

Tuition

Tuition for the 2009-2010 season is \$700.00. This fee covers all rehearsals and concerts, sectionals, clinics, and coachings, and includes a \$25.00 Parents' Guild membership. (*Parents with more than one child in GHYO pay this only once.*)

Tuition may be paid in full or in three installments: \$250.00 upon acceptance, \$250.00 by September 27, and the balance of \$200.00 by October 25. Checks should be made payable to "GHYO." Tuition should be paid in full by October 25, unless by special arrangement. No refund of tuition will be made except in the case of illness.

Financial Assistance

No student will be excluded from the GHYO program due to financial need. Financial assistance is available to all members in the form of partial or full tuition waivers, not including the \$25.00 Parents' Guild membership or application fee.

All requests for financial assistance must be made in writing and received by Sept. 13. Applicants should state the amount requested, which GHYO will review. *Note:* IRS non-profit organization guidelines require the first 2 pages of the most recent tax return to verify financial need.

Financial assistance does not affect the standing or eligibility of a member in any way. Recipients will be asked to assist GHYO in some way (such as moving chairs or risers, helping with concerts, etc.)

GHYO Mission Statement

To provide the highest level of professional music education for talented young musicians, and to create and maintain a challenging and supportive learning environment where students develop respect for each other and their mutual musical goals. The priorities shall always be Youth and Music.

Rehearsals

Every Sunday from September 13, 2009 through May 2, 2010; *except* Nov. 29 (Thanksgiving), Dec. 20, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 (Winter Break), March 14 and 21 (Spring Break), and April 4. All rehearsals are held at the Emery/Weiner School, 9825 Stella Link Rd., except Concert days.

Orchestra: 1:30pm - 4:00pm.

Philharmonic: 1:30pm - 4:00pm.

String Ensemble: 1:30pm - 4:00pm.

Schedule subject to change.

Concerts

Sunday afternoons at 4:00pm:

November 15, 2009, Feb. 14, 2010 (String Ensemble and Philharmonic only), and May 9, 2010 at the Morris Cultural Arts Center, Houston Baptist University.

Dress rehearsals on Concert days:

Philharmonic 1:00pm-2:00pm, Orchestra 2:00pm-3:10pm, String Ensemble 3:10pm-3:35pm.

The GHYO Orchestra will appear in a side-by-side concert with the Houston Symphony on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010 at 7:30pm. The rehearsal is 7:30pm - 10:00pm on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010. Both take place at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana.

Scholarship Concerto Competition:

Saturday, December 12, 2009: 1:30pm-String Ensemble; 2:15pm-Philharmonic; 3:30pm-Orchestra. Moores School of Music, University of Houston. *Times shown are approximate and subject to change.*

Notes:

1. *No hats.*
2. *No gum.*
3. *Bring a pencil.*
4. *Bring a music stand.*
- 5.

Greater Houston Youth Orchestra 2009-2010 Handbook

General Information

Mailing address:

GHYO
9639 Hillcroft, #877
Houston, TX 77096

Web address:

www.ghyo.org

Rehearsal location:

The Emery/Weiner School
9825 Stella Link Rd.
Houston, TX 77025

Music Director / Conductor:

Lawrence Wheeler
713-721-5475 ; 713-303-7738
lwheeler10@comcast.net

Philharmonic Conductor:

Jeanette Shackelford
jeanette.shackelford@yahoo.com

String Ensemble Conductor:

José Rocha
Megatone_99@yahoo.com

Age Requirements

Any young musician from age seven (7) through age nineteen (19) may apply for membership in the Greater Houston Youth Orchestra. Students must be at least thirteen (13) during the season to become a member of the Orchestra. An exception may be made for a 12-year-old with two years membership in GHYO, or acceptance by the Music Director, following an audition.

Audition Requirements

The application/audition fee is \$30.00. For GHYO Members remaining in the same ensemble, the application fee is \$25.00.

Auditions last no more than ten minutes and have three parts. Applicants will perform:

- Two scales: the first is the applicant's choice, the second the auditor's choice. No one will be expected to play a scale they do not know; however, the key and number of octaves will affect the scoring. A three-octave spiccato scale is required of string players for acceptance to the Orchestra; two octaves into third position for Philharmonic string players.
- Up to four (4) minutes of prepared music of the applicant's choice, without accompaniment. Memorization is not required.
- Sight-reading at the student's level.

Placement and Seating

After the auditions are completed, applicants are notified by mail or email regarding acceptance and ensemble placement, which is based on the audition, ensemble experience and age, and is given without regard to ethnic, religious, or financial background. All-State string players are automatically accepted into the Orchestra. Ensemble placement is subject to review during the first four weeks of rehearsals. Chair placements are determined by the audition, chair-tests and/or rotation, and may be adjusted accordingly by the ensemble conductor during the course of the season. Decisions by the Music Director are final.

Attendance

A sign-in sheet will be provided at all rehearsals to keep a record of attendance. ***It is the member's responsibility to sign in at each rehearsal.***

It is important that everyone try to attend all rehearsals. Members may miss one or two rehearsals for a concert. To be excused, members must notify the Music Director one week in advance of any rehearsal they expect to miss. In case of emergency or illness, you should email **ghyo.org** as soon as possible and leave a message stating your name, ensemble and the date of absence. Members who are absent from more than two rehearsals in a concert set may not be permitted to perform on that concert, at the discretion of the conductor.

