



**April 15, 2020**  
**For Immediate Release**

**The Denver Young Artists Orchestra goes digital to continue offering orchestra rehearsals as well as its educational programs to the community.**

The **Denver Young Artists Orchestra (DYAO)** has nurtured the talents of the Rocky Mountain region's finest young musicians for over 42 years. It is committed to providing the finest possible youth orchestra programs, inspiring and educating young musicians through the performance of great works of music, while offering valuable cultural opportunities to its community. To that end and in light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, **DYAO** is restructuring its weekly rehearsal format to create new learning opportunities for its members.

Every week, the **DYAO** will host a special online session with guests who will focus on different techniques and best practices. **Jason Shafer**, special guest and principal clarinetist for the **Colorado Symphony** states: **"I'm really looking forward to leading this discussion session with the wonderful DYAO students! We all must make the most of this situation, and there is a lot that we can all learn and accomplish in this online-only time. Let's use every opportunity we have to remain positive and inspired!"** The goal of these sessions centers on helping **DYAO** members to continue working in the mastery of their instruments, as well as increasing their understanding of the world of music on a broader scale. In a world where digital communication is essential, the **DYAO** is excited to launch new and creative initiatives to inspire and add value to its students' musical skills. In an effort to encourage its musicians to continue practicing, **DYAO** is hosting a practice challenge in different social media platforms using **#DYAOPracticeChallenge**. **DYAO** will also be posting performances by students, as well as staff members, to brighten and positively influence the social media landscape. Executive Director **Kelly Waltrip** explains: **"We remain focused on the future and ensuring that DYAO continues to be a source of opportunity for Colorado's young musicians. Our 2020-21 auditions will be moved to video format to comply with governmental and CDC recommendations."**

**DYAO** rehearsals will continue through mid-May and its **2020-2021 season** will be announced soon.

**Contacts:**

Denver Young Artists Orchestra  
Kelly Waltrip, Executive Director  
Phone: (303) 433-2420 ext. 406  
Email: [kelly.waltrip@dyao.org](mailto:kelly.waltrip@dyao.org)

**For Inquiries in Spanish:**

Denver Young Artists Orchestra  
Javier Abreu, Office Manager  
Phone: (303) 433-2420 ext. 403  
Email: [javier@dyao.org](mailto:javier@dyao.org)

**Website:** [dyao.org](http://dyao.org)

## **Denver Young Artists Orchestra**

The Denver Young Artists Orchestra (DYAO) is one of Colorado's most established youth orchestras, having nurtured the talents of the Rocky Mountain region's young musicians for over 42 years. It is committed to providing the finest possible youth orchestra programs, inspiring and educating young musicians through the performance of great works of music, while offering valuable cultural opportunities to its community. Many past DYAO members have gone to top universities and conservatories including The Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, Yale University, New York University and University of Michigan to name a few. Those who pursued musical careers have performed with the Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, The Metropolitan Opera, and the Colorado Symphony, among others. In 2018, DYAO formed an official alliance with the Colorado Symphony. It continues its relationship with the Colorado Symphony as well as with Boettcher Concert Hall.