

MISSION

GCTYO is serious about its mission to inspire and educate young musicians. Our holistic approach to music education means we challenge students at every stage of their music development while making sure they feel supported by their conductors and peers. GCTYO's young musicians develop their talents beyond what they thought possible and feel pride and joy in their accomplishments. The study of great music in an ensemble setting can be a transformative experience for young musicians, and the skills they learn as part of the orchestra – teamwork, perseverance, responsibility – carry over into all areas of their lives.

ORCHESTRAS AND CONDUCTORS

Principal Orchestra	Christopher Hisey
Bravura Orchestra**	Gjorgj Kroqi
Symphony Orchestra	Lynda Smith
Concert Orchestra	Erica Messina
String Orchestra	Bruce Sloat
Wind Orchestra	Brian Miller
Percussion Orchestra*	Brian Ente & Jim Royle
Jazz Orchestra I	Rex Cadwallader
Jazz Orchestra II*	Geoffrey Brookes
Chamber Orchestra*	Christopher Hisey

**New in 2019-20 season

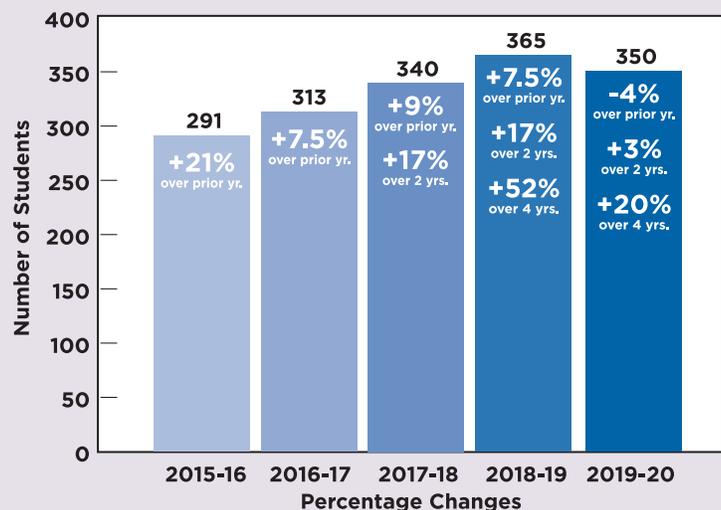
*New in 2017-18 season



MEMBERSHIP

GCTYO is a diverse community of families from all over Connecticut who are highly invested in the success of the program and its children. Most activities beyond instruction are conducted by volunteers, including the governing Board of Directors, fundraising, weekly snacks, yearbook and portraits, photography, retreats and holiday parties. Volunteers also help the Executive Director with important functions such as website and registration management, public relations, marketing, concert management and graphic design.

From 30+ towns in CT



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Christopher Hisey, Music Director
Beth Ulman, Executive Director

NAME CHANGE

In 2019, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to change the name of Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestras to Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras to better reflect our current membership and goals for the future. Members come from over 30 different towns in Connecticut, many from far beyond the Greater Bridgeport area. As GCTYO, we expect to continue attracting top musicians from all over the state who want to benefit from our outstanding program.



PERFORMANCES, COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH

GCTYO performs at least three times each season at The Klein in Bridgeport where every orchestra has a chance to shine. Concerts are often collaborations with other artistic organizations. In spring 2019, Principal Orchestra performed the iconic *Carmina Burana* with choirs and soloists. It will delight audiences again in 2020 with *Cirque de la Symphonie*, teaming up with a company of professional cirque athletes. Acrobats, aerialists, strongmen and other artists will perform in harmony with the music played by GCTYO's top musicians.

In keeping with its growing reach and status in



the arts community, GCTYO has embarked on several initiatives to give back to the community and fulfill its commitment to inclusion and diversity. We launched a free after school string lessons program for young students who would not otherwise have access to playing an instrument. The program is taught by a GCTYO instructor with help from student volunteers. GCTYO is also expanding its relationship with Project Music in Stamford. Student volunteers from Principal Orchestra are giving one-on-one lessons to provide extra support to Project Music students after their regular Wind Orchestra rehearsal.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

As part of its instructional curriculum, GCTYO conducts an international summer performance trip for students and their families every two years. GCTYO has traveled to Germany, China, Italy, Scotland, and Iceland. In summer 2020, GCTYO will visit Tallinn, Estonia, Helsinki, Finland, and St. Petersburg, Russia, performing in world-class venues in each city.



