

## MISSION

Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras (GCTYO) brings young musicians together to achieve the highest standard of music performance in a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment. Our holistic approach to education fosters growth, learning, confidence, and both social and emotional awareness, which prepares students for a full and balanced life.

### Our Core Values

- **Diversity** - Reflecting the communities we serve
- **Community** - Providing an accepting place for kids to be themselves
- **Dedication** - Encouraging commitment to each other as we work to achieve a common goal
- **Inspiration** - Empowering our young people to soar to new heights

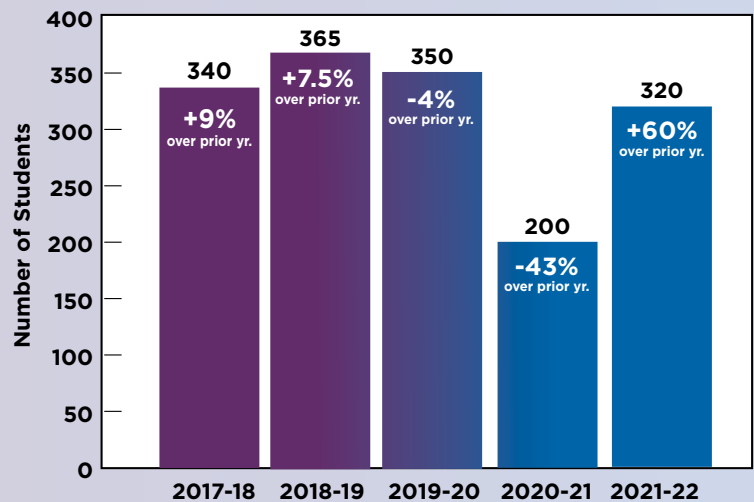
## ORCHESTRAS AND CONDUCTORS

<b>Principal Orchestra</b> .....	Christopher Hisey
<b>Philharmonic Orchestra</b> .....	Polina Nazaykinskaya
<b>Virtuosi Orchestra</b> .....	Britney Alcine
<b>Sinfonia Orchestra</b> .....	Gjorgji Kroqi
<b>String Orchestra</b> .....	Bruce Sloat
<b>Percussion Orchestra</b> .....	Brian Ente
<b>Saxophone Orchestra</b> .....	Jim Clark
<b>Woodwinds Orchestra</b> .....	Alexander Davis
<b>Brass Orchestra</b> .....	Peyton Johnson
<b>Steel Pan Orchestras</b> .....	Jim Royle
<b>Jazz I Orchestra</b> .....	Rex Cadwallader
<b>Jazz II Orchestra</b> .....	Geoffrey Brookes
<b>Flute Choir</b> .....	Adrienne Baker



## MEMBERSHIP

GCTYO is a diverse community of students, families, and teaching artists from all over Connecticut and adjoining states. GCTYO's membership represents not only racial and cultural diversity, but also diversity in gender identity, learning styles and abilities, family income, and geography. Students come from 40 different towns and cities spanning 5 counties in Connecticut. Teaching staff come from as far as Massachusetts to the north and New York City to the south. Parents, instructors, and Board members are highly invested in the success of the program and its children. Most activities beyond instruction are conducted by parent volunteers, who also make up the majority of the governing Board of Directors.



## 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.

## NEW STAFF AND ENSEMBLES

After an extensive search, which drew resumes internationally and across the U.S., GCTYO hired six new teaching artists for the 2021-22 season. Our dual goals were to fill existing and new positions and to hire highly qualified musicians from diverse backgrounds reflective of our student community and the global community in which we live.

Recognizing that new instructors would bring new skills, experience, and energy to GCTYO, we restructured our program to serve our students better.

We created brass and wind intensive ensembles and a second string orchestra for our younger students to promote confidence and build a solid base of skills in preparation for playing in a full orchestra. These changes were made with one goal in mind: To create a positive and educationally appropriate experience for every student at every level of our program. GCTYO also created a Conducting Fellowship to give up-and-coming young conductors teaching and youth orchestra experience.

