



Gemini Youth Orchestras

2009-10 Member Handbook

Our 41st Season

Gemini Youth Orchestras

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www.gyo.org

Gemini Youth Orchestras
2009-10 Staff and Management

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Gemini Youth Symphony– Michael Adelson
Gemini Chamber Orchestra – James Uzzi
Gemini String Orchestra – Andrew Perea
Gemini Concert Winds – Michael Canipe
Gemini Jazz Ensemble – Anthony Graziosi

Introduction

Welcome (and welcome back) to the Gemini Youth Orchestras (“GYO”) family. This handbook was designed to provide our members with guidelines, policies, and procedures that will help you to get the most out of your orchestral experience. Please read the handbook carefully. All GYO members are expected to abide by the policies and procedures outlined here. If you have any questions or problems, please call (631) 470-2114 or e-mail us at webmaestro@gyo.org.

The GYO program provides an environment in which talented young musicians can improve their skills and experience the realities and rewards of quality performance. Students in the program have the opportunity to learn and perform standard repertoire, to work with and perform under conservatory-trained professionals and to enjoy performing alongside active professional musicians and soloists.

Gemini’s musicians are drawn from public, private, and parochial schools across Long Island. Musicians are auditioned and accepted into the program regardless of financial circumstances. Gemini sponsors scholarships to ensure that every accepted student will be able to participate in the program.

Tuition provides only part of the revenue for Gemini. Ticket sales, individual donations, corporate and business contributions, foundation and government grants, and special fundraising projects provide the balance.

Membership in all groups is determined by audition. Students are not re-auditioned each year unless they wish to move up to a different group; however, they are required to continue their studies throughout each school year and each summer to maintain membership. The GYO program consists of the following groups:

Gemini Youth Symphony (“GYS”)

The Gemini Youth Symphony is open to students performing at NYSSMA level 6 through All State. Literature is selected from classic standard repertoire in original editions, which is at once demanding and rewarding for the superior student musician. GYS also performs new compositions and sometimes works with professional soloists. Membership is limited to approximately 85 students. GYS is conducted by Michael Adelson.

Gemini Chamber Orchestra (“GCO”)

The Gemini Chamber Orchestra is an intermediate preparatory group open to string students playing at NYSSMA Levels 5 and 6. In future seasons, winds may be added to the ensemble. Most of the musical literature for GCO is originals and string orchestra reductions containing primarily original notation. The GCO is limited to approximately fifty students, and will be conducted by James Uzzi.

Gemini String Orchestra (“GSO”)

The Gemini String Orchestra introduces students to string ensemble playing with a professional conductor. Young musicians performing at NYSSMA levels 3-5 receive intensive technical instruction and prepare for the more advanced groups. Literature is selected primarily from arrangements, although in some cases original editions are performed. Membership is limited to approximately 75 students. GSO is conducted by Andrew Perea.

Gemini Concert Winds (“GCW”)

The Gemini Concert Winds is comprised of woodwind, brass and percussion students, some of whom also perform in GYS. It is open to musicians performing at NYSSMA levels 5 and 6. GCW performs both classical and lighter fare, usually in original form. Membership is limited to approximately 50 students. GCW is conducted by Michael Canipe.

Gemini Jazz Ensemble (“GJE”)

Formed in 2008, GJE is comprised of 18 to 20 talented winds, brass, guitar, bass and piano players who perform advanced jazz repertoire. NYSSMA Levels 5-6 are eligible. GJE is conducted by Anthony Graziosi.

Other Select Ensembles.

From time to time smaller ensembles are selected by conductors from other GYO groups to play pieces during GYO concerts. These are not formal groups and are constituted in the discretion of the music staff.

Organizational Structure

Gemini Youth Orchestras is a registered business name of Training Orchestra, Inc., a New York not-for-profit corporation qualified as a charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to GYO (not including tuition and tickets) are deductible as charitable contributions for most taxpayers (consult your tax advisor for more information).

