joe'l LaRose and Family



Jones Day proudly supports the Contemporary Youth Orchestra and its mission to introduce students to creative arts opportunities through music. Why Jones Day? Binding energy, conviction, and credibility arising from shared professional values.



WWW.JONESDAY.COM

DONORS

LEGACY DONORS

**THE FOLLOWING DONORS HAVE SUPPORTED CYO
WITH MULTI-YEAR GIFTS OF \$10,000+**

Laura & Erol Beytas

Beth Brandt Sersig & Christopher Brandt

Pete & Kathy Klein

Todd & Danielle Stephenson

Barry & Sam Gabel

ICON (\$25,000+)

Anonymous

Cleveland Foundation

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

Minutemen Workforce Solutions

Stephenson Family Foundation

The George Gund Foundation

WORLD TOUR (\$10,000+)

Ohio Arts Council

Kulas Foundation

Jim and Joe'l LaRose and Family

THE BIG BREAK (\$5,000+)

Chaffee Family Foundation

Michael Chuparkoff

Michael & Catherine Leonakis

ALL ACCESS PASS (\$2,500+)

Fran & Jules Belkin

Cleveland Monsters /

Cleveland Cavaliers Foundation

Jones Day

Laub Foundation

Carol Mikofalvy

New Music USA

ALL ACCESS PASS (\$2,500+)

Brad Roller

Sarah-Catherine Welty

The Sherwin-Williams Company

Weyl, Peters & Chuparkoff

10,000 Watts of Holy Light Fund in Loving
memory of Michael Stanley Gee

MEET AND GREET (\$500+)

Anonymous

Banks-Baldwin Foundation

Bendix

Jennifer Bubb

Kevin Charnas

Sue Csendes

Kerry Davis

Scott Frodyma

Jeffrey Gabel

Marina Giannirakis

Alex & Oksana Gillig-Vasalle

Charles Gruber

Qionglian Jacques

William Kennedy

Susan Lesko

Adam Lind

Terri Metzger

Dan Moulthrop

Deanna Nebel

Janice Scotton

Lynne & James Shlonsky

Heather Vercillo

Cleveland Composers Guild

Paul Ganci

Thomas Arko

DONORS

FRONT ROW CENTER (\$250+)

Jamie Belkin & Jerry Mizer
Michael Belkin
Gina Cueto Jewelry
Amy Gerbick
Harry Hawkes
Kentlyn's Boutique
Mya Leigh
Brandy Morris
Krissy Patrick
Porvair Filtration Group, Inc.
Jenny Saab
Elliot Paul Saltzman
Lisa Sheldon
Lisa Sofish
Ron Wilcox
Daniel Wolkoff

GIG (\$100+)

Pamela Barker
Steven Broderick
Logan Bryant
Diana Bowman
Joseph Carroll
Regina Cody
Lois Colagrossi
Loreen Conlon
DeMilta Family
Teresa DeVera
Christopher Di Biase
Thomas Embrescia

GIG (\$100+)

Susan Eppes
Andrew Fishman
Ivan Gabel
Steven Gabel
Nancy Gillig-Greer
Craig & Julie Gordon
Lindsey Grady
Scott Hallgren
Shannon Herman
Tina Jicha
Kenneth Kaplan
Peter Klein
Aron Kohler
Lynette Laehu
Raymond Liu
Laura Lobotsky
Lisa Martin
Kathleen Mayer
Kim Metzger
Dominick Montouri
Michael Moran
Jewel Moulthrop
Laura Mucurio
James Neely
Missy Neuman
Rachael Paskavan
David Popvich
Anna Plumley,
in honor of Barry Gabel
Andrea Potischman
Amanda Salgado
Kevin Salyer

DONORS

GIG (\$100+)

Wendy Ordower

The Ordower family is donating this symbolic gift of "Chai life" to CYO. May these young artists find their lives enriched by their participation. Music performed well elevates everything.