## PERFORMANCES, COLLABORATION, AND OUTREACH

GCTYO performs at least three times each season at The Klein Auditorium in Bridgeport, where every orchestra has a chance to shine.

Concerts are often collaborations with other artistic organizations.

In March 2020, Principal Orchestra delighted audiences by presenting *Cirque de la Symphonie*, a collaboration with a company of professional cirque athletes whose acts were choreographed to symphonic music. In early 2022, Principal will debut a modern symphony by Cuban-American composer Armando Bayolo. This season, GCTYO also launched a Chamber Music program in partnership with the [Stamford Symphony](#).

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 equity.

Our goal is to break down barriers to entry into youth orchestras by providing access to music education where it does not exist. We are continuing our free after school lessons and expanding to additional schools in Bridgeport. The program is taught by GCTYO instructors with help from student volunteers. As the program grows and students grow with it, we expect some of them to join GCTYO. We also maintain a close relationship with Stamford-based [Project Music](#) and Bridgeport-based [KEYS](#)

to give extra support to the students we share in common and we have become a partner of [InTempo](#), another Stamford-based youth music organization.



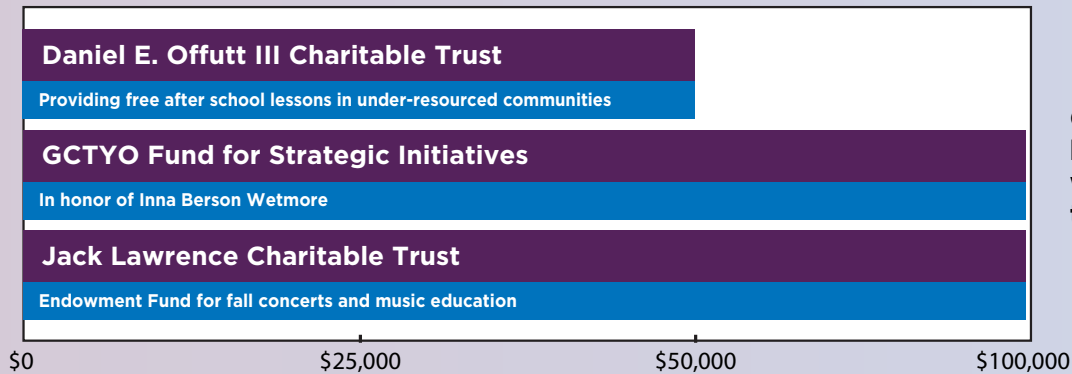
## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)

GCTYO formed a DEI Committee in the summer of 2020 to examine ways in which GCTYO could advance systemic change and transform itself into an anti-racist and more inclusive organization. Progress to date includes a unanimously approved DEI statement on our website, hiring new staff to move the needle toward more equitable and representative diversity, recruiting new Board members from under-represented populations, programming music composed and performed by BIPOC and LGBTQ musicians, conducting several DEI and sensitivity training sessions for staff and Board members with a professional facilitator, and strengthening ties with other community organizations to increase awareness of our core mission and reduce barriers to entry for students from under-resourced communities.



## GRANTS AND DONATIONS

GCTYO received the largest donations of its 60-year history in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons.



GCTYO is proud to be recognized as a worthy steward of these funds.

To make a donation, contact Beth Ulman at [executivedirector@gctyo.org](mailto:executivedirector@gctyo.org)



## MANAGEMENT AND BOARD VISION

- 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
  - Expansion of administrative structure
  - Retention and recruitment of excellent staff
  - Continuing to transform Board of Directors into a professional non-profit managing Board with a focus on fundraising and financial oversight
  - Realizing our long term goal of a dedicated GCTYO rehearsal space