GYO is governed by its Board of Directors, a volunteer group elected each June for the succeeding fiscal year beginning July 1. The board, consisting primarily of parents of current and former GYO musicians, along with music educators, business leaders, community representatives, and friends, meets eight to twelve times per year. The board sets general policy and procedures, approves the budget, raises funds, and provides services to the performing groups. The Advisory Board, a non-voting body consisting of members of the arts, education and business communities, is available to assist the Board of Directors.

Parent committees and volunteers provide invaluable support to the organization in areas including fundraising, hospitality, rehearsal and concert operations, and special projects. Parent participation is critical to the survival and success of Gemini and is strongly encouraged.

The administration of the GYO program is carried out by the Executive Director, who is responsible for management and scheduling of rehearsals, auditions and concerts, liaison with other music organizations, and dealing with student problems and issues. The Executive Director is assisted by parent and student volunteers who serve as orchestra managers, rehearsal and concert staff, and assist with mailings and related tasks. The administrative staff of GYO, unlike most youth orchestras, is comprised entirely of volunteers, enabling us to devote our entire budget to music operations.

The Music Director provides the musical vision for GYO and is responsible for approval of repertoire for all GYO groups, in consultation with their conductors, and for special projects such as educational outreach and workshops.

Communications

Mail and phone communications are time-consuming and expensive. Whenever possible, we try to communicate with students and their families by e-mail and via the web site, www.gyo.org. **We need an up-to-date e-mail address for every student and parent or guardian throughout the season. Students and parents should be sure to check their e-mail at least DAILY, as this may be the only timely communication of important announcements.**

Any member who does not have access to e-mail on a regular basis should advise the executive director so that other means of communication can be arranged.

GYO may be reached by email at webmaestro@gyo.org, or by phone at (631) 470-2114. Messages are retrieved and answered frequently.

Policies for Orchestra Members

Orchestral placement

Admission to Gemini Youth Orchestras is by audition only, and in the sole discretion of the auditioning staff. Admission to GYO may be denied based on any number of factors, including technical or other deficiencies, but also by reason of unavailability of positions within our groups. On request, auditioning students may receive analysis and recommendations of our auditioning staff. Musicians are placed in a group based on the quality of their auditions, which are generally held in late spring but may be arranged during the summer or in early September. Members are normally expected to perform in their assigned group for the entire year unless their conductor recommends otherwise.

Musician qualifications

All musicians are expected to have private teachers. This is necessary to improve technique between rehearsals and to facilitate work on any musical problems that students may encounter. **Students are required to practice their parts with their private teachers. Failure to do so may result in suspension of membership.** If there is a hardship involved, please email webmaestro@gyo.org or call the Executive Director at (631) 470-2114.

All musicians are required to participate in their school's curricular music program, if such a program is available. School music programs are the lifeblood of the arts on Long Island, and GYO and its members support school programs including festivals such as NYSCAME, NMEA, SCMEA, LISFA and NYSSMA. The Gemini program is intended to enhance and supplement, not to replace these school programs. We make every effort to avoid time conflicts with school programs. Participation in extracurricular school music programs is generally encouraged but not required.

Instruments

Members are required to provide their own instruments. Instruments should be in excellent condition so that musicians can perform at their peak levels. If requested by the executive director or conductor, music stands should be brought to rehearsals. If there is a hardship involved with respect to an instrument, please email webmaestro@gyo.org or call the Executive Director at (631) 470-2114.

String players must repair bows when necessary or at the request of the conductor. Students should bring extra strings and rosin to each rehearsal. Cello and bass players should bring a floor stop, a mute and/or a stool if needed. GCW, GCO and GYS members are expected to tune their own instruments prior to rehearsal.

Wind players must bring extra reeds of professional quality to every rehearsal.

