

GTiYO Spring Newsletter

May 2022

Issue 3

Michaela Beck and Lexi Smith

If we have learned anything over the last two years about the GTiYO, it's that we are a strong group that will overcome any obstacle in order to pursue our passion for music. There is no greater evidence of that than what has transpired over the last two years during the COVID-19 pandemic. When the outbreak hit home for us in March 2020, like any other institution, we canceled rehearsals while waiting to see where the pandemic was heading. The days turned into weeks, the weeks turned into months, until we decided to cancel the remainder of the season. During the retreat of 2020, our numbers were drastically reduced from the previous year due to the concerns over the virus. We didn't have a home to practice or a venue to hold our concerts, but that didn't stop us! We began the season practicing outdoors at Swan Creek Metropark and then when the weather became too cold, we moved indoors to Jeff Hartland's barn, where we held our fall concert. We held out hope that we would be able to return to UT in January to resume rehearsals, but that hope quickly faded. We pivoted to holding our practices at Emmanuel Christian schools, as well as our spring concert. During the course of the year some students did return, but many did not. When the retreat of 2021 came, UT had once again opened their doors for both rehearsals and concerts. We held our fall concert back in the Doermann Theater and donated ticket sales to the ProMedica Children's Hospital for COVID-19 patients. We resumed our Christmas concert at the historic St. Patrick's Cathedral. Our numbers have steadily increased, seemingly gaining a few students every month! Our international travel has yet to resume, but we're currently working on a trip to Toronto this summer with the intention of traveling abroad next summer. Students needed something to do during the pandemic. Most were stuck at home with no personal interaction besides family. Orchestra gave them a sense of "normality" and an opportunity to interact with their peers. "Bridging Cultural Diversity Through Music Performance" is not just our motto, it's our passion....our way of showing the world that music truly brings people together and joy to everyone!

Dan Perry

President of GTiYO

GTiYO On Social Media

Facebook - Greater Toledo International Youth Orchestra

Instagram - gtiyo_toledo

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Recital 2

This past April students had the opportunity to perform solos and ensembles. It's heart warming to see the growth of each student over this year. Congratulations to each student that performed!



Back row: Mr. Oliver, Alex Xu, David Liu, Benny Hsiao, Allen Shu, Jerry Ning, Tallon Southworth, Benny Kujawa

Middle row: Raymond Lyle, Ryan Cui, Lexi Smith, Annaliese Maraquin, Olivia Stumbo, Matthew Li, Rebekah Asselin, Nyomi Bell, Suzanna Kholi, Reagan Ogle, Nat Potter, Mr. Song

Front row: Ocean Shi, Corinne Moore, Nadezha Dominguez, Olivia Perry, William Hendricks, Starlynn Flippo, Alex Bernath



Ariana Fahl

Ariana, GTiYO first violinist, will attend NYU for college. She then plans to finish pre-med school and become an OBGYN that will help people globally. She's excited to be introduced into many beautiful cultures and languages. She'll be graduating from Maumee Valley Country Day. Ariana has been involved as a peer educator for planned parenthood, a member of her school orchestra, and a tutor for others. Ariana says "Just being able to play with others and create music" is why she enjoys playing in orchestra. Her advice is to "Be honest with yourself." She says "Even if you don't have huge goals, if you're honest with yourself, you're going to achieve much more than you thought." Ariana explains growing up without an abundance of financial resources was hard because she always wanted to play an instrument, but was very fortunate when a rent an instrument program at her school was established.



I admire Ariana's cheerful personality in rehearsal and her jokes. She's really nice and makes orchestra fun! **-Nadezha Dominguez, Junior Violinist**

Zilin Chen

Zilin, GTiYO first violinist and concert master, is graduating from Perrysburg High School. She plans on majoring in public health. Outside of GTiYO, she plays in the Philharmonic group in TSYO, and is the secretary of her schools music interact club. During COVID, her love for music was reignited, and she has felt much closer to music since then. She enjoys modern Chinese music, specifically legato pieces. Her advice for other musicians is not to be intimidated in new situations, even when new experiences can seem very overwhelming.

Zilin has always been a great leader. She's an excellent concertmaster, and is always there when you need help. I've been able to work with her in a smaller setting as well, in the chamber ensemble, where she offers good advice and contributes a lot to the rehearsal. It's been great getting to know Zilin, and we're all going to miss her net year!

-Olivia Perry, Freshman Violinist

Suzannah Kholi



Suzy, GTiYO cellist, is taking a gap year and moving to Colorado in the fall. She plans on eventually attending college where she will be studying political science with a minor in Japanese. She says "Music has always been very important to me, and has always defined how I relate to people at a really basic level." Suzy explains her most important moment was at her first local live show. "You could feel the music in your chest, and I get that same feeling when I perform. I'm still chasing that feeling."

