





# CELEBRATING A TRADITION OF INCLUSION

The love for music is innate in all children. We are often asked to quantify or exemplify the impact of the practice of classical music on the growth of youth. It is both an impossible question and an elusive exercise.

It is very hard to overstate the extraordinarily enriching impact the practice of classical music has on the mental and emotional growth of a child. Playing an instrument is a complex, multi-tasking, daily, intense work that engages the whole child in a demanding coordination of mental, emotional and physical skills. It trains them in the use of different sets of abilities: manual, visual and auditory. Perhaps most importantly, over time, it allows children to experience the ineffable complexity of beauty and the mysterious force of art.

BYSO's Intensive Community Program (ICP) was created twenty years ago to engage children from communities traditionally underserved in the study of classical music with the extraordinarily and uniquely beautiful complexities of classical music performance.

ICP, with its demanding standards and caring inclusiveness, is a model for social integration and cultural exchange. It is an invaluable tool for the enrichment of our society as a whole through the enrichment of many individual young lives.

Discipline, hard work, love for what they do, along with the self-confidence and great pride in the extraordinary results they achieve through their passion, are what ICP students will take with them throughout their entire lives.

ICP has been transforming and enriching students' lives for two decades in countless ways. Most importantly, it has also transformed and enriched the heart of BYSO's mission.

We are proud to celebrate twenty years of ICP, and we look forward to many more to come.



Federico Cortese Music Director

Veder Cortese



# **OUR MISSION**

Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras' (BYSO) mission is to encourage artistic excellence in a nurturing environment by providing the highest quality orchestral training and performance opportunities to qualified musicians, grades K-12, while making its programs accessible to underrepresented youth through financial aid and outreach.

**EXCELLENCE:** BYSO believes high-quality music experiences have a long-lasting impact on young musicians and audience members. Quality is at the heart of BYSO's programs, supported by the finest musicians in the area who serve as our coaches and conductors.

ACCESS: BYSO makes quality music experiences available to all young people, regardless of social or economic disadvantage. Our Intensive Community Program (ICP) offers rigorous string and winds training to Boston's underserved communities, preparing students for competitive auditions into BYSO orchestras. BYSO provides use of an instrument,

weekly lessons and support for participation in the orchestras from the time a student joins the program (age 5 or 6) until they graduate high school. The program serves 80–90 students annually.

**INSPIRATION:** Alongside training young musicians, we are dedicated to cultivating young audiences. Each year, BYSO presents more than 20 performances in some of Boston's finest venues including Symphony Hall and Sanders Theatre at Harvard University. Through our free ticketing programs and community concerts, BYSO welcomes thousands of young community members annually. BYSO's partnership with Boston Symphony Orchestra, *BYSO/BSO: Partnering for the Future*, sees children as young as 3 years old enjoy the magic of classical music.



# 20 YEARS OF ICP AT BYSO

At BYSO, we firmly believe in the power of exceptional classical music education to change lives. Our students receive a transformative music education — one that is rooted in excellence and shapes their life path through the development of life-long skills such as self-confidence, team-work, and leadership. BYSO believes that all young children should have the opportunity to experience extraordinary music programming and the life-changing impact it can have. Unfortunately, these experiences are not possible for every child.

In 1998 BYSO created the Intensive Community Program (ICP), a rigorous instrumental training program, in response to financial and cultural accessibility barriers preventing students from the city of Boston from auditioning into BYSO's orchestras and participating in our high-quality programming. ICP aims to serve students of color including African American, Latinx, Caribbean, and other populations historically underrepresented in the study of classical music.

Students enter ICP with little or no musical training, and after 2-3 years of training and support led by distinguished faculty, ICP students are prepared to audition into one of BYSO's prestigious orchestras, with the objective of reaching BYSO's top-level orchestra. Students are provided the resources they need to be successful in BYSO orchestras and beyond, including financial aid for orchestra tuition, weekly lessons, use of an instrument, positive mentorship, and an array of support services until they graduate from high school. Each ICP student strives for excellence through the challenge of learning to play their instrument. Through discipline and creativity, individuality and teamwork, students accomplish personal and group goals. The results are young people musicians who develop high aspirations and a desire to work towards musical excellence.

Last season ICP celebrated its 20th anniversary—20 years of commitment to diversifying the future of classical music, and 20 years of supporting the next generation of young musicians. Throughout the season, we honored ICP's legacy, the communities that support us, and the accomplishments of our students, families, and faculty.

# DID YOU KNOW?

The majority of ICP students reside in the



### **ICP partners**

with Boston **Public Schools and** many other community organizations.







### 100%

of ICP graduates have enrolled in a 4-year college or university.



**53** students have graduated from ICP since its inception in 1999.

### Attend **Colleges** such as:

- Harvard University
- Boston University
- Yale University
- Northeastern University
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst

### Career fields include:

- Biomedical **Engineering**
- Film/Television
- Computer Science
- Journalism

- Music/Acting
- Nursing
- Business



Students spend an average of 11 years in the program.



ICP serves approximately 90 Students annually, Grades K-12.