Instrument loan. In cases of unusual instrumentation for a piece being performed or serious financial hardship, GYO may be able to provide members with instruments that are loaned to the program. A loan

agreement must be signed by the member and a parent or guardian, who will be responsible for the care and safekeeping of the instrument.

Gemini Youth Orchestras is not responsible for the care and safekeeping of instruments owned or rented by participants. Students must take great care when transporting instruments to or from rehearsals and concerts; when moving instruments around the stage and rehearsal areas; and when leaving instruments during breaks. Instruments should not be left on seats, music stands, or in areas where they can be dropped or damaged. We recommend that students purchase their own insurance policies for valuable instruments.

Seating policy

GYO has a general seating policy for all groups. **Seating is based solely on technique and preparation and not on seniority, age or any other factor.** Students will receive ample notice of audition dates and requirements. Seating will be posted at rehearsal. Seating auditions by their nature are inexact, although GYO does its best to ensure impartiality, when possible using independent adjudicators. **The judgment of the adjudicator(s) and conductor as to seating is final.** Seating auditions cannot generally be rescheduled. Seating auditions will not take place before each concert because of time constraints. **Players missing seating auditions may participate in concerts but will be considered unseated and may be so listed in the concert program.** Program personnel listings are **alphabetical** after the principal player(s).

Principal players are chosen for all sections, unless the conductor decides otherwise. Assistant principals may also be designated for large sections. Section placement will be based on the results of seating auditions, on the needs of the concert repertoire, and on the overall sound of the group.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEARS: String players in particular, other than principals, may be rotated from the front to the back of their sections, and vice versa. This is done by many professional orchestras to improve overall sound; it also gives the student an additional perspective on the orchestra and enables erstwhile “back-seaters” to become more intimately involved with the conductor, the group and the performance. Therefore, **seating at the back of a string section for a portion of the season should not be considered an indication of a poor audition.**

Because the brass and winds often have solo parts in orchestral writing, performance quality will be constantly monitored by the conductor, and placement will reflect the appropriateness of the particular part for the individual’s strengths. All placements are at the discretion of the conductor.

The adventure of playing in an elite youth orchestra program is one of personal development. Seating is only one measure of this process, and we do not think it is the most important one. As mentioned above, string positioning is important to the overall sound and blend of an orchestra, while wind seating enables players to perform parts best gauged to their abilities. However, the most important aspects of the orchestra experience are training and self-improvement, to be a member of a group striving for excellence, and to enjoy the challenge. Every member of our orchestra is equally important to us, and everyone should be measured by his or her own progress. Interference by parents or others in the seating process wastes the limited time of our staff and volunteers, is destructive to the morale of both the student and the group, and should be avoided.

Principal player responsibilities

The principal players assume leadership positions in any orchestra, and are role models for other players. Regardless of technical ability, the failure of a principal player to abide by GYO attendance policy or other policies, or the overall failure to behave as a section leader, may result in his or her demotion in the sole discretion of the conductor.

Moving up

Members who wish to advance to a higher group must

- ✓ meet all regular requirements for acceptance to that group
- ✓ **have the permission and agreement of their current group's conductor**
- ✓ schedule a move-up **audition** during the spring or at another time (by permission only)
- ✓ submit a copy of their current NYSSMA evaluation

Changes from one group to another are at the sole discretion of the conducting staff, and are subject to availability of positions.

Leave of absence

A request for a leave of absence for personal reasons must be made in writing in advance of the forthcoming concert series. The letter should explain the reason for the leave and the expected duration. Permission for leave status will be granted at the discretion of the Executive Director. A leave of absence will not be granted for a period of the less than the entire rehearsal and concert series. A student granted will not be granted a tuition refund. A leave of absence cannot be granted for a concert series once rehearsals have commenced.

