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December 2023

Dear Friends,

We want to thank you for your ongoing support of Omaha Area Youth Orchestras. Annual gifts from you are essential in providing a rigorous and transformative orchestral experience for our young musicians.

More than 200 students are involved in OAYO ensembles each year. From our Youth Concert Strings programming for elementary and middle school student string players, to our Youth Symphony's side-by-side performance with the Omaha Symphony, OAYO provides exciting opportunities for young musicians to grow and develop their artistry, technical, and leadership skills.

We are celebrating our 65th season this year and the impact of OAYO over the decades has continued to amaze us. We received an email from a 1970's alum last December telling us the following:

*"I'm emailing you just to let you know how much the Youth Symphony experience meant for me and my career...I will always be thankful for that experience and the help it gave me toward a career in music education. Long since retired from teaching, I continue as pianist/organist/cellist at an Omaha church. Youth Symphony was a great program and helped me mature as a musician and person. Thank you for continuing to work with children of all ages and engaging them in music."*

Hearing the impact across the years from our alumni underscores why your generous donation is so important. Your financial contribution allows all OAYO students to be inspired by a rigorous and enlightening orchestral experience, **regardless of their ability to pay.**

**Your tax-deductible gift of any amount directly supports scholarships and ensemble programming.** Choose your best option for making a donation, whether by U.S. mail or by visiting [www.oayo.org/donate](http://www.oayo.org/donate). While online, enjoy more inspiring personal success stories of our musicians over the years.

Our committed team is available to discuss how your contribution can make the greatest impact. Together, we can continue to create a bright musical future for our community.

Sincerely,

**Sophia Potter, Executive Director & Barbara Soderlin, Board President**

#### OAYO Staff Members

**Aviva Segall**  
Music Director

**Sophia Potter**  
Executive Director  
Chamber Music Director

**Patty Ritchie**  
Youth Concert Strings Conductor  
Prelude Strings

**Cassie Fritch**  
Program and Operations Director

**Abigail Lill**  
Marketing and Media Manager

**Julissa Ramirez**  
Volunteer and Rehearsal Coordinator

**Myra Coveney**  
YS & YP Rehearsal Manager

**Adeline Stanley**  
YCS Rehearsal Manager

#### OAYO Board of Directors

**Barbara Soderlin**  
President

**Brett Werner**  
Treasurer

**Andrew Almodova**  
Secretary

**Karen Fannin**

**Tania Harris**

**Mily Harrod**

**Rebecca Stratton**

**Ready to mail a check?**  
Omaha Area Youth Orchestras  
P.O. Box 24639  
Omaha, NE 68124

**Questions? Want to connect?**  
[sophia.potter@oayo.org](mailto:sophia.potter@oayo.org)

# Principal Conductor, Aviva Segall, Celebrates 25 years with OAYO!



Help us celebrate Aviva Segall's 25th anniversary season with the Omaha Area Youth Orchestras! What better year than to celebrate in Season 65?! Donations will be accepted through May 2024. Your support will provide great music and education for young musicians for another 25 years!



Would you like to donate?  
Scan the code for more  
information.



Original piece by  
Youth Symphony  
pianist, Winston  
Schneider,  
performed by YP.



Chamber Music at  
Gallery 1516.



It's never a dull  
day at rehearsals!

## Happenings



Omaha Area Youth Orchestras

Read more on our  
social media  
pages:



@OAYOmusic



Omaha Area Youth Orchestras



## What's in store for the remainder of the season?

- February 19: Chamber Music Ensembles
- March 3: Youth Symphony
- March 10: Youth Concert Strings & Youth Philharmonic
- March 17: Prelude Strings
- April 21: Youth Symphony & Omaha Symphony Orchestra Side-by-Side

# This season OAYO celebrates

# 65 years