

**Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra
2020-2021 Season Audition Announcement**

**Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra
Auditions will take place on Sunday, June 7, 2020 (grades 9-12)
Applications due May 22, 2020**

**Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra (grades 4-8)
Auditions will take place on Saturday, August 29, 2020
Applications due August 1, 2020**

**Christopher Cinquini, RSYO Conductor
Janifer Dixon, Assistant Conductor**

**Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra
Brian Mishler, Conductor**

With over 200 musicians in both the RSYO and RSJSO, our orchestras continue to contribute to the cultural and educational fabric of Berks County and impress audiences through their many outstanding performances. I am very excited about the future of this orchestra and its true potential for artistic success! As always, we are grateful for the tremendous support afforded by the members of both youth orchestras and their families.

The Orchestras:

RSJSO (Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra) String orchestra for students entering grades 4-8.

Auditions will take place Saturday, August 29, 2020 beginning at 8:00am.

Please note: current 8th grade RSJSO members will audition for the RSYO on June 7, 2020.

RSYO (Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra) orchestra for woodwind, brass, percussion, and string students entering grades 9-12.

Auditions will take place on Sunday, June 7, 2020 beginning at 1:00 pm.

Please note: current 8th grade RSJSO members will audition for the RSYO on June 7, 2020.

Sponsorship

The Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra are sponsored by the Reading Symphony Orchestra with the assistance of the RSO management. The Youth Orchestras are under the supervision of the Youth Orchestra Committee of the Reading Symphony Orchestra.

Purpose

The Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra and Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra provide an opportunity for young, talented music students to further their musical skills by rehearsing and performing fine orchestral music with other students of a similar level of musical interest and ability.

RSYO/RSJSO Auditions - Application:

Auditions for the RSYO for the 2020-2021 season are scheduled for Sunday, June 7, 2020.

Auditions for the RSJSO are scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 2020.

Please review the enclosed “**Audition Requirements**” document and complete the enclosed “**Membership Application Form.**” Please complete and return the “**Signature Page**” to the RSO office along with your completed “**Membership Application Form**” and a check in the amount of \$20.00 made payable to RSYO for the audition fee. If you have any questions, please contact the RSO office at 610-373-7557. Online applications are also available at the RSYO web pages, www.readingsymphonyyouth.org and www.readingsymphonyyouth.org/rsjso.

Applications for the RSYO are due May 22, 2020

Applications for the RSJSO are due August 1, 2020

Mail all materials to:

Reading Symphony Orchestra
Attn: RSYO Auditions
100 N. 5th Street
Reading, PA 19601

Audition times will be e-mailed at least one week prior to the audition date.

Audition times will be sent by mail to those without internet access.

Tuition Upon Acceptance

RSYO \$260.00 – This includes the Parent Association dues of \$5.00.

RSJSO \$195.00

Family Discount: Oldest child @100%, second child @75%, additional children @50% each.

General Rehearsal Schedules:

RSYO rehearses on Monday evenings between 7:00 – 9:15 pm.

RSJSO rehearses on Saturday mornings between 9:00 and 11:00 am.

The schedule may be adjusted to accommodate major school, holiday, or other conflicts.

The season begins in September and ends in May.

Concerts

Members are expected to participate in all performances. Please check your calendar before you apply.

RSYO/RSJSO – Winter Concert, Saturday, December 12, 2020 - 7:00 pm

RSYO only – Beat Beethoven; Sunday, April 25, 2021, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

RSYO/RSJSO – Spring Concert; Sunday, May 2, 2021, 7:00 pm

Performance at one of the Reading Symphony Orchestra concerts:

RSYO – 11th and 12th grade only (side by side with RSO) – December 5, 2020 7:30 pm (open second half of concert)

RSJSO – RSO Concert Performance – January 23, 2021, 7:30 pm (open second half of concert)

RSYO – RSO Concert performance – March 6, 2021, 7:30 pm (open second half of concert)

Additional concerts or changes to the schedule may be announced at the discretion of the director(s).

