



March 12, 2019

Dear Colleague:

It's hard to believe, but in just a few weeks (April 28), the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony and Classical Orchestra will be playing its last concert of the season and then it will be time for auditions for next year. This season, the Youth Symphony gave stirring performances of Holst's *Planets* and Borodin's *Second Symphony*. Our concert in April will feature Brahms' *Academic Festival Overture* and Howard Hanson's *Symphony No. 2* (with the famous "Interlochen Theme"). Our Classical Orchestra played a wonderful series of movements from symphonies by Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart, and Haydn. These are *your students* playing professional level music with energy, passion, and excitement. You are always welcome to come and hear your amazing students. I'm already looking forward to next year.

**AUDITIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS FOR NEXT YEAR'S ORCHESTRA WILL BE HELD MAY 20 and 21.** These dates are the only dates for auditions. There are no auditions later in the summer. Please find some audition brochures enclosed. Will you please pass them out to your best students and encourage them to audition? It is a real honor for students to play in this orchestra, and I sincerely feel that we compliment the fine music programs in our schools.

**Students will need to apply on-line at our website ([www.grys.org](http://www.grys.org)).**

**We work hard to make sure that all of our students participate in their school music ensembles. It is a requirement for enrollment in the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony.** *I appreciate your willingness to make it possible for students to be active members of both the school ensembles and the Youth Symphony.*

Please encourage your most talented students to audition. **Like previous years, we have many graduating seniors so there are openings in all sections.** This really is an exceptional program designed to inspire and challenge your best students. It is our hope that they take the excitement we engender back to their schools, and that your program is better because of us.

Sincerely,

John P. Varineau  
Conductor, Grand Rapids Youth Symphony Orchestra  
Associate Conductor, Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra

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