



# ACYO NEWSLETTER

September 2011

*ACYO Schedule*  
**2011-2012**  
*Mark Your Calendars!*

ACYO rehearsals are  
Sunday nights  
from 5:30-8:00pm

The ACYO Board meets on  
the first Sunday of each  
month during rehearsal.

Sunday, Dec 11th, 2011  
Phillips Center

For the Performing Arts:  
(Report in AM per Prof.  
Langford)

Holiday Tradition/Stop  
Children's Cancer Concert  
at 4:00 pm  
&

ACYO Winter Concert  
7:30 pm (Free)

Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
University Auditorium  
ACYO Spring Concert  
7:00 pm (Free)

(Dress rehearsal will be  
Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2012  
From 9:00am until noon)

Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Meet the Orchestra Concert  
Phillips Center  
9:30 am

There will be no rehearsal:  
After December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
(resume Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012)  
April 1<sup>st</sup> - (spring break)

Note-there will be rehearsal  
on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Watch this space  
each month for  
calendar updates!



## Notes from the President

Congratulations to both new and returning members. We're all looking forward to another wonderful year of music making and fun with this special orchestra.

I hope you will find useful information about the upcoming season in this first newsletter of the year. If you have any questions about something not covered, please do not hesitate to ask a board member or our conductor, Prof. Langford. (Information about the Board, including the elections to be held at **Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Parent Meeting**, is provided later in this Newsletter; an organizational meeting of the Board will take place following the Parent Meeting at which officers will be elected for the year.)

Please note that from time to time information including our monthly newsletter will be sent to you via e-mail using the address you provided on the audition forms. (A couple of years ago, for example, e-mail was used about cancellation of rehearsal due to weather—we hope to not be repeating that kind of communication, but this possibility highlights the importance of being able to reach you by e-mail.) Please look for a test e-mail in the next few weeks from our membership secretary; if you don't receive one, send an e-mail to Ching Zhou at [fl.acyo@gmail.com](mailto:fl.acyo@gmail.com) with your correct address. Also, refer to our website [www.acyo.org](http://www.acyo.org).

The most favorable climate for the hard work of our student musicians and Prof. Langford is created through the volunteer activities of parents in connection with both rehearsals, such as Pizza Night, and, Minuet Meals, (if as discussed herein there is enough parent interest to make it viable this year) and in the important help provided by parents backstage in connection with our concerts and receptions. Some of the major volunteer opportunities are discussed in this newsletter and will be talked about at our parent meeting on September 11th and in future newsletters and/or e-mails. This is **your ACYO**, and a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization such as ours is only as strong as the broad base of commitments of time, energy and talents by all of its members.

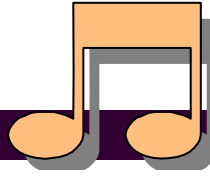
Sincerely,

Ken Zeichner, [ksz98@yahoo.com](mailto:ksz98@yahoo.com)

## Welcome from the Conductor

Congratulations to all ACYO musicians, both new and returning! Each year at this time, with the future unknown and the past as a firm foundation, I am always excited about the upcoming season. Only you and I and your parents are aware of the amount of work, dedication and commitment necessary to maintain the level of excellence that has been established by those who have gone before you. With an extremely limited amount of rehearsal time I am always amazed at how the orchestra rises to each and every occasion. Our first major concert is December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM for Stop! Children's Cancer in the Phillips Center. With a choir of 120 voices, many new orchestra members and the many logistical concerns, it is always a challenging and full day for a very worthy cause. Not to mention our own concert that same evening at 7:30. Each year presents a challenge for each of us, you as a performer and I as your conductor. It is only through hard work, effective individual practice, and productive weekly ensemble rehearsals that we can meet these challenges. Regardless of what part you play or what chair you occupy, each of you is an integral part of the orchestra and upon whose shoulders the success of the orchestra rests. **Do not take this responsibility lightly!** The rewards for excellence in the performance of music, whatever the genre is one of life's greatest joys, and the icing on the cake is the joy that you bring to those who hear you. All of you are very special and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to work with you, see you mature as a person and a musician, and to share in this very important and rewarding endeavor.

Gary Langford, Conductor, [glangford@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:glangford@arts.ufl.edu)



September 2011

### Safety Tips For Youth Orchestra Students

It will soon be dark when students leave the UF Music Building after ACYO practice on Sunday evenings. For safety reasons, students who drive are being asked to use the "buddy system" when walking to your cars in the parking lot. Please find one or more ACYO students to walk with. If you see an ACYO student walking alone, invite them to join your group. Be sure each person gets to his or her car safely. **Possible parking locations include the spaces behind Tigert Hall (main entrance off 13th St) or the parking garage across from the Campus Police Station.**

The UF website on student safety gives several additional recommendations about parking/driving on campus:

- Lock all doors and close all windows when leaving your car.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Have your keys ready as you approach your car.

