



WELCOME TO THE YOUTH ORCHESTRA 2010-2011 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 thirty-eight 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 Itzack Perlman, Henrik Zsering, 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 Yolitztlly 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 3 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 Foure 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:

- Conductor– Augusto Diemecke
Please send correspondence to the Manager of Operations and Community Engagement through the orchestra office. Normal office hours are Monday-Friday 10am-5pm. Anything will then be forwarded to the conductor. Information provided below.
- Devin Sherman, Manager of Operations and Community Engagement
Corning-Elmira Musical Arts
P.O. Box 15
Corning, NY 14830
Phone: 607-936-2873
Fax: 607-936-3007
Web Address: www.OSFL.org
Devin@OSFL.org or Youth@OSFL.org
- Janet Newcomb, 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
Janet@osfl.org

Rehearsals and Performances

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 1st Presbyterian Church in Horseheads with additional rehearsals scheduled on concert weekends. The church is located at 2943 Westinghouse Road, Horseheads. There is usually a break halfway into each rehearsal. Drinks will be provided by a parent volunteer, but if your child would like a snack, please send one from home.

***** 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.

Required Dates

You will receive a full schedule early in the season. You must contact the conductor about missing rehearsals as early as possible. 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

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!**

** 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 performs three public concerts during its season. Concert weekends tend to be very busy:

A Typical Concert Weekend

Friday	6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Full orchestra rehearsal
Saturday	10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Full orchestra rehearsal
Sunday	2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Full orchestra dress rehearsal
Sunday	4:00 p.m.	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 consider where you are when you are playing and how you are sitting when considering your skirt length. Remember, pants are an option.

Guys: black dressy 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.

- “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 or call the Manager of Operations and Community Engagement **before 4 pm** on the Friday before. Keep in mind that if you call or e-mail after that, the message will likely not be received until the following Monday.
- 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 Manager of Operations and Community Engagement **before 4 pm** on the Friday before the rehearsal that you will be missing (unless the absence is due to emergency). The office staff works normal business hours with extra time on event weekends

only and any attempt to contact someone on a Saturday or Sunday will not reach anyone until Monday.

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 Manager of Operations and Community Engagement.

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 Manager of Operations and Community Engagement. 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 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 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 Manager of Operations and Community Engagement.

*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 \$120 for the season. This non-refundable fee will be collected by the second rehearsal. We can accept Visa, MasterCard, or personal check. Checks should be payable to “CEMA.” Please contact Janet Newcomb, Executive Director, if you have difficulty with these fees. *We want to make certain that financial concerns do not preclude any musician from participating.* We are willing to work with those with difficulties.

Audition Information

To become a member of the Youth Orchestra, 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 with a max of \$15 for families with multiple students auditioning for the ensemble. To schedule an audition you will need to visit <http://www.osfl.org/AuditionRegistrations.html> or contact the Manager of Operations and Community Engagement. You must contact us in order to be given an audition time.

Requirements: String players should remain proficient at a minimum ability of NYSSMA Level IV or higher – Level V or higher for 1st violins. Brass, woodwind, and percussion players should remain proficient at a minimum ability of NYSSMA Level V or higher. Students will be asked to play a solo selection of their choice without an accompanist and to sight-read. Trumpet and French Horn players will be asked to transpose.

Other Information

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, especially email addresses, changes. 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 is a member 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. Student ticket rates are \$5 per concert or a student subscription may be purchased for \$20 for all four concerts. Families with more than one student save even more. Contact the Orchestra office for details (607-936-2873). Special discounts will 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 Manager of Operations and Community Engagement and Executive Director's discretion, be used for publicity in print media and on the Internet. Names of students will not be used.

Reimbursements

Parents who spend money on behalf of Youth Orchestra may submit a "Request for Reimbursement" form to the Executive Director (example attached at back of packet). **Expenditures must be discussed with the Manager of Operations and Community Engagement in advance for approval.** Purchasers should save their receipts and submit them with the form. Examples of such expenses include program photocopying, concert flowers, etc. Money spent on our weekly rehearsal snack is not reimbursable. Drinks are "off-budget" or not reimbursable and the responsibility will be shared on a rotating basis.

Request for Reimbursement

Purchases must be discussed BEFORE occurrence.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Reimbursement check made out to: _____

Date of Expenditure	Vendor	Reason for Expenditure	Amount to be Reimbursed

Additional Comments:

Please attach all receipts to this form, and submit to

Janet Newcomb, Executive Director
P.O. Box 15
Corning, NY 14830
(607) 936-2873 Janet@OSFL.org

Budget Category:

Executive Director Approval:

Date:

Submitted to Executive Director By:

Date: