



BOSTON YOUTH
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRAS

Creating the BYSO Youth Center for Music



A young boy with dark hair is shown in profile, playing a bright yellow saxophone. He is looking down at the instrument with concentration. The background is softly blurred, showing another child in the distance. The entire image has a warm, orange-toned overlay.

A PLACE
ENVISIONED.

A HOME
CREATED.

A DREAM
REALIZED.

A New Home for the BYSO



Soon, the BYSO Youth Center for Music at 235 Huntington Avenue will be filled with sounds of our children.

The BYSO Youth Center for Music is the realization of a long-time vision to create a home where children from all over New England can experience the transformative power of exceptional music education. This new home will serve our incredible young musicians and families, providing them with rehearsal, educational, and performance spaces. We are excited to announce that 235 Huntington Avenue, located in the heart of Boston, will be the new home for BYSO starting in the 2023-2024 season.

The BYSO Youth Center for Music will provide unfettered access to music-making at the highest level for all of Boston's children for generations to come. It will be a place where young musicians from every neighborhood in the city will come to develop their confidence, competence, and intelligence. These children will learn from and collaborate with their peers in a nurturing environment, and ultimately reach their fullest potential as individuals and future leaders.



Who We Are

Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO) is one of the most prestigious, comprehensive, and remarkable youth orchestras in the nation.

Our programmatic scope includes three full symphonic orchestras, two young string training orchestras, a preparatory wind ensemble, a chamber music program, and a nationally-recognized program providing rigorous instruction to students from underrepresented communities. We have fostered the personal and artistic growth of youth for 65 years. Each year, BYSO serves over 500 children, ages 4 through 18, from Greater Boston and throughout New England.

In 1998, BYSO created the Intensive Community Program

(ICP), which puts children of color on a pathway toward musical excellence. Comprised of over 100 students who receive weekly lessons, group instruction, and chamber music, ICP provides the resources students need to be successful in BYSO and beyond.

Together, we are makers of music, defenders of curiosity, and champions of courage. Through the brilliance of classical music and the gift of human connection, we celebrate the individual—both in standing out and finding one's place in the composition of our world.

A Need for Space



Since its inception, BYSO has been in residence at Boston University. This partnership has enabled thousands of young musicians to pursue personal and artistic growth. As BYSO continues to welcome more families to our programs, we face a pressing space shortage with limited rehearsal and after-school space access. Currently, our programs are held at three locations across Boston, putting strain on our families and staff. BYSO strives for accessibility within each and every part

of our programming. Some of our current locations, including many of our orchestra rehearsal spaces, are not accessible by public transportation. This deeply impacts our ability to provide accessible music education for all children.

The BYSO Youth Center for Music is a monumental step toward solving our space shortage and creating an accessible home for all children to come together and pursue musical and personal excellence.



Composing the Future

A close-up, semi-circular photograph of a young woman with dark hair, focused on playing a violin. The image is cropped into a semi-circle, with the top edge following the curve of the title text.

The BYSO Youth Center for Music will provide a space for all children to discover hidden potential and open themselves to feelings of pride and achievement they never thought possible.



1 Building a Home to Nurture Musical and Personal Excellence

BYSO fosters the personal and artistic growth of Boston's youth. We create a community of togetherness and belonging as our children learn from each other, grow together, and experience the transformative power of music. The BYSO Youth Center for Music creates a presence in the heart of our city, solidifying that Boston's children deserve to create music among some of our nation's most iconic musical institutions. Our new home finally allows us to deepen our accessibility and visibility without boundaries.

2 Providing Everyone the Opportunity to Grow

The BYSO Youth Center for Music creates a permanent home for the Intensive Community Program (ICP), putting children of color on a pathway toward musical excellence. Further, we will be able to grow long-term partnerships in early education where children of all ages will be able to see the endless possibilities available to them at the BYSO Youth Center for Music. With a reliable home that can open its doors to more families, audience members, and communities, 235 Huntington Avenue can support the next generation of musically-energized and culturally-engaged citizens.

