

YOUTH *Orchestra* OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES

WELCOME TO THE YOUTH ORCHESTRA 2021-2022 SEASON!

INFORMATION FOR MUSICIANS AND FAMILIES

Welcome to a new year with the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes! This should be an exciting season. We all look forward to many wonderful performances by young musicians led by Augusto Diemecke. The following information will help you with what you need to know about playing in the Youth Orchestra and your involvement in making the program grow successfully.

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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 forty-nine seasons. Middle and high school students from Corning, Elmira and the surrounding areas rehearse weekly to prepare three public concerts throughout the season.

As important members of Corning-Elmira Musical Arts, Inc. (CEMA), Youth Orchestra 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, Toshiyuki Shimada.

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 String 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.

Augusto Diemecke

Augusto Diemecke began his violin studies at the age of 11 with his father Emilio Diemecke. Mr. Diemecke continued his violin training with Joanna Maikovska, Enrique Espín Yépes, Jorge Risi, Manuel Suárez, Fredell Lack, and Kenneth Goldsmith. Augusto has participated in Master classes with Itzhak Perlman, Henryk Szeryng, and Sergiu Luca. He is a graduate of the Conservatorio Nacional de Música in México City and holds a Licenciatura in violin performance from Ollyn Yolitztly School of Music in Mexico. In 1982, Mr. Diemecke won the first prize in the Concurso Nacional de Violin in México City.

Mr. Diemecke is a very active performer. He has played with many orchestras such as México City Philharmonic, OFUNAM, Guanajuato Symphony, Houston Symphony, Houston Ballet Orchestra, CCO, and Orchestra do Norte do Portugal and has served as Concertmaster with Orquesta Philharmonique du Tuornon, in France. He is currently the Concertmaster with the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes (OSFL). As a soloist he has performed with Guanajuato Symphony, Morelia Symphony, Orquesta Ollin Yolistly, Orquesta de Cámara de Bellas Artes, The Corning Youth Orchestra, the North Houston Symphony, Orquesta do Norte do Portugal, and The Colgate Symphony. He has performed Chamber music recitals in France, Portugal, Perú, México and the United States.

Augusto Diemecke has been teaching violin since 1988. In 1991, he began his training in Suzuki pedagogy at the Ithaca College Summer Institute. Augusto has taken training courses with Daphne Hughes, Linda Fiore, Marilyn O'Boyle and Carrie Reuning-Hummel. He has been a faculty member at CSMA since 1993. In 1997, he joined the faculty of Ithaca Talent Education (ITE) as a violin teacher, and has been conducting the Pochino Orchestra for the past 4 years. In 2000, Mr. Diemecke organized a tour for the ITE advanced violin ensemble tour group to go to México, through various cities such as Guanajuato, Zamora, San Miguel and Salamanca.

Mr. Diemecke has been a guest clinician at Vermont Suzuki Strings camp, New Hampshire workshop, Gabriel Fauré Orchestra training camp in France, Corning Strings Summer Camp, and the Lima Perú Festival. He is also the co-director for the Guanajuato, México Suzuki Festival each September.

Leadership

The individuals listed below are responsible for all functions of the Youth Orchestra. The following contact information may be useful to you:

- Augusto Diemecke, Conductor
Email: augusto@osfl.org
- Corning-Elmira Musical Arts Office
49 Bridge Street
PO Box 15
Corning, NY 14830
Phone: 607-936-2876
Email: info@osfl.org
Website: osfl.org
Hours: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday
- Karen Dusek, Managing Director
Phone: 607-936-2873
Email: karen@osfl.org

Rehearsals & Performances

General Rehearsal Procedures

- 1) Be at rehearsal, warmed up, and in your seat at least 10 minutes before the “A” is sounded for tuning. It is expected that you will take bad weather, traffic, etc. into account in planning travel time. Always leave enough to be VERY EARLY for rehearsal.
- 2) ALWAYS have a #2 or softer black pencil with an eraser on your stand for every rehearsal. If you make extra marks or write in pen, you will be charged for the part. It is suggested that you make a copy of your music when it is assigned and make notations on the copy rather than on the original.
- 3) There will be one 15 minute break at each rehearsal.

Schedule

Rehearsals

Rehearsals take place most Sunday afternoons from September through May. Our rehearsals typically start at 4:00 pm and run to 6:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church with additional rehearsals scheduled on concert weekends. The church is located at 2943 Westinghouse Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845. 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 to go elsewhere during break.** OSFL has insurance for the rehearsal and concert locations only. OSFL cannot be responsible for the safety of a child who leaves the chaperoned areas against our policies.