MUSIC DIRECTOR CHRISTOPHER HISEY



Music Director Christopher Hisey is the inspiration and artistic vision behind GCTYO. His guiding light is his belief in the ability of children to create beautiful music together. A veteran music educator, Mr. Hisey draws the best out of his students and changes their lives and the lives of their families through music. He is equally inspiring to the other GCTYO conductors and coaches, all of whom are thoroughly dedicated to our young musicians and the organization. Mr. Hisey recently wrote, "Our commitment to excellence in music education is steadfast and is the driving force behind everything that we do."

FOUNDATIONS and CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS (2019)

The Andrew & Barbara
Bangser Charitable
Foundation Inc.
Bankwell
Brody Wilkinson Inc.
Carstensen Foundation
COMEX
Datto
Fairfield Rotary Club
Foundation
F.O.C.U.S. CT
GE United Way Campaign

Google
Jones Foundation
King Industries
Kashulon Foundation
Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder
Kubtec Medical Imaging
Masonic Fraternity, Stratford, CT
Maximilian E. & Marion O.
Hoffman Foundation
Morgan Stanley Foundation
Nasdaq
Ostar Enterprises

Peralta Design
Pfizer Foundation
Pitney Bowes
R.D. Scinto, Inc.
State of CT Dept. of
Economic & Community
Development,
Office of the Arts
The County Assemblies
Women's Health CT
WSHU Public Radio

Total number
of Donors
in 2018-19:

120

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-20 SEASON

Officers

President

Sara Seaburg

1st Vice President

Brian Campbell

2nd Vice President

Ramin Ganeshram

Secretary

Fred Nangle

Treasurer

John Ji

Directors

Marcie Berson

Nicole Chiravuri

Stacy Greiss

Norman Heusser

Michael Kutsch

Linying Ma

Padmaja Srinivasan

MANAGEMENT AND BOARD VISION FOR THIS SEASON AND BEYOND

- Continue to develop our reputation as the top youth orchestra in Connecticut, both musically and socially. Recruit the best musicians through increased outreach, including social media, targeted communications to music teachers and families, general marketing and promotion of concerts and events, and word of mouth.
- Increase private and public funding through development and fundraising with an eye toward:
 - New and innovative programming;
 - Potential expansion of organizational structure;
 - Retention of our excellent staff;
 - Transforming Board of Directors into a professional non-profit management Board with a focus on fundraising and financial oversight.



GCTYO.org

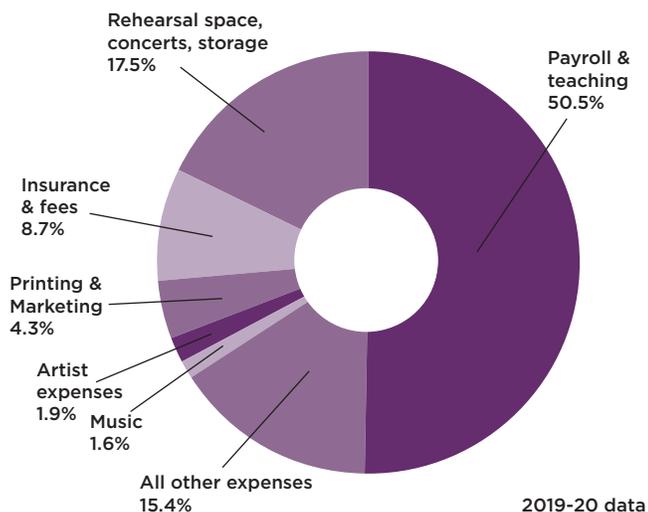
REVENUE AND EXPENSES LAST THREE SEASONS

GCTYO has grown tremendously over the last few years. More students has resulted in more revenue from membership fees but also an increase in expenses.

Our goal is to create an operating reserve of \$250,000 to protect GCTYO and enable us to continue operations in case of large unforeseen financial obligations, as well as facilitate our ability to take advantage of circumstances that would benefit GCTYO. The operating reserve was established in 2018 and we are making good progress toward our goal, with 69% already funded.



2019-20 EXPENSES



GCTYO expenses are driven primarily by teaching and administrative staff salaries. The second highest expense is rental fees for concert halls, rehearsal space and equipment storage. Other major expense categories include guest artist fees, music for students, insurance and printing and marketing.

Personal donations, grants from private and public foundations and fundraising are critical to our continued success. Each season brings new, exciting projects and performances for our musicians, but new initiatives also bring additional expenses. GCTYO must also remain competitive in salaries to attract and retain the best staff and we must continue to fund the operating reserve. A long term goal is to build our own rehearsal space.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS*

