

ENCORE DIRECTOR



Michael Zellgert attended University of Wisconsin-Superior, where he studied violin performance and conducting, including both choral and orchestral technique with Diane Balko and David Scott. He received conducting mentoring under Markand Thakar (Peabody Institute) and Yong-Yan Hu (Shanghai Broadcast Symphony).

Michael has served as the music director with community orchestras, and he has been a guest conductor with several regional orchestras including the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra, Amadeus Chamber Symphony, and Heartland Symphony Orchestra. His interest in music education has led him to conduct string sectionals and clinics for university and high school orchestras, adjudicate regional auditions for solo/ensembles and camps, and conduct regional festivals and camps, including Interlochen Camp for the Arts and the Mark O'Connor Festival in 2024.

Michael maintains a private studio, is a member of the Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra and the St. Cloud String Quartet, and is the artistic director and a founder of the Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra and Central Minnesota Community Orchestra.

PRELUDE & CADENZA DIRECTOR



Rhonda Johnson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from St. Cloud State University. For numerous years she attended the American Suzuki Institute at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point earning certifications in the Suzuki Method of Talent Education. Johnson began her teaching career by heading the Elk River Area Arts Council's Strings for Youth program. Johnson has been an active member of the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra for the past 36 years and has performed with many Central Minnesota ensembles such as the Bethlehem Chamber Orchestra, Amadeus Chamber Symphony, Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra, Quite Light Opera Company, The St.

Cloud String Quartet, and the Johnson family trio, Trio d'archi.

Johnson has also enjoyed opportunities performing outside the 'classical' realm on violin, viola, and cello. She was recruited to be a member of the string quartet backing up music legend Bobby Vee for the fundraiser Rockin' Round the Clock. This led to her also performing in Bobby's Christmas shows throughout the region, playing at Big Top Chautauqua in Washburn, Wisconsin with Bobby and Buddy Holly's band The Crickets, and at 50 Winters Later in Clear Lake, Iowa, in 2009 with Bobby Vee, The Crickets, and Pat DiNizio of the Smithereens. Johnson has also performed the Bridge Over Troubled Water and PetSounds albums with local band Collective Unconscious, With a Little Help from Our Friends, music of The Beatles with Revolution 5, the music of Meat Loaf with Grant Haake and the Fifth Avenue Revue. She has also performed with Anthony Shore and His All-Star Band featuring the music of Elvis.

In 2009, Johnson and her husband opened their own music store, Johnsons' Violins, in St. Cloud to keep string playing alive in Central Minnesota. Johnson teaches in her own private studio and with the St. Cloud Suzuki Studio, and she taught in the area public and parochial schools for 32 years. She serves as conductor with the annual Mississippi String Camp and as an instructor/conductor for the Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra and previously Crow River Area Youth Orchestra.



Music of the World: Symphonic Expressions

Sunday, April 6, 2025 | First United Methodist Church

Ensembles:

Cadenza

Intermezzo

Encore

Directors & Instructors:

Rhonda Johnson, Prelude/Cadenza

Noah Braun, Intermezzo

Michael Zellgert, Encore/Artistic Director

INTERMEZZO DIRECTOR

Meet CMYO's New Director!



Noah Braun has a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Cloud State University in Music Theory and Composition, where he studied cello with Hong Wang, Pablo Mahave Veglia, and Adriana Ransom and composition with Melissa Krause and Scott Miller. He earned his Master of Music degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder in Composition, studying with Richard Toensing and Carter Pann. He holds a current teaching degree for K-12 Instrumental and Classroom Music in the state of Minnesota. Braun currently teaches Orchestra at North Junior High and Making Music at South Junior High in St. Cloud.

Braun serves as Principal Cello with the Amadeus Chamber Symphony and performs with the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra, Monticello Community Strings, and with other ensembles in the Central Minnesota region. He previously served as Music Director of the Crow River Area Youth Orchestra and remains an active composer, currently composing mostly for school orchestra and community ensembles.

OUTREACH COORDINATOR



Jamie Sunder holds a full-time position at Mary of Lourdes Middle School in Little Falls, where she has served as Administrative Assistant since 2010. In 2022, she was excited to join the Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra as Outreach Coordinator.