Equipment/Instruments

Participants are responsible for their own equipment and instruments. Parents are encouraged to have insurance for valuable instruments, as neither the YOSFL nor CEMA will assume responsibility for damaged or loss. **STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN MUSIC STAND.**

Orchestra Seating

Seating is based on ability *and* attendance, and is assigned at the discretion of the conductor. Challenges are not part of the Youth Orchestra Experience.

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 last minute illness causes you to miss a rehearsal, please send notice with another family that you cannot attend so that your absence can be reported to the conductor, and your absence recorded in the attendance book. A Future Absentee List is available at all rehearsals. Students should fill this out as soon as they know of an upcoming absence. If contacting the OSFL office, please 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.

Reporting Time and Punctuality

Sign the attendance book when you arrive. If you are late to rehearsal write “late” in the attendance book. **Three occurrences of late arrival are considered an absence.** The conductor reserves the right to remove a student from a concert performance if rehearsals are missed. If last minute illness causes you to miss a rehearsal, please send notice with another family that you cannot attend so that your absence can be reported to the conductor and recorded in the attendance book. Record future absences on the schedule in the attendance book at least 4 weeks in advance of a known schedule conflict. The conductor will use this information to plan future rehearsals. Please review your schedule for conflicts well in advance.

To respect the performance of the orchestra as a whole and to make maximum use of available time, students must be seated and prepared to tune 10 minutes prior to the scheduled rehearsal starting time. At the scheduled starting time, the conductor will begin. Tardiness must be explained to the conductor. Unexcused tardiness is subject to discipline at the conductor’s discretion.

Musicians should plan to arrive at rehearsals on time, which means early enough to be seated and ready to begin by 4:00 pm. **If you arrive at 4:00 pm, you are late!** Chaperones will collect all cell phones and return them at the end of the rehearsal. We recommend students leave their cell phones at home.

** 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.*

Tuning

At the beginning of each rehearsal and each concert, the concertmaster will stand, at which time players should stop warming up and become silent. The concertmaster will call for an “A” from the oboe. After carefully listening to the pitch, the woodwinds will tune, followed by the brass, the lower strings, and the violins. You should always tune so quietly that you can always hear the oboe. A separate “A” will be given between each group. There should be NO playing once your group has tuned.

Preparation

Orchestra members are expected to know the music PRIOR to rehearsals. The conductor will be available before and after rehearsals or by appointment if an orchestra member needs help. Members are encouraged to seek help from their private teachers whenever needed. Musical competence must be maintained as determined by the Conductor Chair. Assignments may be changed at the conductor’s discretion. There are no challenges.

Concert Weekends

The Youth Orchestra performs three public concerts during its season. The 4 rehearsals (previous Sunday and concert weekend rehearsals) directly preceding each performance are mandatory.

A Typical Concert Weekend

- Friday – 6 to 8:30 PM, Full orchestra rehearsal
- Saturday – 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM, Full orchestra rehearsal
- Sunday – 2 to 3:30 PM, Full orchestra dress rehearsal
- Sunday – 4 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 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 student.**

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

Fall & Spring Concerts: Students should dress in “Concert Black & White,” which consists of

- Black pants or skirts (at least knee length)
- White dress shirt or blouse (no sleeveless tops)
- Black dress shoes with black socks
- Black or red tie

Side-by-Side with OSFL: Add a black jacket

Membership Requirements

The YOSFL mandates that all musicians must participate in a school or band music program or, in the cases of home schooling, private lessons. In cases where there is a schedule conflict between a school music commitment and the YOSFL, the school commitment takes precedence. This policy pertains only to school musical activities and does not include sports, extracurricular activities, or non-school organizations. Where an absence is required because of school or family conflicts, the YOSFL requires written or verbal notification to Director Diemecke and the OSFL office. More than 1 unexcused absence within a semester is likely to have a negative effect on the musician and the ensemble. For this reason, if a student is absent (without being excused) from more than 2 rehearsals they may face expulsion from the group.

Attendance

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

- “Rehearsals” are for growing as a group and addressing group musical issues. **“Practice” is what occurs at home.**
- Regular attendance at rehearsals and consistent practice of assigned music at home are crucial if our ensemble is to perform at our very best.
- When you join the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes you are making a commitment to your fellow musicians to work together and create a quality ensemble.
- **If you miss two rehearsals, the conductor will have the ability to decide if you are ready and able to play in the next concert.** Remember that attendance is key to playing with an ensemble.

