



Green Mountain Youth Symphony

“the music is just the beginning . . .”

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2018-2019

Green Mountain Youth Symphony
P.O. Box 384
Montpelier, VT 05301-0384
(802) 888-4470
www.gmys-vt.org
www.facebook.com/GreenMountainYouthSymphony
Instagram: @GMYSVT

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2018-2019

Contents

GMYS Contacts	page 1
Our Mission	page 1
Artistic Staff Bios	page 2
Rehearsal and Concert Information	pages 3-4
Policies	pages 4-7
Attendance.....	4
Behavior Expectations.....	5
Discipline.....	5
Nondiscrimination Statement.....	5
Performance Expectations.....	6
Concert Etiquette.....	6
School Music Programs.....	6
Communication.....	6
Weather Cancellations.....	6
Tuition.....	7
Tuition Assistance.....	7
Family Participation.....	7
2018-2019 Calendar	page 8

GMYS Contacts

Board of Directors

Judith Ehrlich, Co-Chair
(802) 272-4171
judith@gmys-vt.org

Michael Fiorillo, Co-Chair
(802) 276-3826
michael@gmys-vt.org

Jennifer Isabell, Treasurer
(802) 888-9329
jennifer@gmys-vt.org

Oren Kronick, Secretary
(802) 229-4503
oren@gmys-vt.org

Sandra Ferver
(802) 229-5436
sandra@gmys-vt.org

Laura Furber
(802) 225-6416
laura@gmys-vt.org

Leah-Marie Gagnon
(802) 522-5409
leah-marie@gmys-vt.org

Artistic Staff

Robert Blais
Artistic Director
Conductor, Concert & Senior Orchestras
(802) 229-9214
bob@gmys-vt.org

Paul Perley
Conductor, Repertory Orchestra
(802) 229-1501
paul@gmys-vt.org

Executive Director

Leah Wilhjelm
(802) 888-4470
leah@gmys-vt.org

GMYS Mission

Our mission is to create a community of young musicians from throughout central and northern Vermont through the performance of great music.

Artistic Staff

Robert Blais

Robert Blais, embarked on his current conducting path after a successful freelance career as a concert cellist in New York City and Boston, where he soloed with numerous orchestras and performed in chamber groups and orchestras such as the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra and the Boston Civic Symphony. Upon arriving in Montpelier in 2001, he founded GMYS. Under Blais' leadership, the Green Mountain Youth Symphony has performed at the Vermont Statehouse for Farmer's Night and the Independence Day Celebration, for the Paine Mountain Arts Council, at First Night celebrations in Montpelier and St. Johnsbury, in joint concerts with the Vermont Philharmonic, at the Barre Opera House in Vermont and the Lebanon Opera House in New Hampshire, and they represented the United States in the Eurochestries Festival in Quebec City, where he and GMYS' musicians joined five other young ensembles from Europe and Asia.

In addition to his conducting work with GMYS, Robert Blais has conducted for the Monteverdi Music Camp, the Vermont-based School for Strings Camp, the Montpelier Capitol Orchestra, the Vermont Philharmonic, and the cello ensemble Blazin' Cellos. He has conducted at All State and District music festivals throughout northern New England and in New York. He receives rave reviews for his educational outreach concerts from seasoned performers, teachers, and students alike.

As a cello and bass teacher, Bob has served on the faculty of the Music Conservatory of Westchester in White Plains, NY, the Hollis Woods Music School in Queens, NY, the Chamber Music Institute at the University of New Hampshire, and the Westford Suzuki School in Westford, MA. He has been interviewed for National Public Radio's 50 Great Teachers series, and his students have been very successful in a wide variety of performing situations. His young students have been members of the Greater Boston, Northeast, Green Mountain, and Vermont Youth Orchestras, have won auditions to participate in New Hampshire and Vermont All-State Festivals and All New England Orchestras, and have received top ratings in the New York State Music Association Competition. Mr. Blais' adult students have become members of the Vermont and New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestras, the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra, and other professional orchestras. Robert has had students featured as soloists with regional orchestras and at Lincoln Center, and they participate in national and international festivals.

Paul Perley

Paul Perley, conductor, cellist, composer, teacher, and luthier, began his musical education at age eight. His teachers have included, among others, Elizabeth Endress, Albert Bellson (brother of Louis Bellson) and Helene Gagne. Locally he has performed with the Vermont Philharmonic, the Bartholdy Ensemble, the Gabriel Piano Trio, the cello duo Soavita (with his wife Melissa), and is a founding member of the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra.