Suzy is very personable and easy to talk to. She is a great person, and I look up to her. Before my first recital, Suzy talked to me and helped me calm my nerves. She will be missed, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors! **-Lexi Smith, Freshmen Cellist**

Olivia Li

Olivia, GTiYO second-violinist, wants to study abroad and learn of different cultures around the world. Music is important to her because "It's a way to express myself without having to use words." Olivia also says "Given how diverse the world is, we all can connect through music, and I think that's the best part." Her advice is "Nothing should really be taken too seriously." She explains how when she was younger she put a lot of pressure on herself and saw everything as "make it " or "break it" moments. And she would constantly overwork herself, but that took away the fun and enjoyment from doing those things. "Realize how fast time actually goes and why you should use that time to have fun, not just care about whether you'll succeed or not."

I admire Olivia's violin ability, I personally think it's something that people might get jealous over. She was actually the reason I wanted to begin to play an instrument of my own. She inspires me every day, encouraging me to work harder each day even if she doesn't tell me to. It's very easy to look up to someone who's that cool and great. I'll continue to look up to her even after she leaves for college, it's the least I can do for someone as cool as her.
- **Matthew Li, Freshman Cellist**



Jerry Ning

Jerry, GTiYO violist, plans on attending The Ohio State University, and will soon graduate from Southview High School. Jerry enjoys playing music because he's been playing his whole life, starting from the piano. His advice is to "Play hard, stay hard" and "When the music gets harder, don't give up and instead find ways to conquer the challenge." Jerry's favorite piece is currently Hungarian Rhapsody #2 on the piano. To Jerry, music is an essential part of his life and routine, and he feels like he can't function without it.

Although I've only met him this year, Jerry has had a very positive impact on me! He has a very easy going personality, which makes him easy to talk to and ask for help from. He's encouraged me to continue to pursue my orchestra career because, in so many words, he said as long as I enjoy it I have a reason to do it. I appreciate all of the time and effort he's put into both GTiYO and the chamber orchestra at Southview, and can't wait to see what he achieves in the future! I hope he comes back to visit us soon!)-**Nyomi Bell**
Freshman Violist

Jin Wong

Jin, GTiYO second violinist, plans on attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology studying computer science. He will soon graduate from Southview High School. Jin explains that "traveling with like minded students who enjoy music while also trying new experiences has been a great bonding experience." His advice is "Don't be afraid to try new things, whether it's GTiYO, playing a solo or anything else, it can look intimidating at first but you have nothing to lose and everything to gain." Jin says "Performing in China in 2019 and watching the Chinese high-school students perform for us was impactful. Despite not fully speaking each other's language it was moving to be able to share our individual love of music with each other which needs no translation to understand."



Jin is really cool. He's always there to support everyone and always know what music we're playing. He also makes sure that everyone is chilling and never lashes out. I hope the best for him in the future!-**Benjamin Hsiao, Junior Violist**

(419) 704-0068
GTiYOstrings@gmail.com
www.GTiYO.com

Nat Potter

Nat, GTiYO cellist, currently plans on taking a year off to work, study Chinese, and practice vigorously. They plan to attend Blank Point, a music school, and will soon graduate from Southview High School. They are involved in numerous activities such as Tri-M, Musicians for Causes, Chamber orchestra, AP Music Theory, graphic design, as well as regional + honors orchestra. Nat says that for them music is a big form of self-expression, and going to Germany & China was eye opening. They say "Being a successful musician doesn't always mean being the best musician." Nat says "As an artist you reflect the who you are in the world, globally, and in society." Their most sentimental performance was at a friend's funeral; when they could really feel the music and connect with it. Their advice is to "Be easy to work with and reliable." "Be open to whatever the universe has to offer, don't fight the flow, flow forward."



Nat is someone whom I truly look up to, in more aspects than one. They have impacted my life and changed my view on just about everything. I met them a little over a year ago at my first GTiYO rehearsal. I was crazy nervous, but they were so welcoming, it made me feel safe. This past year has been one of the hardest. I lost a close childhood friend of mine, who was a violist, and it was hard for me to even play with that in mind. They reached out and were a source of comfort during hard times, I was able to be vulnerable and cry with them, and that will stay with me forever. I would 100% consider them my hero. Not only did they save me last fall, but at the recital, when I was so nervous I could hardly walk, when I was accepted into chamber, and again when I asked them for advice because I was just so lost and didn't know what to do. I really hope they know what they've given to me. We'll miss you so much Nat. -**Michaela Beck, Freshman Cellist**