Letters of recommendation

If you need a letter of recommendation from a conductor, you should submit a written request to the conductor at least three weeks in advance of the date the recommendation is needed.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING NEW POLICY FOR THE 2009-2010 SEASON: Effective this season, all members may be subject to re-audition for their groups on an annual basis. Re-auditions will be held in the discretion of that group's conductor. Why? As our membership grows, more and more gifted young musicians wish to perform in our elite groups. To constantly improve the quality and uniformity of sound of our ensembles, to be certain the conductor has heard each musician individually, and to assure that each musician is both playing at the appropriate level and maintaining his or her studies, our artistic staff reserves the right to re-audition annually. **This means that admission to each group is on an annual basis, and admission to a group in prior years will not absolutely assure admission to the same group in future years. Students should expect to**

re-audition each spring for the next season, but some final placements may not be made until immediately before the start of the next season.

Attendance

All communications concerning attendance should be directed to voicemail at (631) 470-2114 or email to webmaestro@gyo.org

Rehearsal attendance

All Gemini members are permitted two (2) rehearsal absences (only one of which may be an unexcused absence) **per concert series**, not to exceed six (6) total absences per school year. **Excused absences are absences by reason of conflict with school music programs (see below) or illness (with a doctor's note) ONLY.** All other absences are considered unexcused.

A parent or guardian must report all absences to the voicemail at (631) 470-2114 or by email to webmaestro@gyo.org.

- **A student exceeding the permitted absences for a concert series may not be allowed to participate in that concert, in the discretion of the conductor.** Extended absence may subject the student to dismissal from the program with no tuition refund. Exceptions may be granted for extended illness.
- Mandatory school music conflicts include **ONLY** dress rehearsals and concerts for school music groups, and rehearsals and concerts for sanctioned festivals including NMEA, SCMEA, LISFA, NYSSMA, All-County, All-State, All-Eastern and All-National events. Students should provide documentation of their participation and the dates of these events as soon as they know them.
- **Chronic lateness may be grounds for dismissal.**
- A student is expected to attend rehearsal even if his/her instrument is lost or broken. Replacement instruments can usually be rented from a music store.
- Students are expected to remain for the entire rehearsal unless excused by the conductor or the executive director.
- A student who is injured and is unable to play is still expected to attend rehearsal, unless excused by the conductor.
- Involvement in **school musicals**, including pit bands, is a voluntary activity. Absences for this reason are considered **unexcused**.

If a student knows that he or she will miss more than two rehearsals in any concert series, he or she should advise the executive director **in advance** of that concert series so that appropriate arrangements for concert personnel can be made.

Concert attendance is mandatory

Students are excused from concerts only for illness or a documented mandatory school music conflict. Any other concert absence may result in dismissal from the program with no tuition refund. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to report all absences to the voicemail box at (631) 470-2114.

Rehearsals

ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND SMOKING ARE PROHIBITED BY GYO AND WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL. ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN INSIDE THE BUILDING DURING REHEARSALS AND BREAKS. FOOD IS PERMITTED IN REHEARSAL VENUES ONLY WITH PERMISSION OF STAFF.

Rehearsal location

All Groups (except GJE) will rehearse at **West Hollow Middle School**, 250 Old East Neck Road, Melville, NY, on **Monday** evenings. GJE will rehearse there on Tuesday evenings. Rehearsal evenings or locations may vary when school buildings are closed because of weather or school holidays, and locations may change when West Hollow is unavailable because of school activities. See the Master Rehearsal Schedule (also available online at www.gyo.org) for specific times and dates. For directions to West Hollow Middle School, click [here](#).

Rehearsal Schedule

NOTE THE FOLLOWING NEW GENERAL REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

GCW	5:15 - 6:40 PM	Auditorium Stage (no break)
GSO	6:00 - 7:30 PM	Band Room (no break)
GYS	7:00 - 9:00 PM	Auditorium Stage
GCO	7:40 - 9:15 PM	Band Room (no break)
GJE	7:00 - 9:00 PM	TUESDAYS, Band Room

NOTE: Students in the Auditorium (NOTE CHANGE - this is GCW and GYS) must bring their own music stands each week. The Band Room is fully supplied with music stands. Please also note that the schedule is more compact, so students MUST be on time and ready to play. There are no breaks, so students should be prepared to perform for the entire rehearsal period.