Bruce Snyder

Aaron Spalding

Steven Taliaferro,

in honor of Barry Gabel

Allison Thellman

Julie Tutkovics

Kim Weber

Gary Gabel

in support of my brother and sister's commitment to CYO

Emily Rees

Skyler Granoff

Maria Becker-Johnson

GENERAL ADMISSION (\$3+)

Sara Adams

Mary Ann Albaugh

Patricia Alvord

Daniel Anderson

Jay Anderson

Jenna Arko

Cori Birce

Elizabeth Blake

Takae Brewer

Kristy Brown

Andre Cisco II

GENERAL ADMISSION (\$3+)

Steven Cocchiola

Timothy Cramer

Larion Deanna

William Detmar

Andrew DiAngelo

Jane Duncan

Rachel Everett

Joshua Fadenholz

Craig Fawcett

Joel Fink

Richard Flenner

Joy Frodyma

Catherine Foulkes

JRachelle Gaal

Debra Gabel

Michele Gabel

Nancy Gabel

Edward Gallagher

Dave Gerardi

Jo Gilbert

Tricia Hall

Chad 'Sir Wick' Hughes

Ryan & Summer Incedon

Michael Keller

Natalie Keller

Lisa Koops

Kerri Leder

Elizabeth Leu

Cynthia Liu

Jennifer Lomma

DONORS

GENERAL ADMISSION (\$3+)

Molly Huang,
for Grace Watters and
Matthew Huang
Thomas Loudermilk
James Maher
Alejandro Martinez
Holli Mattison
Amy Maurer
Jereme Mellenthin
Casey Meredith Music
Nicholas Montague
Harry Morgenstern
Philip Morron
Robert Morron
Denise Moss
Christopher Neiner
Connor O'Brien
Timothy O'Hara
Ashley O'Neil
Brian Patton
Andrew Perkins
Ronald Perks
John Piche
Lydia Puccini
Carrie Ryan
Renee Ryks
Gregory Sachs
Gail Salvo
Jacquelyn M Schaefer
Rob Scott Scolaro

GENERAL ADMISSION (\$3+)

James Sharff
Sandy Speagle
Andrew Shue
Tricia Stacks
Jennifer Stasek-Nellis
Kristin Swihart
Bradley Wagner
Ginger Ware
Susan Weidner
Kevin Young
Chelsea Zahn
Lydia Arko Zigler
Kent Collier
Tim Cramer
Megan Ditton
Alan Keller
Erin McMunn
Joan Morganstern
Marya Peters
Margaret Welty
Nancy Zipay
My Turquoise Kitten
Martin Bach
Hyunjung Kim
Willy Boehm
Laura Uhl
Joseph Keenan
Sarah Haren
Susan Riffle
Aaron Brooks
Mohammed Iravani
Kal Zucker

CONTEMPORARY YOUTH ORCHESTRA



AUDITION NOW

SEASON 3!

- ! RHYTHMS & ROOTS:
LATIN AMERICAN SYMPHONIC MUSIC
NOVEMBER 22ND
- ! ONE SYMPHONIC NIGHT:
ROCK THE ORCHESTRA WITH NEIL ZAZA
FEBRUARY 21ST
- ! IN CHAMBERS AT HARKNESS
MARCH 7TH
- ! C Y WE WRITE
APRIL 22ND
- ! WRITTEN IN SOUND:
MUSIC OF DUN, HISAISHI,
MARIANELLI AND NEWBOLD
MAY 9TH

The sound of you. The sound of now. C Y You Belong!

Students across Northeastern Ohio want exciting, high-level music making experiences, to be surrounded by other passionate players, and to explore what's next on stage and in life.

CYO exists to help students become confident, creative musicians in a one-of-a-kind community.

What makes CYO different?

- Exclusive focus on contemporary orchestral music
- Unconventional opportunities- student compositions, commissions, and Rock the Orchestra, a genre-bending performance with professional musicians.
- We introduce students to real career paths in the music industry through coaching, collaboration, and industry involvement.

At CYO, you don't just play- you grow, explore, and make lifelong memories.



OPEN HOUSE SIGNUP

CYOverture rehearses at Denison Hall
on the campus of
Case Western Reserve University.

READY FOR THE NEXT STEP IN
YOUR MUSICAL JOURNEY?
SIGN UP FOR A CYO OPEN REHEARSAL!

SEPTEMBER 27TH, 8:30AM - 12:30PM
OCTOBER 4TH, 8:30AM - 12:30PM
DECEMBER 13TH, 8:30AM - 12:30PM
FEBRUARY 28TH, 8:30AM - 12:30PM

QUESTIONS?
EMAIL SARAH@CYORCHESTRA.ORG