### **HILLARY**

AGE 15, VIOLIN

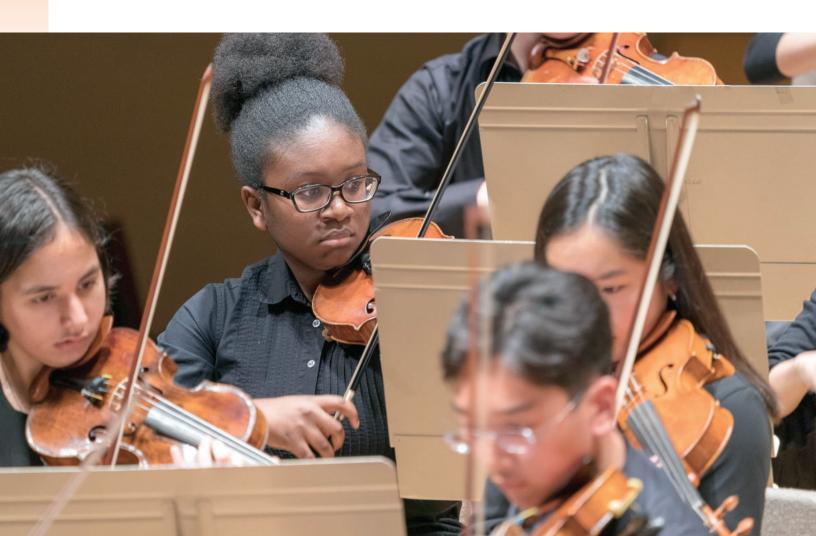
Hillary has been a member of ICP since 2012.

"BEING A MUSICIAN HAS CHANGED MY
LIFE, AND IT MAKES ME FEEL VERY
SPECIAL TO BE PART OF THIS GROUP.
SEEING MUSICIANS PERFORM ANYWHERE,
OUTSIDE OF BYSO, MAKES ME FEEL LIKE
WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON, AND
WE CAN RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER."

One of her favorite memories as a student is her very first orchestra rehearsal. "I had never played in a big group before — seeing the parts come together, hearing the others playing, and knowing that I am contributing to the music being made, was very special. I thought about all the people who had played this part and these pieces before me, and felt lucky to be part of the history of this classical music."

One of her favorite aspects about music is how it can be used as a way to communicate feelings beyond words. "In a group, if everyone is talking all at once and saying different things, it would be difficult to understand, and would be very confusing to hear. Yet in music, we are all playing different parts together as a group, all at the same time, and we are able to express the same emotion together."

Since joining BYSO, her confidence in her own abilities has increased. "I am capable of doing more than I think. Whenever I doubt myself, I think of everything I've accomplished here, and it's a good reminder that no matter what challenges I face in the future, I know I can succeed."



### **SADIE**

#### AGE 14, CELLO

#### Sadie has been a member of ICP since 2014.

Sadie attributes her musical development and ambition to her time at BYSO thus far. "The repertoire is challenging, but it pushes you to try hard, and the faculty help you understand the music better. It's hard, but very rewarding." She also feels that ICP has helped her beyond music. "I used to be really shy, but now I love talking to and meeting new people, and making friends. We are all working on a shared goal, and that brings us together." Thanks to her training, Sadie will be attending the prestigious Rivers School, a music conservatory, where she received a full scholarship.

Sadie cares very deeply about helping others, and she volunteers to coach younger students during summer ICP workshops, serves as a volunteer counselor at ICP camp, and tutors her younger sister. "When I was younger, the older kids helped me and now I want to be able to give back. Teaching others helps them but it actually helps you get better, too. Learning to work together as a group and help each other makes everyone improve together."

"THE TEACHERS REALLY SUPPORT YOU, AND THE STUDENTS HELP EACH OTHER. IT'S A COMMUNITY, AND I AM HAPPY TO BE PART OF THIS FAMILY."





## GIO

#### AGE 11, OBOE

#### Gio has been a member of ICP since 2017.

Gio was part of the inaugural launch of the ICP expansion to include winds, brass, and percussion. Before coming to BYSO and starting the oboe, he also played the trumpet, the violin, and the viola, but he has experienced the most musical growth at BYSO.

"I like the music here because compared to my regular school, it challenges me more. I need to practice more, but when I do, it makes me a stronger musician. The music is harder, but for me it's more fun and I enjoy getting better. I always want to continue improving."

Gio's experience at BYSO goes beyond his musical development. ICP helps students develop skills such as critical thinking, self-confidence, and teamwork. "I love being in a group with all the other ICP students. It's exciting that we are all working on something as one unit. I like that music has brought us all together."

"I would describe BYSO as helpful. Learning to read music for the oboe helped me get better at reading music for the trumpet, too. I learn a lot more music theory than I do elsewhere, too."

"THE AMOUNT OF PRACTICE IS CHALLENGING, AND SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO BALANCE MANY THINGS, BUT I REALLY LIKE MUSIC SO I ENJOY THAT."

# 2018-2019 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS





This year was the 10th season of BYSO's partnership with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, BYSO/BSO: Partnering for the Future, which includes a concert series providing engaging, age-appropriate, educational orchestral experiences especially for children ages 3-8 and their families. Our 10th annual production of *Peter and the Wolf* took place on November 3, 2018.

We began our celebration of ICP's 20 years with a concert at Faneuil Hall on Sunday, December 16, 2018, followed by a reception for families and BYSO community members.





Our most advanced orchestra, the Boston Youth Symphony, performed not one, but two operas this season. On Sunday, January 27, 2019, BYSO performed Puccini's *La Bohème* in front of a completely sold out audience at Sanders Theater at Harvard University. On Sunday, March 17, 2019, BYSO performed two back-to-back performances of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at Symphony Hall, a unique opera experience geared towards younger audiences.





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BYSO Board President Joe Grimaldi at the 2019 Gala.



BYSO Administrative Staff at the 2019 Gala.

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The impact that BYSO has on young people throughout New England is immeasurable. Combining the highest quality standards and access for children from any socio-economic background is our goal, and we can continue to achieve this thanks to your support.



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