Please check your email daily for up-to-date rehearsal information.

Arrival and preparation

Students should arrive fifteen minutes before the start of rehearsal to sign in, warm up and tune their instruments. Please bring any necessary accessories, a lead pencil for marking scores, and a folding music stand (if requested). **Any student who does not sign in will be considered as absent without an excuse.**

Cancellation of rehearsals

Cancellations for inclement weather or other emergency will be at the discretion of the Executive Director or the Board President. Every effort will be made to notify members by phone and/or e-mail of any cancellation. Please do not call GYO personnel at home. **Please be sure we have an up-to-date email address for you at all times, and check your email frequently.**

If Half Hollow Hills School District has cancelled classes for the day, Gemini's evening rehearsal will also be cancelled. WALK 97.5 FM, News 12 Long Island and other local stations announce school district closings, or you can check the Half Hollow Hills website at www.halfhollowhills.k12.ny.us/.

Behavior at Rehearsals

Disruptive, disrespectful or inattentive behavior at rehearsals is grounds for dismissal. Students who fail to prepare their parts for rehearsals do a disservice to their fellow musicians, degrade the performance of the ensemble, and may be excused or suspended for repeated violations. An important part of the training of any young musician is the discipline and teamwork required for group musical success. We expect and require proper standards of behavior and preparation and will notify parents of any departures from these standards.

Music

- Music will generally be distributed no later than the first rehearsal for each concert series. **In some cases, GYO will provide PDF copies of practice parts for students, which should be downloaded, copied and practiced prior to the first rehearsal.** This requires Acrobat Reader, which is a free download. If any student lacks the capability to download and copy parts, he or she should notify the Executive Director BEFORE the start of the season. Please keep the PDF files on your computer in case of lost or damaged music.
- Photocopied and original music must be returned intact after each concert, if requested by the Executive Director.
- Each musician is to bring his or her own music to every rehearsal so directions from the conductor can be marked in every part.
- Music may be marked only with a #2 lead pencil.
- Members will be charged for the cost of replacing any lost or damaged original music, including music torn, rolled up or cut, and music marked with anything but a #2 pencil.
- If you need to borrow additional music you must sign it out with the librarian.

Student conduct during rehearsals

- Respect your conductor. Watch and listen carefully throughout the rehearsal.
- **NO CELL PHONES MAY BE USED DURING REHEARSAL, EITHER FOR CALLS OR TEXTING. Cell phones should be powered down or left with personal items offstage. Violation of this policy may subject the violator to expulsion.**
- No talking, horseplay or disruptive behavior is permitted during rehearsals.
- Students should consume food or drink outside of the rehearsal room.
- Students should assist when possible in setting up and taking down chairs and music stands in rehearsal areas.
- Do not leave the immediate area of the building during breaks
- Return to rehearsal promptly after the break.
- Students may leave early only with permission of the conductor or the executive director.

Musicians are expected to practice Gemini music, at home and with their private teacher, in preparation for rehearsals. Failure to prepare for rehearsals degrades the performance of the entire ensemble and may subject the violator to expulsion.

2009-2010 Concerts

Concert venues

The GYO Subscription Series Concerts are generally held at West Hollow Middle School, Dix Hills, NY, or such other venue as may be announced.

Sunday, December 13, 2009 – 1:00PM (GSO, GCO, GJE) and 4:00PM (GCW, GYS) – West Hollow Middle School.

Saturday, February 27, 2010 - GYO Gala Concert, Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center

All GYO groups will perform on Saturday, February 27, in an afternoon concert at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, New York City. Special fundraising will be conducted and directions given well in advance of this gala event. THERE IS NO SNOW DATE FOR THIS CONCERT.