Members will be provided a schedule of GHYO rehearsals and concerts. In the event of a schedule change or cancellation, every effort will be made to notify the members.

Punctuality and Responsibility

Members should bring their own music stand, and plan to arrive early in order to set up and warm up. A member will be considered tardy if not seated and ready to play when the conductor or coach begins the rehearsal. Two instances of tardiness will be counted as one absence.

Each member is responsible for their own music and any replacement cost.

All members are responsible for keeping the rehearsal space and surrounding areas clean. Care should be taken with food and drinks offered during rehearsal breaks. ***Stay in the designated snack area while eating.***

Extra-Curricular Appearances

GHYO members and chamber ensembles may be invited to make appearances for promotions, fundraisers, news media and other events. At no time will any member or group represent GHYO publicly without the prior approval of the Music Director.

Concert Dress

Orchestra and Philharmonic:

Male: Tuxedo or black suit, white shirt, black bow-tie and cummerbund, black socks and black dress shoes.

Female: Long-sleeved, full-length black dress, or black blouse and black skirt or dress slacks, black hose and dress shoes.

String Ensemble:

Male: Black pants, long-sleeved white shirt, long tie, black socks and black shoes.

Female: White blouse and black skirt or dress slacks, black hose and dress shoes.

School Participation

The GHYO program is designed to supplement—not replace—the area public and private school music programs. ***The Greater Houston Youth Orchestra requires its members to participate in their school orchestra or band whenever such ensembles exist.*** The ensemble conductor must approve any exception. The above does not apply to home-schooled students.

Dismissal

Any member may be dismissed from GHYO after staff review. Reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Missing a dress rehearsal or concert without properly notifying the Director.
- 2) Engaging in illegal activities or undisciplined behavior while participating in any GHYO activity.
- 3) Failure to maintain the musical standards of the assigned ensemble.
- 4) Exhibiting disrespectful or non-supportive behavior towards any GHYO orchestra member or staff member.
- 5) Non-participation in applicable school music program.

Dismissed members will not be refunded their tuition or be eligible to receive any scholarship award. The parent(s) or legal guardian may request a meeting with the GHYO staff and the dismissed member.

Scholarship Policy

The Greater Houston Youth Orchestra offers its members monetary scholarships awarded through competitive auditions, the amount of which may change year to year. The winners receive funds to support their musical endeavors, while all entrants are afforded a performance opportunity, which serves to raise the performance standard of the GHYO program.

Eligibility

The scholarship audition entrant must:

- be a current member of GHYO and maintain an acceptable attendance and punctuality record;
 - perform in all regularly scheduled dress rehearsals and concerts in the current season, unless excused by the Director;
 - not fail to return any music or property, or to pay any debt owed to GHYO;
 - must submit a completed application form and \$25.00 non-refundable application fee at least fourteen (14) days before the announced scholarship competition date.
- Late applications will not be accepted.***

Scholarship Audition Requirements

- 1) Applicants must audition on the same instrument that they play in GHYO.
- 2) Applicants will perform one movement of a concerto, or a work for solo instrument and orchestra. ***Exception:*** String Ensemble members may play any solo piece.
- 3) Applicants should provide their own accompanist. If unable to find or afford one, GHYO will assist the applicant.
- 4) The audition time will be the length of the selection or six minutes (String Ensemble), eight minutes (Philharmonic), or nine minutes (Orchestra), whichever is less. Appropriate cuts in the accompaniment should be made. Performances lasting longer will be stopped by the time-keeper. ***Performance awards require memorization.***

Scholarship Auditions

All participants must meet the scholarship audition eligibility requirements.

Each entrant will be assigned an audition time. There will be no alternate audition dates. The auditions will be open to the public, and the contestants should dress appropriately.

Members from each GHYO ensemble will compete and be judged separately. Judges may include GHYO ensemble conductors and/or invited guests. The judges' written critiques will be given to each participant.

Scholarship Awards

There will be several levels of cash awards, depending on the available funds. The judges reserve the right not to designate a winner at any level. The decision of the judges is final.

Winners of the top scholarship awards may, at the discretion of the Music Director, be invited to perform a solo with their GHYO ensemble. ***Performance awards require memorization.*** Scholarship winners may not perform a solo in consecutive years with the same ensemble, but are eligible for awards.

Those not receiving a performance award may be invited to perform in a special recital.

Utilization of Scholarship Funds

Recipients must send a letter regarding the use of the award. Scholarship funds may be applied to: lessons, music school, music camp, purchase of an instrument, bow, equipment music, or GHYO tuition. Funds will be paid directly to the music school, music camp, music teacher, or store. The purchaser will be reimbursed upon presentation of a receipt. Awards will be applied first towards GHYO tuition in the event of an outstanding balance. Funds must be used or committed before the beginning of the following GHYO season. Continued membership in GHYO is required, with the exception of seniors. Any funds not so utilized remain the property of GHYO.