

Oklahoma Youth Orchestras

Since 1977, the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras have provided elementary, middle school and high school instrumentalists from all over the state the opportunity to work together to challenge their performance skills under the direction of respected conductors and music educators. We do so by strengthening already existing school music programs with unique performance experiences as well as supplementing instrumental music programs for schools that do not include orchestras - or for students who are homeschooled.

The Oklahoma Youth Orchestras offers ten ensembles to students throughout the state. Five auditioned ensembles (the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra, Oklahoma Youth Philharmonic, Oklahoma Youth Winds, Chamber Orchestra and Sinfonia) serve middle school and high school students at our central location at the Oklahoma City University Wanda L. Bass School of Music. The Festival Strings Program is comprised of five non-auditioned ensembles comprised of elementary and middle school students. These ensembles are located in Oklahoma City, Edmond, Norman, Stillwater, and Midwest City/Del City. In addition to our own concert season, the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras often collaborate with organizations such as the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Creative Oklahoma, Canterbury Youth Choruses and other local and nationally acclaimed musicians. In addition to five auditioned ensembles and the Festival Strings Program, the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras also supports a tri-annual international tour.

The Oklahoma Youth Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. John Clinton, is the flagship ensemble of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras.