



YOUTH
Orchestra
of the Southern Finger Lakes

JUNIOR STRING ENSEMBLE

**WELCOME TO THE
JUNIOR STRING ENSEMBLE
2017 – 2018 SEASON**

INFORMATION FOR MUSICIANS AND FAMILIES

Welcome to a new year with the Junior String Ensemble! This should be an exciting season. We all look forward to many wonderful performances by young musicians under the direction of our conductor, Gary Chollet. The following information will help you with what you need to know about playing in the Junior String Ensemble and your involvement in making the program grow successfully.

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YOUTH ENSEMBLES

The Junior String Ensemble

History

The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes proudly announces the Junior String Ensemble's twelfth season! This group is conducted by Gary Chollet and aims to help the development of young string players. It provides advanced challenges and opportunities for young people who are enthusiastic about music and will serve as a feeder program for the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes. Students from Corning, Elmira, and the surrounding areas rehearse weekly to prepare three public concerts.

As important members of Corning-Elmira Musical Arts, Inc. (CEMA), Junior String Ensemble players represent the finest young talent in the Twin Tiers region. As such, they strive to practice and perform with the utmost of their ability, as exemplified by the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes and its Music Director.

CEMA is the Twin Tiers' foremost classical music organization composed of a professional orchestra, a community chorus, the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes and the Junior Strings Ensemble. Through these ensembles, CEMA strives to be the region's leading resource for classical music through innovative programming, quality performances, and meaningful education initiatives.

Gary Chollet

Gary Chollet has been a performing violinist with the Corning and /or Elmira orchestras since 1963. He received his B.A. in Music from Ithaca College in 1965 and his M.A. in Music Education in 1970 from the same institution. He taught string instruments and directed elementary, middle school and high school orchestras and chamber ensembles in the Horseheads School District from 1965 to 1997. Under his leadership, the orchestras performed in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington D.C., and Vienna, Austria. In addition to his teaching duties, Mr. Chollet served as Director of Music for the Horseheads Central School District from 1984 to his retirement in June 1997.

Upon retirement, Mr. Chollet took the position of Lecturer at the Ithaca College School of Music in Ithaca, NY. His duties include preparing Junior and Senior student teachers to work in the public schools, conducting the Lab Orchestra, and adjudicating string instrument proficiency examinations. He has adjudicated NYSSMA solo festivals and guest conducted county and area All-State orchestras throughout New York State.

While performing with both the Corning and Elmira orchestras, Mr. Chollet helped found the Elmira Festival Chamber Players, a chamber orchestra active in the area in the late 70's and 80's. More recently, he helped establish the Ontario Chamber Players, a chamber orchestra based in Geneva, NY and the Festival Strings, a string ensemble based in Elmira, NY. He served on the Ad Hoc Committee, which nurtured collaboration between the Corning and Elmira orchestra boards. This collaboration led to the formation of the Orchestra and Chorus of the Southern Finger Lakes (OSFL). He is currently President of the Board of Directors of the OSFL, a violinist for the OSFL, and its production manager.

The Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes

History

Founded in 1972, the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes has enabled students to envision a future in music for more than forty seasons. Middle and high school students from Corning, Elmira, and the surrounding areas rehearse weekly to prepare three public concerts.

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Leadership

The individuals listed below are responsible for all functions of the Junior String Ensemble. Please contact Conductor, Gary Chollet directly if you are unable to show up to a rehearsals. The following contact information may be useful to you:

- Gary Chollet, Conductor
722 Lattabrook Road
Elmira, NY 14901
Phone: 607-735-5051
cbchollet@aol.com
- Elizabeth Bjarning, Office Manager
Corning-Elmira Musical Arts
P.O. Box 15
Corning, NY 14830
Phone: 607-936-2873
Line 2: 607-936-3007
Web Address: www.osfl.org
Email: elizabeth@osfl.org
- Marshall Hyde, Executive Director
Corning-Elmira Musical Arts
P.O. Box 15
Corning, NY 14830
Phone: 607-936-2873
Fax: 607-936-3007
Web Address: www.osfl.org
Email: marshall@osfl.org

Rehearsals and Performances

Schedule

Rehearsals

Rehearsals take place most Sunday afternoons from September through May. Our rehearsals typically start at 4:30 pm and run to 6:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads with additional rehearsals scheduled on concert weekends. First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads is located at 2943 Westinghouse Road in Horseheads. There is usually a break halfway into each rehearsal. Drinks and snacks will be provided by a parent volunteer.

***** This is VERY important. Students are required to stay on the premises during rehearsals.** In other words, **they may not leave the church grounds to go elsewhere during break.** OSFL has insurance for the rehearsal/concert locations only. OSFL cannot be responsible for the safety of a child who leaves the chaperoned areas against our policies.

Required Dates

You will receive a full schedule early in the season. You must contact the conductor about missing rehearsals as early as possible. If contacting the OSFL office, remember that the office has regular business hours. Leaving a message on a Saturday before rehearsal would **not** be helpful because no one would be there. Please plan ahead.

Rehearsal Procedures

1. Musicians should plan to arrive at rehearsals several minutes early. This means early enough to be seated, warmed up and ready to begin by 4:30 pm. **If you arrive at 4:30 pm, you are late!**
2. Always have a #2 or softer pencil, with eraser, at each rehearsal. If you make marks in your music in pen, you will be charged for the parts.
3. Bring your music stand to each rehearsal.

** Please remember that we are guests at our rehearsal and concert locations. As such, it is our responsibility to leave these spaces clean and undamaged.*

Concert Weekends

The Youth Orchestra and Junior String Ensemble perform three public concerts during the season. Concert weekends tend to be very busy:

A Typical Concert Weekend

Friday	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal
Saturday	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Rehearsal
Sunday	2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Full dress rehearsal
Sunday	4:00 pm	Concert

Concert locations vary during the season and move throughout the Corning-Elmira Regional Area. Dates and venues will be announced at the beginning of the season.

Members with other activities that may be in conflict with this schedule should plan early to make the necessary adjustments.

Our concerts are open to the public. Please invite as many people as possible to the concert and help to publicize the event. You may contact the OSFL office at any time to receive flyers that can be posted for the concerts.

Concert Dress

***** Please go over this section with your child/children.**

It is very important that we play like a team and LOOK like a team as well. Please make sure that when you come to a concert that you are wearing the appropriate concert attire.

Concert Uniform

Girls: *long* black skirt or black pants, white top, black dress shoes

*** A knee length skirt is **NOT** a long skirt. It is a very fashionable skirt, but it is **NOT appropriate for a concert**. Also please keep in mind where you are when you are playing and how you are sitting when considering your skirt length. Remember, dress pants are an option.

Guys: black dress pants, white shirt and tie, black dress shoes

*** **No sneakers, jeans or T-shirts!**

If a child is dressed inappropriately both the child and parent will be notified.

Membership Requirements

Attendance

Every player has a responsibility to attend all rehearsals and practice consistently at home.

- 1 “Rehearsals” are for growing as a group and addressing group musical issues. **“Practice” is what occurs at home.**
- 2 Regular attendance at rehearsals and consistent practice of assigned music at home are crucial if our ensemble is to perform at our very best.
- 3 When you join the Junior String Ensemble you are making a commitment to your fellow musicians to work together and create a quality ensemble.

Absences

- 1 If you know about the absence in advance, please notify the conductor. **This is the option that is most preferred.**
- 2 If you know in advance but after the preceding rehearsal, please email or call as soon as possible. If notifying the office, please do so **before 3 pm** on the Thursday before. Keep in mind that if you call or e-mail after that, the message will likely not be received until the following Monday.
- 3 If your absence is due to an emergency or illness that day, please bring a parent’s note to the next rehearsal.

While at rehearsals...

