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Dear GMYS Family,

This is the time of year we reflect on all of our blessings and accomplishments. More importantly, we reflect on where we have been and where we are going. This season took us on an adventure with the-unprecedented circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. We were forced to be incredibly creative and innovated with our programming. As always, using musical repertoire as our guide, students explored big ideas: the importance of seeing beyond the surface; the meaning of multiple perspectives; and the value of developing "expert noticer" skills all while creating high quality virtual and hybrid performances. This season, while difficult in many ways, allowed us to explore life more deeply through music and grow an even deeper appreciation for the experience of live performance, which is greatly missed.

Thanks to caring individuals like you, GMYS provides a unique environment for learning and expression. For 63 years the explorations of GMYS have led to both musical excellence and new discoveries beyond the concert experience. Since the pandemic began, we have accomplished so much. It began with our Virtual Night Out experience in April, the Facebook Music Festival in May and a virtual summer camp packed with music learning, virtual field trips, fitness, literacy, master classes, and student collaboration opportunities with students across the United States and the world – all culminating in an end of summer showcase at a local drive-in movie theater.

This fall the excitement continued. We began to transition rehearsals back to in-person small groups and the magic of making music together once again brought us to life. In November, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) broadcasted GMYS's collaborative virtual performance of "America the Beautiful" during the historic launch of an Earth-observing satellite, which will closely monitor sea level and provide atmospheric data to support weather forecasting and climate models. We are ending the year with three Holiday performances sure to excite performers and audiences alike. Look for the Winter Festival, a hybrid event on December 12th; Night of Lights, an in-person event on December 19th; and a dual language virtual storytime of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" on December 23rd.

5275 Sunset Drive | Miami, FL 33143 | P: 305.667.4069 | F: 305.402.0272 | www.gmys.org

The Greater Miami Youth Symphony is funded in part by the Children's Trust. The Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County. GMYS is also supported in part by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners; Cultural Affairs Program and Cultural Arts Council, the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, Batchelor Foundation, Ocean Reef Club, and Miami Salon Group. Dedicated to increasing the participation of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Regardless of the circumstances, each GMYS season is built around the goals of building the whole child, and repertoire is selected for its aesthetic quality, artistic significance, and potential to teach aspects of history, literature, cultural theory, philosophy, worldview, and aesthetic trends.

Why does GMYS take such great care in developing its programming season after season? The reason is simple—our youth are our legacy. The future of our community rests in the hearts and minds of young people. Art helps build perspective and enables us to explore endless possibilities for discovery. Through GMYS programming, students learn more about themselves and the world around them. Students develop artistically and technically while being prepared for a future of complex ideas, creative risk-taking, and leadership as global citizens.

We know you believe in the power of art to shape our youth. To help ensure the success and vibrancy of our communities, please consider making a donation to GMYS today through our website at gmys.org. Tuition covers only a small percentage of our budget, and we rely on the generous support of donors like you to make up the difference in delivering the programming we value.

If you are already a supporter, THANK YOU! If you would like to learn more about us, we encourage you to attend a concert, tour a rehearsal, or simply schedule a time to chat. We'd love to hear from you!

Thank you for your support and have a wonderful holiday season!

Gratefully,



Jessica Munch-Dittmar
Executive Director
Greater Miami Youth Symphony
A Total Community Project
jmunch-dittmar@gmys.org
(305) 667-4069

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