Membership Guidelines**Eligibility for RSYO and RSJSO:**

- A successful audition is required of all musicians each year for their continued participation.
- String, brass, woodwind, and percussion students entering grades 9 through 12 are eligible to audition for RSYO.
- String students entering grades 4 through 8 are eligible to audition for RSJSO.
- String students entering grade 9 may be placed in the RSJSO depending on their audition and the artistic needs of the orchestras.
- All string applicants must belong to their school orchestra, if one is available. All wind, brass, and percussion applicants must belong to their school band and/or orchestra.
- All players must be recommended for membership by their school music director and/or private teacher.

Attendance: Members are expected to attend all rehearsals with the following guidelines:

- Members are allowed three unexcused absences per year. This includes scouting activities, church related activities, other service organizations, family trips, weddings, work, sports and any other circumstance not listed below. Four unexcused absences constitute grounds for dismissal from the orchestra.
- Excused absences include illness, inclement weather, school music events (marching band, concerts/performances, concert tours, festivals, etc.), academic school trips, college testing, college visits. Members should use discretion in taking excused absences, as participation in rehearsals is vital to the musical success of the orchestra. Any student with more than five excused absences may be asked to re-audition for continued participation in the orchestra.
- All absences must be reported to the attendance secretary **at least one day prior** to the absence (illness and inclement weather permitted after the fact). An online attendance form is available to report absences.
- The success of this orchestra is based on the sincere and honest commitment of all members.

Artistic Staff

Christopher Cinquini consistently brings to the stage a performance high in energy, passion, and expressiveness. An active educator, he is currently the Director of Orchestras and music department leader at Boyertown Area Senior High School in Boyertown, PA – a community that has regularly been named to NAMM’s national list of “Best Communities for Music Education.”

Mr. Cinquini has performed regularly with the Berks Opera Company in Reading, PA since 2011, both as a violinist and associate conductor. In 2015 he was named Principal Conductor for the opera company and continues to conduct their annual summer opera series.

A native of West Chester, Pennsylvania, Mr. Cinquini received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from The Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Music Performance in Orchestral Conducting from West Chester University. Having studied violin under Adrianna Park, Sylvia Ahranjian, and Max Zorin, he has toured with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, performed with the band Disturbed, Berks Sinfonietta, Chester County Pops Orchestra, and across Europe with multiple festival orchestras. Along the Northeast United States, his performance credits include Carnegie Hall in New York City, The Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, and Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh. While at Boyertown, he has conducted performance tours abroad in Czech Republic, Austria, Spain, and the United Kingdom, as well as Washington, DC and Boston, MA, and New York, NY.

Mr. Cinquini is an active member of PMEA and NAFME.

Janifer Dixon is a native of Reading, PA. As a junior at Reading High School she was honored to perform a cello solo with the Reading Symphony as a Youth Audition winner. She received a Bachelor of Music Education degree with a concentration in cello from Indiana University, Bloomington Indiana. She received her Master of Music degree from West Chester University. She has been the orchestra director and string teacher at Norristown Area School District, Exeter Township School District and Governor Mifflin School District from which she retired in June 2010. While at Governor Mifflin, she conducted the Governor Mifflin Senior High Orchestra in a concert at the Pennsylvania Music Educators' State convention. She is a member of the cello section of the Reading Symphony, the Reading Pops and the Pottstown Symphony. She has been a soloist with the Ambler Symphony and is the cellist for the Reading Quartet. She frequently performs throughout southeastern Pennsylvania with numerous ensembles.

Brian Mishler: A 2003 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, **Brian Mishler** graduated with highest honors and a B.S. in Music Education and a Cello performance certificate, while studying with Kim Cook. Mr. Mishler holds a M.M. degree from Northwestern University, where he studied with Paula Kosower, James Kjelland, Robert Hasty, Victor Yampolsky, and Jon Pegis, with an emphasis in Cello Performance and String Pedagogy. Mr. Mishler has also studied with renowned cellist Yumi Kendall, of the Philadelphia Orchestra. He is currently serves on the faculty as the Director of Orchestral Studies at Exeter Senior High School and teaches Music Theory and Recording as well. He has performed as Assistant Principal Cellist of the Altoona Symphony, with the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra, Reading Pops Orchestra, Reading Symphony Orchestra, Lancaster Symphony, York Symphony, The Chamber Orchestra of Lancaster, and the Dave Stahl Orchestra. He also enjoys playing in a variety of chamber ensembles.

Please feel free to contact the Reading Symphony Office at 610-373-7557 for any questions concerning the application process.