

BYSO

Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras

Federico Cortese, Music Director



WHAT DO WE DO?

WHO ARE WE?

Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO) is one of the most prestigious, comprehensive and remarkable youth orchestras in the nation.

Our programmatic scope includes:

- exceptional musical training
- orchestras, ensembles, chamber music groups
- full-length opera performances
- challenging repertoire
- programs for young children
- opportunities for underrepresented youth

BYSO has had the privilege of fostering the personal and artistic growth of New England's youth for over 60 years.

“[BYSO] was a familial experience. We learned to uplift one another during tough rehearsals and preparation... We were taught the joy of shared success through our music.”

BYSO develops **excellence in youth through classical music**. Our many programs:

- ignite a lifelong passion for excellence
- foster artistic and personal growth
- offer unparalleled access to exceptional teachers, coaches and mentors
- develop discipline, perseverance, curiosity, self-confidence, teamwork and leadership skills
- provide access, training and support to underrepresented youth via our Intensive Community Program (ICP)
- promote achievement in all areas of life
- create long-lasting friendships
- contribute to the vibrance and culture of our community





WHO DO WE SERVE?

BYSO directly serves annually **more than 600 children**, ages 4-18, from all six New England states and over 120 Massachusetts communities.

Each year, we present more than 20 performances in some of Boston's finest venues, including Symphony Hall and Harvard University's Sanders Theatre. Students also perform in numerous free community concerts in Boston neighborhoods.

In 1998, BYSO founded our **Intensive Community Program (ICP)** to serve students of color, including African American, Latinx, Caribbean, and other populations historically underrepresented in the study of classical music.

Our ICP students:

- spend on average 10 years in the program by the time they graduate
- 100% graduate from high school
- 100% enroll in a 2-year or 4-year college

Since 2010 we have welcomed 200,000+ audience members to our performances!



“My audition for ICP was the first audition of my life, but I wasn’t anxious. Instead, I was buzzing with excitement and curiosity about this world of music that I had always wondered about, but never had a way in.”

OUR GOALS, OUR FUTURE

At BYSO, we believe an exceptional music education has the power to change lives.

In 2021, we will embark on a campaign to secure and build our new permanent home: the **BYSO Youth Center for Music**.

Located at 235 Huntington Avenue, in the heart of Boston, the center will serve as a hub for innovative music education and artistic excellence. The BYSO Youth Center for Music will enable us to:

- provide more rehearsal rooms and spaces for our growing orchestras
- expand our nationally-recognized Intensive Community Program (ICP)
- expand cutting-edge educational opportunities, partnerships and weekday programming for our students
- engage our community, expose more young people to classical music and inspire new audiences

BYSO YOUTH CENTER FOR MUSIC



OUR PLANS

THE PROJECT

Since its inception in 1958, BYSO's programs have been housed in-residence at Boston University, where we have occupied rehearsal spaces and classrooms one day a week. But we have long outgrown this space, and without a dedicated place to call our own, it has been challenging to establish the roots and community presence our organization needs.

In 2021 we will begin the exciting project of establishing our new permanent home: the BYSO Youth Center for Music.

The building, at 235 Huntington Avenue, sits on a historic landmark plaza, across the street from Symphony Hall, in the heart of Boston. BYSO will transform this venue into a center for innovative music education and world-class artistic excellence: a beacon for young musicians all around Boston. Our center will offer an enriching and stimulating environment where children and teens can work, play and grow—and develop into the next generation of community leaders.

To move toward our goals, BYSO will:

- purchase the building at 235 Huntington Avenue in Boston
- add 10 new rehearsal rooms
- renovate the large auditorium, smaller rehearsal room, expansive lobby, gathering and storage spaces
- create a permanent home for our Intensive Community Program (ICP)
- expand partnerships, cutting-edge educational opportunities and weekday programming for our students
- create a permanent fund to cover our annual operating costs
- establish ourselves as a Boston institution, with doors that open to all
- lay the groundwork for BYSO's vision for expanded programs, extended reach and greater community impact

“BYSO taught me how to be a musician. But they also taught me how to work with others, how to be a teacher, and most importantly, how to be a leader.”