Attendance Log

Members should sign-in on the attendance log at the beginning of each rehearsal.

Absences

- If you know about the absence in advance, please note it on the “Future Absence” sheet located with the attendance log. **This is the option that is most preferred.**
- If you know in advance but after the preceding rehearsal, please email the conductor at augusto@osfl.org at your earliest opportunity. If your absence is due to an emergency or illness that day, please bring a parent’s note to the next rehearsal.

NOTE: You MUST contact the conductor at augusto@osfl.org at your earliest opportunity if a rehearsal will be missed unless it is an emergency. Do not contact the OSFL office.

There are three concerts in a season – therefore the season is broken into three groups of rehearsals. If you miss more than 2 rehearsals in one group you may be asked to perform your music for the conductors, which will act as an “audition.” This “audition” will decide if you can still perform in the concert.

While at rehearsals...

- Members should always act in a respectful way toward the leaders and parents around them.
- Members are expected to help maintain the cleanliness of their surroundings, such as venues and rehearsal locations.
- And, of course, always 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.

Seniors

Please prepare and submit a short paragraph bio about yourself and your plans after high school to the OSFL office by May 1, 2022.

Parent Volunteers

Parents will be asked to take drink/chaperone 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 Parent Liaison. If your assigned date is inconvenient, please arrange to switch with another parent on the schedule using the ensemble contact information sheet. *If your child needs a snack please send food with him/her.*

Duties for parent responsible for drinks/chaperone include:

- Stay on-site for the *duration* of the rehearsal to deal with unexpected circumstances.
- Bring beverages and cups for 45 teenagers, to be served at a break in the middle of rehearsal.
- Make sure the rehearsal space is cleaned up, furniture and supplies are restored to the standard arrangement, and the lights are turned off. The conductor *or chaperone* will take care of locking the door and setting the alarm.
- **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 Parent Liaison.

*From time to time we need parent volunteers for other things, especially during concert weekends. Any and all help is appreciated. The OSFL staff will let you know of opportunities to volunteer.

Tuition

Each member must pay tuition of \$240 for the season. This non-refundable fee will be due by September 30, 2021. Tuition may be paid by credit card online (<https://www.osfl.org/youth-ensemble-auditions--tuition.html>) or by phone, or by check mailed to the office.

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. Please contact Karen Dusek, Managing Director, for tuition assistance or to take advantage of our two-installment payment plan.

Payments after September 30 will accrue a \$25 late fee for each month. The late due dates are as follows:

- Oct. 1 - Oct. 31: \$265
- Nov. 1 - Nov. 30: \$290
- Dec. 1 - Dec. 31: \$315
- Any time after the 1st of January: \$340

Other Information

Concerto Competition

The concerto competition will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Horseheads. The date for the competition will be announced. Members of the Youth Orchestra in their junior or senior years of high school are eligible to compete.

Communications

A complete list of contact information for all Youth Orchestra members will be distributed to the entire group to facilitate communication. **Much of the communication between the office and Youth Orchestra 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. Also please contact the office if any of your information changes - especially email addresses. 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. It is also a benefit that the Youth Orchestra Conductor, Augusto Diemecke is the Concertmaster of the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes. This allows the students to see their conductor perform. Members of the Youth Orchestra are strongly encouraged to attend concerts of the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes. Tickets for students under 18 are free or a subscription may be purchased for \$30 for all four concerts. Contact the Orchestra office for details (607) 936-2873. Special discounts may be offered to YO students and their families throughout the season.

School Ensembles

We strongly encourage all students who have the opportunity to participate in their school band and/or orchestra to 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 Youth Orchestra! YOSFL 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 Youth Orchestra which may, at the Managing Director’s discretion, be used for publicity in print media and on the Internet. Please complete and submit the attached Photo & Video Release Form to the office.

Questions

The conductor will be available before and after rehearsal to answer questions regarding music, performances, expectations, etc. His contact information is:

Augusto Diemecke augusto@osfl.org

Because Mr. Diemecke is the Concertmaster for the OSFL, the conductor of the YOSFL, and a very respected teacher in several different communities, his schedule makes it difficult to respond to phone calls and emails. The following parent volunteers will do their best to answer any questions that come up:

Parent coordinator: **TBD**

Contact the office at info@osfl.org or call 607-936-2873. The office is open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.