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-22 SEASON

### President

Marcie Berson

### Vice President

Ramin Ganeshram

### Secretary

Sarah Schunk

### Treasurer

Veronica Chen Guerreiro

### Directors

Douglas Brown

Nicole Chiravuri

D'Andre Dina

Norman Heusser

Lauren Mandell

Jeffrey Randolph

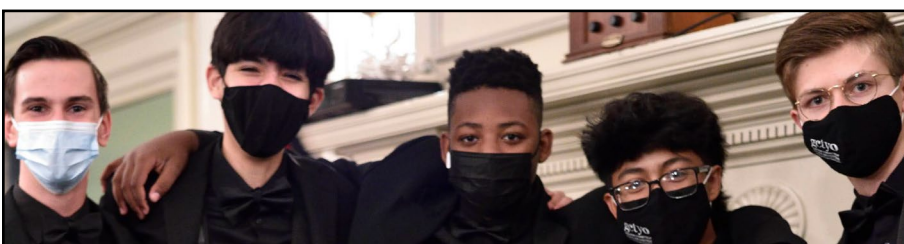
Thomas Whitmoyer

### Music Director

Christopher Hisey

### Executive Director

Beth Ulman

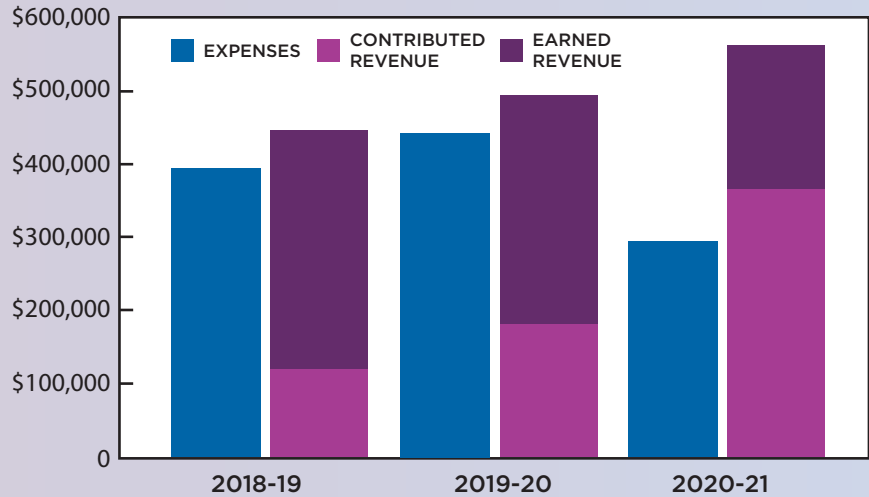




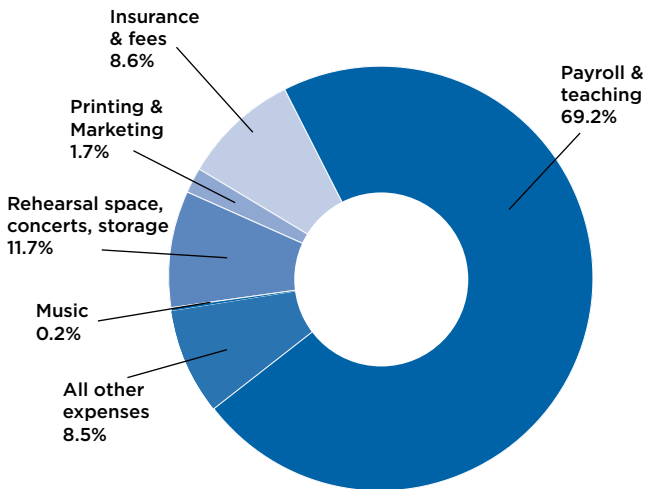
## CONTRIBUTED AND EARNED REVENUE

“Earned revenue” from GCTYO program activities, including membership fees, ticket sales, and program book advertising dropped 40% during the 2020-21 season because of the pandemic. At the same time, expenses dropped 35% due to reduced activities. “Contributed revenue,” on the other hand, including donations and private and government grants, increased 126%, following an increase of 53% the prior season.

GCTYO’s reputation as a leading youth orchestra has set us up to receive more recognition in the future, which will result in increased membership and grant revenue. We continue to rely on individual contributions from member families, alumni, and supporters to meet budgetary commitments as well.



## 2020-21 EXPENSES



In keeping with our mission and values, 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 and PPE for students, insurance, and printing and marketing.

Individual 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 our operating reserve. A long-term goal is to build our own rehearsal space.

## DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS\*