As a composer Paul has written music for theater productions, chamber music ensembles, and string orchestras. His works have been performed by several youth orchestras in New England, the Eleva Chamber Players, The Five Corners String Quintet, and the Dillon, Perley, Odinkikh trio.

In 1999 he created the Green Mountain Waldorf Orchestra, several members of which are pursuing professional music careers. He conducted the orchestra until the closing of the school. From 2011-2014, Paul and his wife Melissa created, conducted, and arranged music for, an orchestra consisting of three cello sections, and a violin and bass section. Since 2002 he has conducted the GMYS Repertory Orchestra. The Perleys own and operate Paul Perley Cellos on Berlin Pond.

Rehearsal & Concert Information

Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsals take place at U-32 Junior-Senior High School, 930 Gallison Hill Road, Montpelier, unless otherwise indicated.

Rehearsal times are as follows:

- Repertory Orchestra.....9:30 – 10:30am
- Concert Orchestra..... 9:00 – 10:45am
- Senior Orchestra.....11:00am – 2:00pm

All orchestras will rehearse every Saturday during the fall 2018 semester from September 8 through December 8 and during the spring 2019 semester from January 5 through April 6 with the following exceptions; there will be NO REHEARSALS on

- Saturday, November 24 (Thanksgiving break)
- Saturday, March 2 (winter break)

We need to move some rehearsals to an alternate location and you will be advised of the change by email. For the 2018-19 season, we know the following rehearsals will be at alternate locations.

- September 22 – Twinfield Union School
- September 29 – Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier - Rehearsal times on p. 8
5th Annual GMYS Playathon & Bake Sale

We will announce other changes as required and fully expect a few spring semester rehearsals to be at alternate locations.

A full calendar can be found on the last page of this Handbook and on the GMYS website. Feel free to sync the website calendar with your own digital calendar.

Dress Rehearsals

Dress Rehearsals will take place at the Barre Opera House. (Please note that students *do not* have to wear concert dress for mid-week dress rehearsals).

Fall 2018 Dress Rehearsals:

- **Repertory Orchestra** – Sunday, December 9 from 1:00-1:30pm (before the concert)
- **Concert Orchestra** – Tuesday, December 4 from 5:30-6:30pm
- **Senior Orchestra** – Tuesday, December 4 from 6:45-9:00pm

Spring 2019 Dress Rehearsals:

- **Repertory Orchestra** – Sunday, April 7 from 1:00-1:30pm (before the concert)
- **Concert Orchestra** – Tuesday, April 2 from 5:30-6:30pm
- **Senior Orchestra** – Tuesday, April 2 from 6:45-9:00pm

Concerts

Our 2018-2019 end of semester concerts will take place at the Barre Opera House on ***Sunday, December 9*** and on ***Sunday, April 7***. All three orchestras will perform at the same 2:00pm concert each semester.

We are anticipating an invitation for GMYSerS to join the duo **Black Violin** in their appearances at the Barre Opera House on **Thursday, October 25**. We will let you know details as soon as we have them. Meanwhile, check out **Black Violin** at *blackviolin.net* and on YouTube.

The **Senior Orchestra** will join the Vermont Philharmonic for the Annual Family Concert on **Sunday, March 10** at the Barre Opera House. The concert is at 2:00pm. Details about will be announced as soon as we have them.

Any additional performances will be announced later in the semester and details will be provided at that time.

Concert Dress

Repertory and Concert Orchestra members wear white tops, black bottoms, black shoes (NO SNEAKERS, please), black socks if wearing pants, and black bow ties for boys. Bow ties can be purchased in most local shops which rent formal wear. There are also several online vendors who sell them. Skirts/dresses should be at least knee length when seated or be worn with black tights/stockings.

Senior Orchestra members wear black tops, black bottoms, black shoes (NO SNEAKERS, please) and black socks if wearing pants. Ties are not required. Skirts/dresses should be at least knee length when seated or be worn with black tights/stockings.

Policies

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals. It is important to be in your seat at least ten minutes early so you can be warmed up when the rehearsal starts. Students should bring their instruments, music, pencils, tuners and any other accessories needed to all rehearsals (mutes, reeds, extra strings, etc.). Students will sometimes be asked to bring a music stand to rehearsal – *especially when we meet anywhere other than U32*.

We allow three (3) unexcused absences per semester. Anyone missing more than that must talk to their conductor in advance and gain permission for the additional absence or they may lose their privilege to play in the concert. *Please note that two late arrivals or early dismissals equal one unexcused absence.* Excused absences include bad weather, music festivals or other school music events, and college testing conflicts.

