

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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**THE YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREATER COLUMBUS RECEIVES GRANT FUNDING FROM GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS**

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, July 12, 2017—The Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus (YOGC) was awarded a \$7,000 grant from Georgia Department of Economic Development's Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) as part of its Partner and Project grant funding for fiscal year 2018. This grant will help to fund the YOGC Strings on Broadway Summer String Camp in June of 2018. This makes the fourteenth year in a row that the Youth Orchestra has received a grant from the Georgia Council for the Arts.

"YOGC is thankful to GCA and the independent panelists that have, for over a decade, continued to see the value we provide to the talented young musicians in the Chattahoochee Valley. This grant funds a week-long summer string camp that reaches approximately 50 students aged 8-18 every year. Our Conductor, Mr. James Palmer, brings in fantastic guest artists and coaches to guide them through learning music by ear and advanced playing techniques. It is the only camp in the region that provides these experiences at an affordable rate along with financial aid for those with demonstrated need. YOGC's partnership with the Georgia Council for the Arts is vital to the continuation of this camp, and we are grateful for it." – Stephanie Erdman Payne, YOGC Executive Director

Funds awarded by Georgia Council for the Arts include appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**About Georgia Council for the Arts**

Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) is a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development whose mission is to cultivate the growth of vibrant, thriving Georgia communities through the arts. GCA provides grant funding, programs and services statewide that support the vital arts industry, preserve the state's cultural heritage, increase tourism and nurture strong communities. Funding for Georgia Council for the Arts is provided by appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**About the Georgia Department of Economic Development**

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) plans, manages and mobilizes state resources to attract new business investment to Georgia, drive the expansion of existing industry and small business, locate new markets for Georgia products, inspire tourists to visit Georgia and promote the state as a top destination for arts events and film, music and digital entertainment projects.

Since 1993, the Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus has been teaching the area's most talented young musicians. Led by music director James Palmer, this outstanding orchestra program includes the Youth Orchestra made up of intermediate and advanced string, brass, wind and percussion musicians, the String Orchestra composed of young string players, chamber groups, a percussion ensemble and a summer string camp. Rehearsals are held each Monday evening during the school season at the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. Visit [www.YOGC.org](http://www.YOGC.org) for audition requirements and an application for the 2017-18 regular orchestra season. For additional information e-mail [info@yogc.org](mailto:info@yogc.org).

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