



The mission of the Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra organization is to provide an opportunity for young musicians to develop their talents through the highest quality music education and performance opportunities and to provide cultural enrichment to the regional Connecticut and New York areas. The primary goals of our ensembles, beyond education and performance, are to nurture the love of music and develop the knowledge of and encourage appreciation for classical and concert repertoire.



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The Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra

WCYO



WCYO



The **Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra** organization (WCYO), based in Ridgefield, Connecticut, is comprised of youth musicians through grade twelve from towns in the regional area. Membership in the WCYO and ensemble placement is by audition only. The WCYO has three distinct ensembles: the Symphony Orchestra, String Ensemble and Wind Ensemble.

The **Symphony Orchestra** is a full symphonic orchestra made up of advanced string, woodwind, brass and percussion musicians ranging in age from thirteen to eighteen and performing challenging orchestral repertoire. The **String Ensemble** is an intermediate string orchestra for advancing middle school and high school

musicians. This group focuses on strengthening the various fundamentals of ensemble performance and comprehensive string instruction, and performs intermediate to advanced level traditional and contemporary repertoire. The **Wind Ensemble** is comprised of woodwind, brass and percussion advancing middle school and high school musicians. The Wind Ensemble also focuses on group performance and skill development, and performs both woodwind choir and concert band repertoire. The Symphony Orchestra, String Ensemble and Wind Ensemble rehearse weekly on Thursday evenings during the school year and perform three or four concerts each season.

The WCYO ensembles are lead by energetic and talented conductors with a passion for developing young musicians. Accomplished musicians themselves, the conductors serve not only as leaders and teachers, but as mentors for members of their ensemble. Additionally, professional musicians from regional symphony orchestras and music schools are often enlisted to assist with sectional rehearsals, retreats, and our annual concerto competition.

Membership in the WCYO is further highlighted with periodic opportunities to perform at venues such as Avery Fisher and Carnegie Halls, attendance of concert performances, recording opportunities and tours.

Auditions for the upcoming season are held in June of each year, with select auditions held throughout the school year season. WCYO members are expected to pursue private study on their instrument and to be members in good standing of their school music department.



For more information on the WCYO organization, our ensembles and audition opportunities, please visit our website at www.wctyo.org.