If you will miss or be late for a rehearsal, please email or call your Conductor *and* the Executive Director in advance to let them know. For those with sports or other activity conflicts, please talk to your Conductor and make special arrangements. The Executive Director needs to be notified for attendance records. Although we don't want students to have to choose between sports or other activities and music, it is our expectation that musicians will split the absences with the other organization.

Behavior Expectations

Reasonable standards of behavior are expected while rehearsing, performing, or participating in any event in connection with the Green Mountain Youth Symphony. Please demonstrate appropriate, respectful behavior toward GMYS staff, fellow orchestra members, and at all performance and rehearsal venues.

Weapons, controlled substances, and other hazardous materials are prohibited at GMYS events. *A weapon is any item used in a threatening manner.* The unauthorized use of all potentially harmful items (such as knives, scissors) is prohibited.

Specifically, please adhere to U-32's rules for building use, which include but are not limited to the following:

- Alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug use is prohibited.
- No dogs are allowed on campus.
- All trash must be picked up and disposed of properly.
- No vehicles may be parked or driven behind the school – cars must be parked in the main lot.
- Chairs, tables, and other moveable equipment must be left in/returned to original place.
- Access to the main school facility is denied unless specifically arranged.

Failure to follow these rules may result in immediate suspension of building/facility use. Each student and parent may be asked to sign a statement agreeing to abide by U-32's policies at the beginning of each program year, if required by the school.

Discipline

The Conductor of each ensemble sets expectations for rehearsal and concert behavior. Failure to abide by the requirements will result in the following steps:

1. The Conductor speaks to the student and parents concerning the problem.
2. If the problem persists, the Conductor, Executive Director, and Artistic Director will confer and may decide to expel the student from the orchestra. (*Tuition is non-refundable.*)

Nondiscrimination Statement

GMYS does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of the GMYS community.

GMYS is an equal opportunity employer. We will not discriminate and will take affirmative action measures to ensure against discrimination in employment, recruitment, advertisements for employment, compensation, termination, upgrading, promotions, and other conditions of employment against any employee or job applicant on the bases of race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Performance Expectations

GMYS musicians are expected to practice their instruments and parts, and to work to performance level. Please speak with your Conductor if you are having any difficulties with the music. The conductors are there to help! In addition, we encourage all students to study privately with an instructor proficient on his/her chosen instrument. GMYS may be able to provide you with a list of private music teachers in the area.

Concert Etiquette

GMYS members and their families are expected to remain for the entire concert to support their fellow musicians. If this is impossible for the youngest musicians and their even younger siblings because of the length of the program, please stay to hear the group that follows yours on the program. While in the audience, please do not talk, change seats, walk around in the theater, or leave in the middle of a performance. All of our students work extremely hard through-out the semester and deserve our complete and respectful attention when they are performing. Thank you.

School Music Programs

Participation in the Green Mountain Youth Symphony should enhance, *not replace*, school music instruction. **GMYS believes that school music programs are vital to the development of young musicians.** They also provide other important opportunities such as access to All State, All New England, and other music festivals. **Students who enroll in GMYS are expected to participate in their school music program, if one exists.**

Communication

Announcements, rehearsal changes, and concert information will be distributed by email, updated on our website www.gmys-vt.org, and posted to our Facebook page whenever possible. **If you do not have email, please let the Executive Director, Leah Wilhjelm, know so we can reach you by telephone in the event of a rehearsal cancellation.**

Because we communicate via email very frequently, please be sure to let Leah know if your email address changes! You should expect to hear from Leah regularly during the program year. If you don't hear for a few weeks, it's likely that something is not working with the email we have on record. ***We use a large email list which causes some email programs to identify our emails as spam/junk. Please add "@gmys-vt.org" to your white or safe list in your email program to avoid this problem.***

Weather Cancellations

In case of bad weather we will send emails to all families, request announcements on WDEV (FM96.1/AM550) and WNCS (The Point on multiple frequencies), and post an announcement on our website calendar (www.gmys-vt.org) and our Facebook page (*GreenMountainYouthSymphony*) as soon as possible. We generally make the decision to cancel by 7:00am the morning of rehearsal. **It is each family's responsibility to check these resources for cancellations.** If in doubt, call GMYS at 888-4470. Leah will call the short list of families without emails. If you don't have email or internet access, listen to the radio or let Leah know that you wish to be contacted by telephone. Radio announcements are subject to station discretion and are not guaranteed.

