



“...no musical institution in the  
District of Columbia is more important  
than the DC Youth Orchestra Program.”

THE WASHINGTON POST





## Welcome and Philosophy

Dear Friends,



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Elizabeth Schurgin  
*Executive Director*

We believe strongly that every child should have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and play in an orchestra. At the DC Youth Orchestra Program, we believe that the orchestra serves as a model for community. An atmosphere of competition is replaced by a shared endeavor for musical excellence. Through the ensemble, our young musicians develop the character of respectful team players. Through the study of a musical instrument and classical music, our students develop the confidence and creativity that empowers them to tackle life's challenges. It is through this philosophy that we achieve our mission "Music for Young People; Achievement for Life."



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Mariano Vales  
*Music Director*

Each week, more than 500 proud young people from across the District of Columbia gather at Eastern High School to share their love of music. Spanning from the age of 4 ½ to 18, these young people represent more than 200 different schools and a variety of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. They are "the nation's youth orchestra."

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about this very meaningful program.

"Our aim is to create the next generation of citizen musicians."

ELIZABETH SCHURGIN

## A Tremendous History



Founded in 1960 by Lyn McLain and a handful of music teachers at the request of DC Public Schools, DCYOP has been an integral part of the Washington, DC community, fostering the musical development and changing the lives of 50,000 young people. The first youth orchestra to perform at the Kennedy Center, DCYOP students have toured 20 countries, played for US presidents and diplomats, and worked with esteemed musicians such as Aaron Copland, Lorin Maazel, Mstislav Rostropovich, and Marvin Hamlisch.



Maestro Kenneth Whitley, 1988

"One month before starting my senior year in high school, I was on an airplane bound for Japan with the DC Youth Orchestra. I could not imagine then how deeply my musicianship, sense of community, and love of learning would be influenced by being a member of DCYOP. The ripples of formative experiences in the program continue to resonate in my life."

MAESTRO KENNETH WHITLEY

*DCYOP's Associate Artistic Director and DCYOP Alumnus 1979*





# Music for Young People, Achievement for Life

Through DCYOP’s curriculum, students learn confidence, creativity, and how to be a part of a larger community.

	Instruction and coaching weekly	Number of hours/ semester	Ensemble experience	Number of hours/ semester
BEGINNING	Group Class for specific instrument	12	n/a	
INTERMEDIATE	Group Class for specific instrument	12	String Orchestra or Wind Ensemble	12
ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE	Group Class for specific instrument	12	Young Artists Orchestra	24
ADVANCED I ADVANCED II	Sectional Rehearsals	12	Youth Philharmonic; Youth Orchestra	30-36

Offering six ensembles and more than 100 classes, the DC Youth Orchestra Program is the leading curriculum based youth music education program in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Ensemble learning is offered on all orchestral instruments for students ages 4½ to 18. Students progress through the curriculum by jury evaluation.

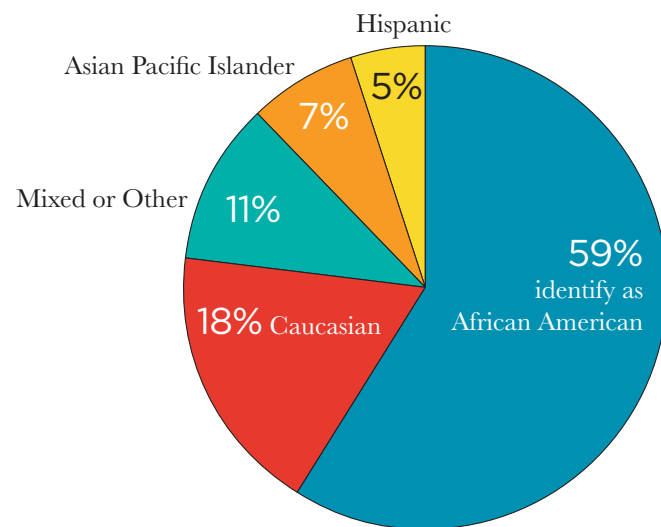
Beginning students are welcome, and students with previous experience are placed through an audition. All students perform in at least one concert each semester. Advanced students participate in master classes and side-by-side experiences with professional musicians including those from the National Symphony Orchestra and the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra.

“I remember the first time I played with the prestigious DC Youth Orchestra in the mid 1970s after many years of working my way up from DCYOP’s Elementary Orchestra. I was placed at the back of the 2nd violin section and the piece was Mendelssohn’s *Hebrides Overture*. It was so difficult! The players at the front were so talented! I vowed that I would practice hard so one day I could be just as good. Indeed, before leaving for Oberlin Conservatory, I became Concertmaster of the Youth Orchestra.”