- Look in the front and back seats for intruders before entering, and lock the doors immediately after getting into your car.
- On your way to the parking area, avoid shortcuts through isolated areas.
- Walk purposefully, confidently, and be alert to your surroundings.
- If needed, there are blue emergency phones on campus. You may also call 392-SNAP to request an escort instead of walking alone in the dark. SNAP is a student operated night time escort service sponsored by the UF student government and University Police Department.

If you have any questions/concerns please speak with Mr. Langford

Thanks for your attention. We look forward to another safe and successful year with ACYO!

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## Everything you need to know ... at ACYO.org !!!

The ACYO website is the place to go when you have a question! The web address is <http://www.acyo.org>, the Monthly Newsletter will be posted on the ACYO website at <http://www.acyo.org/newsletter.htm>. Please take some time to go and explore the site. The more you use the site the more you will discover information that should be added. We are interested in adding pictures of members and orchestra activities. On the Announcement page we would also like to list studio and senior recitals and upcoming community music events. We are also looking for additional music links for the Links Page.

The posting of pictures and issues regarding privacy and identification of individuals on the website has been extensively discussed by the Board of Directors which has developed a privacy policy. In brief this policy states that orchestra members' names and contact information will not be posted on the site. This policy is waived when someone wishes to place an announcement of a musical event such as a senior recital. Pictures offered for posting that feature identifiable faces must be accompanied by signed releases for everyone in the picture. To obtain a copy of the policy or picture release, submit text or pictures or make general suggestions about the site please contact Ken Zeichner at [ksz98@yahoo.com](mailto:ksz98@yahoo.com).

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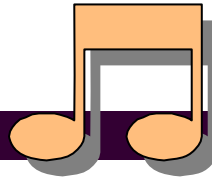
### From the Editor:

Welcome to all new and returning members!

The deadline for submitting articles to the ACYO Newsletter is 12 Noon of the Wednesday immediately preceding the 2nd Sunday of the month. The newsletter will be sent electronically the 2nd Sunday of each month with limited paper copies provided at rehearsal. You may email me with your text and/or pictures. The next deadline is Wed, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Wei Xi ([wei\\_x2000@yahoo.com](mailto:wei_x2000@yahoo.com))





## *Volunteer Opportunities ... "WE NEED YOU!"*

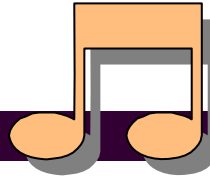
### Volunteers Needed for "Who Wants Pizza ???"

On the first Sunday of each month, pizza, cookies, soda and juice are provided free for the ACYO students. In order to rotate a team every other month and spread the work out, we need 10 to 12 volunteers. On pizza days, we set up tables, get ice, fix drinks, pick up around 20 pizzas and serve about 80 ravenous (but polite) teenagers with a smile. Clean-up is very easy because there is nothing left to clean. The only things they haven't eaten are the tables and the boxes! We start setting up about 5:45 pm and we are usually finished by around 7:00 or 7:15. To volunteer to help or for more info, please sign up at the parent's meeting or contact **Brenda Helvey** at [sbmhelvey@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbmhelvey@bellsouth.net) or at 352-472-4832

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### "MINUET MEALS" at Rehearsal Break ?

**Do parents want to volunteer for Minuet Meals?** Several years ago, some parents initiated "Minuet Meals" to provide a nutritious snack at rehearsal break on the 20 or so rehearsal Nights from Sept. through April when pizza is not provided. This involved 2 or 3 parents volunteering each night to prepare and serve 30-35 small servings of food, bringing the food along with bowls or plates, spoons or forks, etc to serve at rehearsal break around 6:30 pm. Last year, the parent coordinating this found it difficult to get the two or three parents per night needed to sign-up to provide food on all of the evenings and no one volunteered to take over coordination of this. Therefore in May the Board of Directors sent out a survey to the 58 families with students who were not graduating to find out the level of interest in continuing "minuet meals", or alternatives including having pizza provided at all rehearsal breaks instead with increased dues to cover the additional cost as well as additional volunteers to help with pizza nights, just selling purchased snacks & drinks at break, or not provide any organized snack on non-pizza nights and letting students bring their own purchase something from a vending machine if they wanted. Of the 24 responses to the survey received, 10 indicated wanting to continue doing "Minuet Meals", 7 indicated preference for pizza on all nights, and 3 preferred either making packaged snacks and drinks available for sale or not providing anything. Based on this split response, the Board of Directors decided that **if parents want to continue "Minuet Meals" that would depend on the level of volunteer interest among parents signing up to do this at the annual parent Meeting and if there were not enough volunteers to cover all nights, then it would be provided *only* on the nights for which enough volunteers signed up to do so.**



## Orchestra Concert

### Dress

#### Women:

- *Black full-length skirt*, NO side or front slits; or
- *black dressy pants*, (NO jeans) and
- *black blouse*, (NO midriff showing), or
- *Black full-length dress*. NO side or front slits.
- *Black dress shoes and black hose*.

