

Etowah Youth Orchestras
“Where will the music take you?”
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For Immediate Release

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EYO OPENS 2020-2021 SEASON WITH FALL FORMAL CONCERT
Fall Formal to include music by Beethoven, Berlioz, Saint-Saens and more

GADSDEN, AL, October 26, 2020 - - The 2020-2021 season of the Etowah Youth Orchestras opens on Sunday, November 1 with the EYO Fall Formal Concert, presented by The Daniel Foundation of Alabama and Gadsden Parks and Recreation. The performance will be held at the Mort Glosser Amphitheatre, located at 336 South 1st Street in downtown Gadsden. The 2 PM performance will feature the EYO’s three after-school ensembles — the Etowah Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Etowah Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Etowah String Sinfonia.

The Youth Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of EYO Music Director Michael R. Gagliardo, will perform three works celebrating significant composer anniversaries during 2020. Beethoven’s *Fidelio* Overture celebrates the 250th anniversary of his birth, while Franz Lehar’s “Vilia” from *The Merry Widow* pays tribute to the 150th anniversary of his birth. The program also includes the “March to the Scaffold” movement of Berlioz’s *Symphonie Fantastique* and Gagliardo’s own work, “Bright Shiny Morning,” which was commissioned by the Alton (IL) Youth Symphony and premiered in 2019.

The Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, which is under the direction of EYO Assistant Conductor Deborah Boos, features Saint-Saens “Gloria and Alleluia,” which is performed to mark the 200th anniversary of the passing of the composer which occurs next year. The Philharmonic will also perform Florida composer Alan Moss’ *Forest Fantasy Suite*, which was first commissioned and performed by the Etowah Youth Symphony Orchestra in 1998. The work, which is comprised of eight short movements, is a descriptive piece that paints a musical portrait of familiar forest characters.

The String Sinfonia, under the direction of EYO Assistant Conductor Bryce Anderson, will feature music by Quincy Hilliard, Richard Bell and Beethoven, including Beethoven’s “Pastoral Symphony” from his Symphony No. 6 in F Major.

Tickets for the EYO Fall Formal Concert are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors (ages 60 and up), and \$8 for students (ages 3-18 and college students with a valid student ID). Students 2 and younger are free. Tickets are available online at www.culturalarts.com/boxoffice and in person at the front desk of the Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts. Tickets may also be purchased at the Mort Glosser Amphitheatre box office on the day of the performance, beginning one hour prior to the concert.

PLEASE NOTE: The only entry gate is at the top (near Convention Hall). All shows are general admission. Please sit at an appropriate social distance from members of other households. The top entrance and terrace are handicap accessible. Unfortunately, the restrooms are not handicap accessible. Your email confirmation is your ticket. You may show it to the usher on your smartphone or bring a printed copy. Please gather your entire party and enter together. EVERYONE 7 and OLDER MUST WEAR A MASK. Coolers, chairs, blankets, and umbrellas are welcome. We encourage you to enjoy the magic of a live performance instead of watching it through your smartphone while recording, but non-flash photography is allowed.

The Etowah Youth Orchestra is a project of the Gadsden Cultural Arts Foundation, in partnership with the Attalla City, Etowah County, and Gadsden City Boards of Education and the City of Gadsden.