

\*\*\*\*\*Press Release \*\*\*\*\*

## NEW REGIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Formal announcement was made on Friday, July 18, of a new regional youth orchestra program to serve the tri-state area. The Ozarks Philharmonic Youth Orchestras, Inc. Board of Directors officially launched the program's inaugural season inviting interested young musicians and their parents to visit its website at [www.opyo.org](http://www.opyo.org).

The program was greeted with enthusiasm by the Northwest Arkansas Symphony organization. Karen Kapella, NASO Taskforce Chair said, "The North Arkansas Symphony Taskforce and Board of Directors applaud the organizers of the Ozarks Philharmonic Youth Orchestras, Inc. for their thoughtful and thorough planning to offer music education opportunities to students throughout the region. We look forward to exploring ways the North Arkansas Symphony and Youth Orchestras may work together to enrich these students' experiences and we wish everyone involved much success."

The OPYO program will offer the opportunity for young musicians to participate in beginning and intermediate level ensembles and ultimately the opportunity to train and perform in a full orchestra setting. *The Youth Symphony of the Ozarks* will be the premiere youth orchestra for the advanced players in the program. It will be a full orchestra complete with strings, winds, brass and percussion performing under the baton of C. Myron Flippin.

Speaking for the Board of Directors, Interim Chair, Bruce Mulkey, said, "We are all parents of young musicians who recognize the lasting benefit they receive from participation in a quality orchestra program, both to their character and musicianship. It is our intent to build an organization that ultimately produces one of the premier youth symphony orchestras in the country."

Auditions will be held on August 18, 23 and 25 in Fayetteville, Springdale and Rogers with further details to be announced on the website. Other general information including, printable audition applications can also be found online.