We try to avoid cancelling rehearsals if at all possible, but we are aware that the weather can vary drastically from one place to another where our families live. If the roads are dangerous in your area, please use your judgment about attending rehearsal. If you will be absent, please let your Conductor and Leah know as soon as possible so we aren't worried about missing families.

Tuition

Tuition for 2018-2019 is:

<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Full Year</u>
Repertory Orchestra	\$268	\$268	\$ 536
Concert Orchestra	\$375	\$375	\$ 750
Senior Orchestra	\$535	\$535	\$1070

Fall tuition must be paid in full by the first rehearsal, unless other arrangements are made in advance. If the tuition is unpaid, students may not participate. You may make arrangements to pay fall tuition in two (2) installments by contacting Leah Wilhjelm at 888-4470 or by email at leah@gmys-vt.org. The first half is due by the first rehearsal; the remainder is due by October 13. Spring semester tuition is due by the first rehearsal on January 5, 2019.

Please make tuition checks payable to Green Mountain Youth Symphony, and bring to the first rehearsal, or mail to GMYS, P.O. Box 384, Montpelier, VT 05601-0384.

Tuition Assistance

Tuition assistance is available for orchestra tuition and is granted on the basis of income and family size. To apply for financial assistance, families must complete an application form and return it to GMYS by the August 15 deadline along with a copy of their most recent Federal Income Tax return (pages 1&2). If you do not fit our current income profile for eligibility, but have extraordinary circumstances which will help in considering your application, you may also include a brief statement outlining them. Tuition assistance covers anywhere from 25-100% of the cost of tuition, and awards are determined based on family size, income, and any personal statements submitted.

Mid-year applications will be accepted if family circumstances have changed. Please contact Executive Director, Leah Wilhjelm, at 888-4470 or by email at leah@gmys-vt.org.

The total amount of assistance awarded is dependent on the funds available. *Donations to our tuition assistance fund are always greatly appreciated and are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.*

Family Participation

GMYS relies heavily on the support of musicians' families, other volunteers, and charitable donations to make our programs possible. Our artistic and administrative staff works with GMYS part-time and all staff members maintain other employment, so volunteers are crucial to our mission.

Families will be asked to assist GMYS staff and Board members in a variety of ways including helping with our annual fall Playathon & Bake Sale and a spring fundraiser, concert day tasks, spreading the word about GMYS events, and participating in fundraising activities. **We are very grateful for the wonderful support we receive every time we ask! Thank you in advance!**

2018-2019 Calendar

Fall semester

September 8 First rehearsals – Fall tuition due & parent meeting @ 10:40am
 September 15
 September 22 Rehearsals @ Twinfield Union School
 September 29 5th Annual Playathon @ Christ Episcopal Church in Montpelier 8:30am – 4:30pm.
DIFFERENT Rehearsal times: Rep 8:45-9:45; Concert 10:00-11:45; Senior Noon-3:00pm
 October 6
 October 13 Final Fall tuition payment & Playathon pledges are due
 October 20
 Thursday, October 25 Potential opportunity to join [Black Violin](#) at the Barre Opera House – details to come
 October 27
 November 3
 November 10
 November 17
 November 24 NO REHEARSAL (Thanksgiving)
 December 1 *Concert & Senior Orchestras in U-32 Auditorium; Repertory in usual room*
 Tues., Dec. 4 Dress rehearsals @ Barre Opera House
 Concert Orchestra 5:30-6:30pm Senior Orchestra 6:45-9:00pm
 December 8
Sun., Dec. 9 Concert Day
 Repertory Orchestra Dress Rehearsal 1:00-1:30pm (before concert)
 Concert 2:00pm

Spring 2019 semester (some of these rehearsals will be at alternate locations)

January 5 1st rehearsals & Spring tuition due
 January 12
 January 19
 January 26
 February 2
 February 9 Final Spring tuition payment due
 February 16
 February 23
 March 2 NO REHEARSAL – Winter Break
 March 9
 Sun., March 10 VPO Family Concert @ Barre Opera House, 2pm – only Senior Orchestra plays
 March 16
 March 23
 March 30
 Tues., April 2 Dress rehearsals @ Barre Opera House
 Concert Orchestra 5:30-6:30pm Senior Orchestra 6:45-9:00pm
 April 6
 Sun., April 7 **Concert Day**
 Repertory Orchestra Dress Rehearsal 1:00-1:30pm (before concert)
 Concert 2:00pm

Late Spring / Summer 2019:

SWING INTO SPRING fundraiser; Old Labor Hall in Barre

May auditions for 2019-20 season

GMYS CAMP 2019 August 4-10 @ NVU-Johnson – registration in February!