- 1 Members should always be respectful of leaders and adults.
- 2 Members are expected to help maintain the cleanliness of their surroundings
- 3 And, of course, to behave in a friendly manner towards their peers.

We are all here to aid our growth and development as musicians, but we are also here to enjoy our time together. Please help to make this a good experience for everyone!

Your cooperation with these policies will help us all make great music. If you have any questions, please call the office.

Parent Volunteers

Parents will be asked to take chaperone/snack duty at rehearsals on a rotating basis. It is very important that each parent fulfills the duties listed below on their assigned date. Please be sure to add the date(s) you are scheduled to your calendar **immediately!** If any parent anticipates difficulty fulfilling this role, please contact the office. If your assigned date is inconvenient, please arrange to switch with another parent on the schedule using the ensemble contact information sheet.

Duties include:

- 1 Stay on-site for the duration of the rehearsal to deal with unexpected circumstances.
- 2 Bring drinks and snacks for 20 musicians, to be served at a break in the middle of rehearsal. This responsibility will happen twice during the season on assigned dates. Make sure the rehearsal space is cleaned up, furniture and supplies are restored to standard arrangement, and the lights are turned off. The conductors will take care of locking the door and setting the alarm.
- 3 Remain on-site until the last musician has been picked up to ensure that everyone gets home safely.

It is important for all of us to remember that we are guests at our rehearsal spaces. If you are unable to fulfill your duties on the date assigned **and** you are not able to find a replacement, contact the office.

Tuition

Each member must pay tuition of \$130 for the season. This non-refundable fee will be collected by the second rehearsal. We can accept Visa, MasterCard, or personal check. If paying by credit card, the website (www.osfl.org) offers an online payment option but payments can also be received by the office over the phone. Checks should be payable to "OSFL." When paying online, go to "Community & Youth", then "Youth Ensembles". Payment options are at the bottom of the page. Please contact the office if you have difficulty with these fees. We want to make certain that financial concerns do not preclude any musician from participating in this enriching program and are willing to work with those with difficulties.

Audition Information

To become a member of the Junior String Ensemble, musicians are required to audition before the beginning of the new season. These auditions are typically held in May. There is a fee of \$10 to audition. To schedule an audition you will need to visit <http://www.osfl.org/AuditionRegistrations.htm> or contact the office. You must send in the audition application with the application fee in order to be given an audition time.

Requirements: Players should remain proficient at a minimum ability of NYSSMA Level III or higher. Prospective members will be asked to play scales, a solo selection of their choice without an accompanist and will include sight-reading.

Other Information

Communications

A complete list of contact information for all Junior String Ensemble members will be distributed to the entire group to facilitate communication. **Much of the communication between the office and Junior String Ensemble members will be by email.** Those who do not have email access will receive messages verbally or in print copy. Please check your email frequently for information, particularly to check for changes in rehearsal plans. We will develop a “telephone tree” to contact the group for emergency cancellations of rehearsals. The emergency telephone tree will only be used for last-minute cancellations that occur on the day of a rehearsal or event.

Professional Concerts

Observation of a professional orchestra is particularly helpful to developing musicians. We are very fortunate to have an excellent musical organization in our backyard. Members of the Junior String Ensemble are strongly encouraged to attend concerts of the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes. Student ticket rates are \$8 per concert or a student subscription may be purchased for \$30 for all four concerts with an adult subscription. Contact the Orchestra office for details (607-936-2873). Special discounts may be offered to JSE students and their families throughout the season.

School Ensembles

We strongly encourage all students that have the opportunity to participate in their school band and/or orchestra take advantage of that opportunity. By being involved in your school’s music organization you can continue to grow as a musician and help the Junior String Ensemble! JSE is meant to be an added experience in furthering your child’s musical development. It is not meant to be a substitute for school participation. We highly support the school music programs surrounding us as well as their teachers.

Photography

Please be aware that from time to time photographs will be taken of the Junior String Ensemble, which may, at the Director’s discretion, be used for publicity in print media and on the Internet. Names of students will not be used without approval.