Sunday, April 10, 2010 – “The Dukes of Dixieland” at Tilles Center, Brookville, NY

All GYO groups will perform, with GYS and others backing this legendary New Orleans group in an All-American concert.

Sunday, May 23, 2010 (tentative) – Chapin Rainbow Stage, Heckscher Park, Huntington, NY

A free outdoor concert, rain or shine, to benefit Island Harvest for all GYO groups.

A concert information sheet will be distributed at rehearsal approximately two weeks prior to each concert. If you don't receive a copy, you can request one by e-mail.

There is a dress rehearsal either on the concert date or during the week prior to each concert.

Members must sign in when they arrive at the concert venue. Failure to sign in for a concert may be considered an unexcused absence and subject the student to dismissal from GYO without tuition refund. Additional security is generally required at major concert venues.

Students are expected to be present throughout the concert in which they perform. In many cases, seats will be available so that students may watch the other groups perform. Gemini is a team. A show of support and appreciation for other groups is a vital part of the GYO program.

No videotaping is allowed at concerts. It can distract the musicians and disturb other audience members. Professional audio recordings of each concert will be available for sale.

Concert attire

GYS: boys must wear a tuxedo jacket, black tuxedo pants, white shirt, black bow tie, black socks and black dress shoes. **For all other groups,** boys may substitute a black jacket and black pants for the tuxedo jacket and pants. For Alice Tully Hall, tuxedos will be required for boys in all groups.

All groups: girls must wear either a **long** black skirt or black dress pants with black long-sleeved blouse, **or** a black long-sleeved full-length dress; black stockings and black dress shoes.

NO tight pants, black jeans, white socks, or exposed midriffs permitted. Students who arrive improperly dressed will not be allowed to perform.

Note that the outdoor concert at Heckscher Bandshell will not require formal concert attire. Attire for that event to be announced.

Concert procedures

1. The concertmaster will enter after the orchestra is seated and the house lights are dimmed. He or she will bow to the audience and then give the signal to tune.
2. When the conductor comes on stage for the first time, the entire orchestra will stand. The orchestra will not stand when the conductor returns between pieces.
3. The conductor will signal when the orchestra (or any members) should stand to acknowledge applause. Do not leave the stage until all applause has ended and the conductor and soloist (if any) have exited.

Specific instructions for any concerts will be distributed at rehearsal before the concert or by email.

Tuition and Fees

- ❑ **All tuition payments for the 2009-10 season are due on or before October 1, 2009.** Because of limited staff time, we are not able to send out additional invoices. Your cooperation in paying in a timely manner is greatly appreciated.
- ❑ **Tuition will generally not be billed on a periodic or installment basis.** If you have a problem making payment in a timely manner, please contact the executive director.
- ❑ **Scholarships are available** for students who need financial assistance in order to participate in the program. When you receive your invoice, please advise the executive director or any board member that you wish to apply for a scholarship. The procedure is simple and confidential. The Board of Directors determines eligibility for and amount of scholarships.
- ❑ **There will be a \$20.00 fee for any returned check.**
- ❑ **Family discount:** two participating students from a single family will each receive a 10% tuition discount. A third student (or more) from the same family will receive a 50% discount on tuition.
- ❑ **Tuition deposits and/or tuition are non-refundable after registration** except in cases of prolonged illness.

TUITION RATES FOR 2009-10

GYS	\$450.00
GCO	\$425.00
GSO	\$400.00
GCW	\$350.00
	\$175.00 for members of GYS

GJE \$350.00
\$175.00 for members of GYS or GCW

FEES

Auditions \$20.00
Returned check \$20.00

TICKETS

Subscription Series – regular season concerts

Single ticket \$12.00 Seniors/students \$ 6.00

For same-day subscription concerts, a single ticket admits the bearer to both concerts (if applicable).