ALL dresses and blouse tops MUST have defined sleeves, 3/4 length, or long.

#### Men:

- *Black dress pants*, (NO jeans)
- *Black dress shoes*, (NO sneakers, athletic shoes)
- *Black socks*
- *White tuxedo shirt with pleated front*.
- *Black tie and cummerbund (you provide)*.

## Orchestra Dues

If you have not already done so, please be sure to pay your annual Orchestra Dues. The amount is \$160 per orchestra member. Families with more than one member pay \$80 for each additional musician. These dues help pay for our conductor, Gary Langford, pay for music, and pay for rental of concert spaces, so it is important that we receive the dues from you ASAP. Please pay by check or money order payable to "ACYO", write your child's name in the memo space, fill out the

2011-2012 ACYO Dues and Donation form attached to the back of this newsletter and submit the check and the form to our treasurer or conductor Gary Langford. If you have questions, contact Gary Langford at [glangford@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:glangford@arts.ufl.edu). (Note, need-based scholarships reducing the dues to \$40 are available to those who provide documentation from their school of eligibility for free or reduced lunch.)

## Donations

ACYO's dues do not cover all of our costs. Fortunately, over the years, grants and donations have helped to supplement dues. The results of grant applications are unpredictable though, and ACYO does not require members to engage in fundraising activities required for many school band booster organizations (e.g., "fair share" cookie dough sales, etc.) In-lieu of such fundraising, tax-deductible donations above the dues are welcomed. If you or someone you know would like to make such a tax-deductible donation, please make out a separate check to ACYO, indicating "donation" in the memo and on the payment form provided in the back of this newsletter.

## CONCERT CDs!

Concerts for the 2011–2012 year will be recorded and will be available for sale for sale. Proceeds benefit ACYO. Order forms will be made available prior to concerts for your convenience.

## All-State Info

Parents of those members meet State Music Association requirements, who timely submitted their applications and fees to their school band/music directors, may wish to meet after the ACYO Parent Meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> to attempt to coordinate on the audition and other aspects of this year's All-State Orchestra process. All-State Band candidates must make arrangements per each schools band director.

## ACYO Tee's !!

Buy your t-shirts Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at the annual membership meeting.

Short sleeves - \$10.00  
Long sleeves - \$15.00

Short and long sleeved shirts are available in various sizes and designs.





## Board of Directors Elections at Sept 11th Parents Meeting

The Board of Directors of our independent non-profit corporation is made up of members serving 2 year terms. Parent nominees for new 2 year term running from September 2011 through the parent meeting in September 2013 will be voted on at the September 11, 2011 annual meeting. The nominating committee has identified the following list of nominees for election to serve new 2 year terms.

### Parents of orchestra participants:

Irma Alvarez  
Melanie Hagen  
Charlene Krueger

Chris Sagabiel  
Ken Zeichner

### Appointed Member for Ratification

**Alachua County Public Schools:** Todd Eckstein

The floor will be open to additional nominations at the September 11th parent meeting. Those elected on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> will join the following members who are returning to serve out the 2nd year of their current 2 year terms:

**Parents-** Janet Brownstein, Brenda Helvey, Jay Mahajan, Roger Swanger, Wei Xi,  
Ching Zhou

**Members at large:** Eva Dimitrov

**Appointed Director-** Ed Klein ( Gainesville Music Teachers Assn);  
Steven Thomas ( UF School of Music)

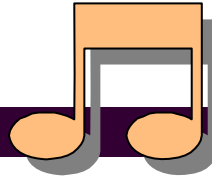
Board Officers for the 2011-2012 year will be elected at the Board organizational meeting on Sept. 11th following the Parent meeting.

THE  
**Alachua County Youth Orchestra**

PO Box 14313  
University Station  
Gainesville, FL 32604  
<http://www.ACYO.org>



Gary Langford, Conductor and Music Director  
[glangford@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:glangford@arts.ufl.edu)



# ACYO Dues and Donations 2011-2012

## Form to Submit With Check Sept 11<sup>th</sup> or Mail-in

ACYO dues for 2011-2012 year:

1st child: \$160.00

2nd child: \$80.00

Need-Based Scholarship: \$40.00 (provide documentation from school of eligibility for free/reduced lunch).

Checks or money order may be made payable to: "ACYO" (write name of student(s) in memo portion of the check)

Dues payment: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of children in ACYO:

\_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to contribute an additional tax deductible donation to help with the orchestra expenses you may add any amount to your dues check.

Dues payment \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Check no. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred email \_\_\_\_\_

*Bring Completed form and check or money order to parent meeting on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 or Mail completed form and check to:*

*Alachua County Youth Orchestra  
PO Box 14313  
University Station  
Gainesville, FL 32604*

*(or bring to Prof.Langford at rehearsal)*