

**Artistic Music Director  
Principal Conductor  
Dr. Cheri Collins**



Cheri Collins, D.A., graduated from the **Manhattan School of Music** in New York City, where she earned a Bachelor of Performance on Violin. While attending the Manhattan School of Music on full scholarship, she was one of two freshmen violinists chosen that year to study with Raphael Bronstein.

After graduation, Dr. Collins worked in São Paulo, Brazil, playing first violin in the **São Paulo Symphony**. She also played first violin with the **Florida Orchestra** in

Tampa, Florida, before moving to Northern Virginia to begin a varied and successful freelance career.

From 1990 to the present, Dr. Collins' career has focused on her passion for teaching. She completed a Masters degree in Conducting and a Doctor of Arts degree in Higher Education and Violin Performance at George Mason University. Her Dissertation, *Connecting Science and the Musical Arts in Teaching Tone Quality: Integrating Helmholtz Motion and Master Violin Teachers' Pedagogies*, focuses on the physics of the vibrating string and its relationship to tone production.

Dr. Collins concluded her nine years as conductor of the **American Youth String Ensemble** in 2011 to join **TCSYO** as **Artistic Music Director/Principal Conductor**.

**Music for Life**  
Quality • Inspiration Excellence • Success

**The Capitol Symphonic  
Youth Orchestras**  
3240 Fox Mill Road  
Oakton, VA 22124  
703-638-9328



[www.tcsyo.org](http://www.tcsyo.org)

**The Capitol Symphonic  
Youth Orchestras**



**SYMPHONIC  
ORCHESTRA**

Strings, Woodwind, Brass  
Percussion, Harp

**CHAMBER  
ORCHESTRA**

Strings Only

**PRELUDE  
ORCHESTRA**

Strings Only

**2017/18  
Season**

[www.tcsyo.org](http://www.tcsyo.org)

**T  
C  
S  
Y  
O**

## PRELUDE ORCHESTRA

TCSYO's **PRELUDE ORCHESTRA** provide elementary and middle school string students with their first exposure to high level string orchestra training. Students must read music and have at least two years of private lessons on their instrument.



TCSYO's **PRELUDE ORCHESTRA** season includes weekly rehearsals, sectionals and performances at local concert halls. The orchestra is designed to introduce and put into practice the foundations of string orchestra playing. Students continuously work on ensemble playing, and specific bowing techniques, such as spiccato, martelé, hooked bowings and legato.

Students will perform for family, friends and the community.

All musicians must pass an audition to be accepted. Auditions are required and will be scheduled after a completed registration form has been received.

### Rehearsals:

**Lanier Middle School, Fairfax, Virginia  
Monday evenings 7-8:30 PM**



Mrs. Collins graduated Magna Cum Laude from Boston University with a Bachelor of Music and is currently finishing her Masters in Music Education at George Mason University. She started her music training early on the piano, but then switched to cello as her choice instrument at the age of 9. She has

performed and was featured as a soloist at multiple venues such as Carnegie Hall, Symphony Hall and Kennedy Center. She obtained numerous awards from many competitions including a Grand Prize from the Third International New Praise for Piano and Strings. Mrs. Collins currently directs and oversees over 200 students at Longfellow Middle School in Falls Church, VA, receiving superior ratings at participating competitions and state assessments.

[www.tcsyo.org/application.php](http://www.tcsyo.org/application.php)

## CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



The **CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** is one of the most sought-after musical destinations for aspiring young string students.

TCSYO's **CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** is open to string students ranging in age from 12 to 16 from public and private schools who have had at least four years of private instruction on their instrument.

**Artistic Music Director/Conductor Dr. Cheri Collins** teaches a fun and enriching curriculum for students, with a focus on music making, ensemble playing, technical instruction and preparation for future work in TCSYO's **SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA**. Leadership skills will be fostered to encourage students to enhance their school string orchestra programs. Dedicated, professional musicians from the greater Washington D.C. area will provide sectionals and share their expertise with students.

Students will perform three concerts during the season for family, friends and the community.

Participation is based on an audition in which the prospective student must perform an appropriate solo, scales, sight-reading and orchestral excerpts during the **Final Round**. Auditions are required and will be scheduled after a completed registration form has been received.

**Rehearsals: Lanier Middle School, Fairfax, Virginia  
Tuesday evenings 7-9:00 PM.**



[www.tcsyo.org/application.php](http://www.tcsyo.org/application.php)

## SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA

The **SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA** is the premier orchestra of The Capitol Symphonic Youth Orchestras. Literature includes works with artistic challenges for the collegiate-level player and explores the rich and exciting repertoire for Full Orchestra.

Members of the **SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA** range in age from 14 to 18 and are chosen through competitive auditions held each spring.

The **SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA** separates itself from other youth orchestras in the Washington D.C. area through its unique rehearsal configuration. It alternates weeks of intense sectionals during the first half of the rehearsal, at which time the **woodwind, brass and percussion** sections work with **TCSYO's Artistic Specialists**.

The **string** students benefit from these sessions as well working with **Violinist/Conductor Dr. Cheri Collins** on ensemble playing techniques, left-hand fluency, and right-hand music making, giving students the opportunity to achieve a high level of musicianship over the shortest period of time. **TCSYO's distinct focus** is on student learning and giving our musicians a commanding perception of orchestral ensemble playing.

Participation is based on an audition in which the prospective student must perform an appropriate solo, orchestral excerpts, scales and sight-reading. Auditions will be scheduled after a completed registration form has been received.

**Rehearsals: Lanier Middle School, Fairfax, Virginia  
Monday evenings 7-9:30 PM.**

The **Preliminary Round** of auditions (students new to TCSYO and *current members* who want to advance) is held in May. The **Final Round** of auditions is held in June.



[www.tcsyo.org/application.php](http://www.tcsyo.org/application.php)