

WELCOME TO THE **ROCKLAND YOUTH SYMPHONY**

“Development is really the main thing in life, just as it is in music; because development means change, growing, blossoming out; these things are life itself.” -Leonard Bernstein, Young People’s Concerts, Carnegie Hall

As we mark the 100th anniversary of the first youth orchestra in the United States and to continue the venerable culture of creative arts right here in the Hudson Valley, the Rockland County Music Teachers Guild and I are pleased to announce the creation of the new **Rockland Youth Symphony**.

Now is the time for you and other talented young instrumentalists to become a member!

We will perform both new and established works of the orchestral repertoire.

We will rehearse regularly on Tuesday nights.

We have asked our friends and colleagues from The Juilliard School, the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra to attend rehearsals and to tutor you and your friends.

We look forward to not only hearing you play your instrument as part of the ensemble, but we will also provide opportunities for you to perform your concerto as soloist, to conduct the orchestra, and to compose music for our symphony. Our local community will be invited to hear you at our Winter and Spring concerts, and hopefully some day in New York City’s famed Carnegie Hall.

Musicians from Gustavo Dudamel to Leonard Bernstein played in a youth orchestra. Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Grieg, Britten wrote music for the young. The most exciting moment of my young life was feeling the orchestra all around me while playing Gliere’s *Red Poppy* on cello in a California youth symphony. So I encourage you to join our orchestra to also feel the visceral excitement of performing with a symphony orchestra. Immersing yourself in great music is to live a dream.

Sincerely,

Mr/Dr/Sir/Maestro Michael Fennelly

Music Director, Rockland County Music Teachers Guild’s **Rockland Youth Symphony**