MAYA WEIL  
*DCYOP Alumna and Director of Planned Giving  
at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts*

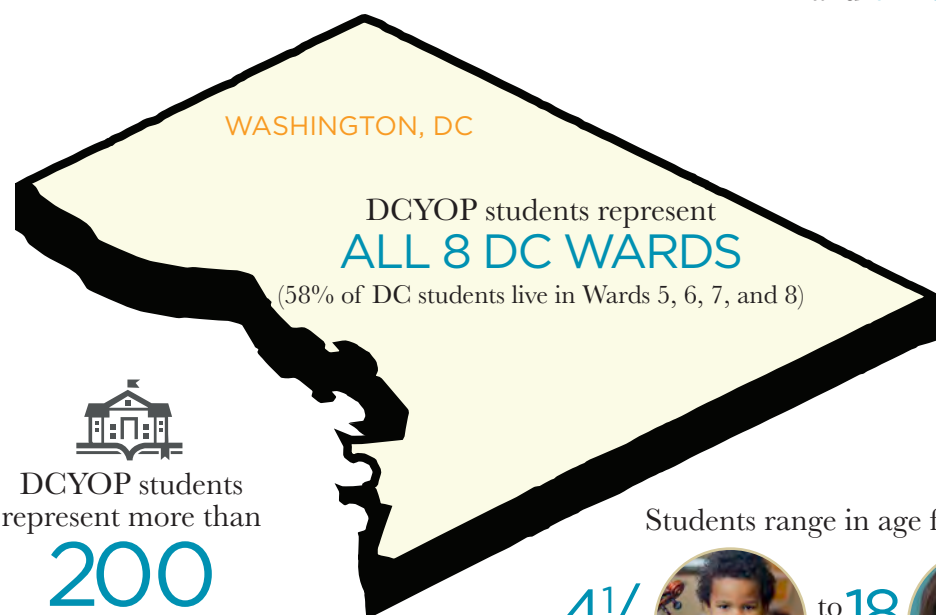
# The Nation's Youth Orchestra

DCYOP aims to provide high quality music instruction and performance opportunities for all young people across the fully diversity of Washington, DC.



**64%**  
of students live in  
WASHINGTON, DC

**36%**  
of students live in  
MARYLAND and VIRGINIA



DCYOP students  
represent more than  
**200**  
public, private, and charter schools

Students range in age from  
**4½** to **18**

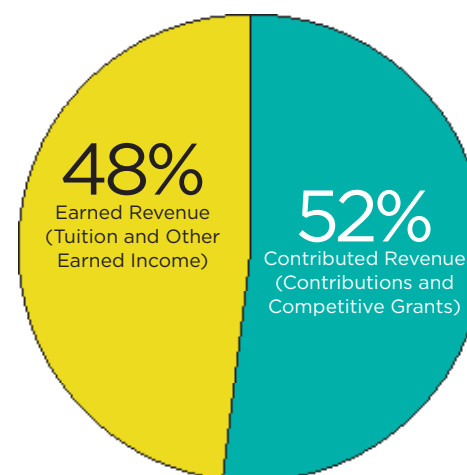
“Music provides a common bond of the highest value. I am inspired to support DCYOP because it creates an opportunity for young people from all walks of life to develop a love for music and to experience togetherness through the universal value of music.”

DR. RODRIGO HURTADO  
DCYOP Board Member

# Your Impact

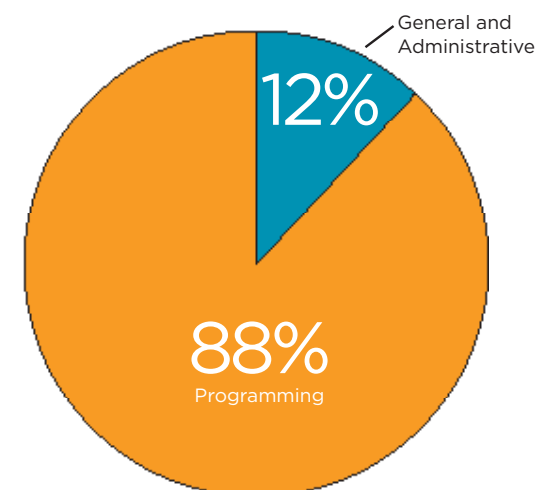
Your gift enables DCYOP to make high quality music education available to all. While a child's music learning can cost a family more than \$2,000 annually, thanks to the support of individuals, foundations, and corporations, DCYOP is able to offer its program beginning at \$25 each semester, dependent upon family income and size. Your generosity also enables DCYOP concerts to remain free and open to the public.

## TOTAL REVENUE



**\$759,581**

## TOTAL EXPENSES



**\$752,530**

To make a gift in support of DCYOP,  
you may do so through the following options:



### MAIL A CHECK

DC Youth Orchestra Program  
1700 East Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC 20003



### MAKE A GIFT ONLINE

at [www.dcyop.org/donate.jsp](http://www.dcyop.org/donate.jsp)



### MAKE A CREDIT CARD GIFT

by calling 202-698-0123



### MAKE A GIFT OF STOCK

by calling 202-698-0123 for instructions

*DCYOP is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.  
Financial information was extracted from the DC Youth Orchestra Program's fiscal year 2013 audited financial statements.  
To obtain a copy of the statements, please call (202) 698-0123.*

“I came into DCYOP as a four year old with no musical experience and graduated with a skillset beyond the concert hall. DCYOP not only taught me music, but it has taught me to become a better person. I fostered friendships and abilities that I will cherish for the rest of my life.”

CALEB DIAMOND

*DCYOP Alumnus 2014 and current political science major at Washington University in St. Louis*



Eastern High School, 1700 E. Capitol St., NE, Washington, DC 20003  
202-698-0123

[WWW.DCYOP.ORG](http://WWW.DCYOP.ORG)