3 Developing the Next Generation of Leaders

BYSO provides transformative musical opportunities that challenge children and require dedication, resilience, and courage. As we guide our children through an experience of a lifetime, the BYSO Youth Center for Music will be a place where children try again, take a chance, ask questions, and ultimately trade in nerves for courage.

Great music is in Boston's DNA.

It is rooted in our cultural heritage and embedded in the walls of some of the finest music institutions in the city.

Now, BYSO will create a space that is vibrant with youthful energy, open and welcoming to Boston's diverse population, and filled with the music of our children.

A Two-Phased Approach

PHASE I

BYSO has acquired 235 Huntington Avenue, across from Symphony Hall, to create the BYSO Youth Center for Music. BYSO's new home will:

- Establish a permanent, publicly-accessible home for BYSO's Intensive Community Program (ICP).
- Provide additional rehearsal space for our growing orchestras, relieving space pressures facing our families and staff.
- Expand BYSO's educational opportunities and weekday programming, including growing our chamber music program.

At the heart of BYSO's vision is providing all children with the space and resources they need to grow and succeed. With this in mind, we are making the following renovations to 235 Huntington Avenue:

- Upgrades to meet safety and accessibility codes, including the installation of a new elevator, upgraded fire safety system (sprinkler and fire alarms), and ADA-accessible bathrooms.
- Renovate existing space to add 10 new practice rooms, 5 new medium-sized rooms for divided orchestra and sectional rehearsals, a corridor separating the large auditorium from the new practice rooms, and upgraded flooring and acoustical treatments.



Phase I will begin the process

of creating a reliable space where children will come to share experiences, learn from each other, and create music together. We will finally have a space to call home, a place to be together, and a location that establishes BYSO as a prestigious cultural Boston institution.

PHASE II

While Phase I establishes a new home for our children, it does not fully achieve our vision for the future. We are working closely with our consultants as we plan for Phase II of creating the BYSO Youth Center for Music. In Phase II, we hope to expand 235 Huntington Avenue with an addition that will increase the number of rehearsal and performance spaces, expanding BYSO's programmatic scope as we create a center of inclusivity and creativity.

OUR PHASE 1 INVESTMENT

The BYSO Youth Center for Music is a monumental step toward solving our space shortage and creating an accessible home for all children to come together and pursue musical and personal excellence. We have seen incredible commitment and excitement from our community. This commitment represents the power of music education and the impact this project will have on the City of Boston and our children for generations to come.

BYSO is committed to raising \$25M to establish the BYSO Youth Center for Music and increase our endowment to ensure the financial stability and longevity of BYSO.

The vision for this project is bold. The commitment from our community is strong. We have worked diligently over the past few years to secure 235 Huntington Avenue, create a space for children to thrive, and realize the vision of the BYSO Youth Center for Music.

GOAL \$25M



Be a Part of the Future



YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE FUTURE BY:

Making a meaningful gift

to the campaign to create the BYSO Youth Center for Music.

Joining others

throughout 2023 to learn more, celebrate BYSO's bright future, and be a part of our bold vision to create a youth cultural center in the heart of Boston.

Spreading awareness

about this project, BYSO, and the work that we do for children each and every day.

Your support strengthens a community founded on pursuing musical excellence, creating transformational opportunities, and building the next generation of leaders.

As we build a future filled with the music of our children, we continue to raise funds toward Phase I of the campaign to create the BYSO Youth Center for Music. Your support of this project is vital to making sure that our children have a space to pursue personal and

musical excellence for years to come. Through a donation to the campaign to create the BYSO Youth Center for Music, you ensure that every child has the opportunity to play together and a safe space to grow, transform, and succeed.

We thank the BYSO Board of Directors and early supporters for believing in the future of children and music in Boston. Through your leadership, you helped make this project become a reality—thank you.

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For more information on how to get involved, please visit BYSOweb.org/home or contact Caitlin Thompson at caitlint@bu.edu or 617-358-5356.





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