For other venues, ticket prices are to be determined.

Scholarships and Awards

During 2008-09, GYO reinstated named “chairs” for outstanding string and wind students. Each Chair is awarded a financial stipend or scholarship in an amount determined by the Board of Directors. Recipients of these awards demonstrate talent, leadership and dedication, and are named, in the sole discretion of the Music Director and the Board, before the first concert of the season. The chairs are as follows:

Paul Rudoff Chair – violin
Vincent Liota Chair – viola or other string student
Patricia Rudoff Chair – string student
Matthew Sunshine Memorial Chair – wind or brass student

In addition, GYO has in recent years awarded college scholarships to graduating seniors who have been members of GYO for three or more years. These scholarships are awarded in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, and are subject to the availability of funds. The amounts awarded, if any, and criteria for the awards may also vary.

We at GYO are extremely pleased and proud to be able to recognize students who have contributed to our program over the years.

Donations

GYO is qualified as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to GYO are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

The *Friends of Gemini* program allows our families and friends a convenient way to support GYO at any level they can afford. Friends of Gemini are acknowledged in every concert program and are notified of concerts and special events. All donors are mentioned in GYO programs.

♪	Booster	\$25-49
♪	Supporter	\$50-99
♪	Patron	\$100-249
♪	Benefactor	\$250-399
♪	Founder	\$400-599
♪	Angel	\$600-999
♪	Conductor's Circle	\$1000-up

Donations may also be made to sponsor a scholarship, to fund a music chair, to honor a special person or to mark a memorable achievement. Contact Richard Reiben, Board President, at rreiben@gyo.org, to discuss special donations.

To become a *Friend of Gemini*, please send your contribution to the address below. Be sure to tell us how you wish to be listed in the program. (Checks should be made payable to *Training Orchestra, Inc.*)

Gemini Youth Orchestras
Attention: Friends of Gemini
PO Box 705
Melville, NY 11747-0705

Fundraisers

During 2009-10, GYO may be conducting fundraisers at concerts through sale of food and boutique items, raffles and/or donation boxes. We try to keep fundraisers at a minimum.

Auditions for New Members

GYO members are selected on the basis of audition only. Yearly entrance auditions are scheduled in May or June, with additional auditions in August or September. All audition dates will be announced on our website. Interested students should email us at webmaestro@gyo.org, or call the voicemail at (631) 470-2114. Each applicant must fill out an audition form and supply a copy of the student's NYSSMA evaluation. Applicants will be notified of results by phone or e-mail. Individual auditions may be scheduled during the year if there are openings in the performing groups.

Auditions are generally adjudicated by more than one qualified conductor, coach or musician, who reach a consensus on the result. We hope that, regardless of the result of an audition, the adjudicators' comments will help the student in determining areas in which he or she may need work. There is a \$20.00 fee charged for new member auditions.

The following qualifications are the **minimum** requirements for each group, and are subject to conductor discretion

GYS	Completed NYSSMA level 6 Excellent or better
GCO	Completed NYSSMA level 5 or 6 Excellent or better
GSO	Completed NYSSMA level 3
GCW	NYSSMA Levels 4-5 and up
GJE	NYSSMA Levels 5-6

Please note that completion of minimum NYSSMA requirements does not guarantee admission. Admission is subject to availability of an opening in the group, and approval of the audition staff.

Audition preparation

Music	NYSSMA solo or other appropriate solo of comparable level. Students should choose a solo with which they are comfortable and confident.
Sight-reading	All students should be prepared to sight-read.
Scales	A student should be prepared to perform scales appropriate to his/her NYSSMA level.

Brass and woodwind players will also be expected to demonstrate the ability to transpose when applicable.

Judging is based on technical ability, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, general musicianship and stylistic understanding. When a musician is accepted into the program, seating decisions (made before each concert) are based on the same combination of overall musical qualities as well as level of preparation.