

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes and Junior String Ensemble to Hold Auditions for New Students

The Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes (YOSFL) and Junior String Ensemble (JSE) are excited to announce auditions for their 2021-22 season, which is slated to be held in-person.

Returning students can re-audition via a short video submission, due by noon on Thursday, September 2, 2021. New students will audition in-person with the conductors on Saturday, September 11, 2021, beginning at 9 AM at the First United Methodist Church in Horseheads. Audition requirements and guidelines can be found at <https://www.osfl.org/youth-ensemble-auditions--tuition.html>.

All auditioning students are encouraged to attend an Improvisation Workshop on Saturday, September 11, at 1 PM with Dr. David Rudge. Dr. Rudge is the Director of Orchestras and Opera at SUNY Fredonia. He also leads The Improv Collective, a performance ensemble dedicated to free improvisation. This workshop will be an extension of a similar workshop conducted virtually with students from the Youth Orchestra and Junior String Ensemble this past spring.

Under the direction of Augusto Diemecke, concertmaster of the OSFL, the Youth Orchestra is composed of some of the finest high school and advanced middle school student musicians of our region. The Youth Orchestra performs one major work, side-by-side with the OSFL each year.

OSFL assistant concertmaster, Debrah Devine, will return for a second year to direct the Junior String Ensemble in 2021-22, while conductor Gary Chollet remains on sabbatical. The Junior String Ensemble encourages the development of beginning and intermediate string players.

The audition fee is \$15. There is no additional fee to attend the Improvisation Workshop. Go to [OSFL.org](https://www.osfl.org) to download the application form and contact the OSFL office at 607-936-2873 with questions.

Youth ensemble students will enjoy workshops and master classes by guest artists performing with the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes throughout the concert season. "During the pandemic shutdown, we were privileged to have had the opportunity to work closely with world-famous violinist Midori for several virtual workshops, a masterclass, and a performance. We hope to bring similarly enriching experiences to our YO and JSE students this year," states Karen Dusek, Managing Director.

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES (OSFL)

The OSFL offers four regular season full orchestra concerts, including a side-by-side Youth Orchestra and professional musician collaboration, a Musicians' Choice Chamber Music Series, concerts by the Chorus of the Southern Finger Lakes, several concerts by the Youth Orchestra and Junior String Ensemble, as well as smaller ensemble concerts for children. Under the guidance of distinguished Music Director and Conductor, Toshiyuki Shimada, the OSFL is a strong supporter of highlighting the musical achievements of young musicians with its own Youth Orchestra and Junior String Ensemble programs, as well as the Hertzog Concerto & Aria Competition for young artists in grades 9 through 12. The OSFL collaborates with regional cultural partners, artists, and like-minded organizations to advance our mutual artistic growth in the greater Elmira-Corning area.

Support for the OSFL comes from the Corning Incorporated Foundation, Hilliard Corporation, the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