Originally from New Jersey, Jamie moved to Los Angeles at a young age. There her love for orchestra began when she took up violin as an elementary school student. In the year 2000, Jamie and her family moved to Minnesota, where she re-ignited her love for playing violin as an adult. She enjoys playing with the St. Francis Orchestra, St. Francis Chamber Orchestra, Central Minnesota Community Orchestra, and Heartland Symphony, often playing with her youngest son, a violist.

THANK YOU for Making CMYO's Mission Possible!

2024—2025

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Check out the live stream for this concert!

Some of the CMYO students shared their personal thoughts about themselves and CMYO experiences!

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Consider getting involved! Talk with Jamie, a board member, or ensemble director for more information! More info coming soon!

Remember to invite your friends to join CMYO for the next concert!

Remember to register at <http://www.cmyo.org>

Registration & Audition Acceptance begin end of April!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra extends a thank you to all those who help ensure the program's success...

This includes the parents, volunteers, donors, sponsors, grantors, and so many more.

Thank you to the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University and First United Methodist Church for their generous hospitality and use of the facilities.



Thank you to Todd Rosso & Andrew Zellgert for audio and video recording for today's performance.

CMYO Board of Directors

John Johnson, President

Noah Braun, Secretary

Hans Mersinger, Treasurer

Kris Stover, Board of Director

Derrick Johnson, Board of Director

Do you want to help with CMYO's mission? We are in need of more board members and community outreach. Do you have other talents that could help? Let us know!



the Central MN Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund."

CMYO Students

Cadenza

Violin

Carter Moreland

George Chung

Isabella Van Vooren

Roger Barrett

-Anika Van Vooren

- Lydia Prout

Viola

+Sophia Kufalk

-Alex Rodriguez

Cello

Calvin Gould

Intermezzo

Violin

Emma Koehntop

*Jonathan Zellgert

Sam Ringwald

Selah Zahasky

*Silas Gould

Viola

Olive Rosso

*Jonah Zahasky

+Sophia Kufalk

Cello

*Simon Kufalk

Bass

+Kim Van Vooren

Encore

Violin

*Anika Van Vooren

**Drew Zahasky

Hoang Chung

*Lily Rosso

**Lydia Prout

Nina Prout

Ofelia Jorgenson

**Paul Sandberg

Rebecca Schoenhard

Viola

*Alex Rodriguez

*Emmaline Bushman

Ethan Sunder

*Gloria Miller

Cello

Ben Zahasky

*Sujin Braun

+Marianne Zitzewitz

Bass

+Kim Van Vooren

Thank You Mentors!

Laura Dahl

Kim Van Vooren

Marianne Zitzewitz

Sophia Kufalk

+ Adult Mentor

- Student Mentor

** Concertmaster

* Section Principal

MISSION

"To provide a unique orchestral experience leading to performances that shape, educate, and inspire lives of the developing musicians in the communities of Central Minnesota."

A "Special Thank You" to our weekly volunteers and mentors!

PROGRAM

4:30 pm Performance

Cadenza *beginning orchestra*

Burst! Brian Balmages

Suite for Spring Richard Bell

1. Rain
2. Flowers
3. Trees

Finale from Symphony No. 5 Ludwig van Beethoven
arr. Richard Meyer

Intermezzo *intermediate orchestra*

Woodsplitter Fanfare Brian Balmages

Mythos Soon Hee Newbold

Such Sweet Sorrow Jeremy Woolstenhulme

Ignite Kathryn Griesinger

Collaborative Piece *all ensembles*

Golden Grove Brian Balmages

Rhonda Johnson, Collaborative Director

Thank you school directors for your support!

PROGRAM

Encore *advanced orchestra*

Messiah Overture G. F. Handel
Grave Allegro Moderato

Sinfonia Concertante K. 364, Allegro Maestoso W.A. Mozart
Drew Zahasky, violin Alex Rodriguez, viola

Symphony No. 25 in g minor K. 183 W.A. Mozart
Allegro con brio
Andante
Menuetto/Trio
Allegro

Woodwinds & Brass

Oboe	Bassoon	Horn	
Brendon Bushman	Adrian DeVos	David Gouker	Scott Campbell
		Patty Diederichs	Terry Deming

Area Events Coming Soon!

St Cloud Symphony's Young Performer Competition

Grand Prize Winner: Arriana Schwab, CMYO Alumna

April 26 2025 @ 7:30 pm

St Cloud State University: Ritsche Auditorium

Mississippi Strings Camp

June 9 to 13, 2025

Apollo High School, St Cloud