

**Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request Form for
Discretionary Grant Requests**

This form must be completed and attached to all supporting documentation for items to be included in the Garfield County Board of Commissioners Agenda. One (1) form is required per agenda item.

Note: The BOCC occasionally receives requests for funding through its discretionary fund. Entities that are eligible for funds are either non-profit organizations with current 501(c)3 status or are public entities including special districts. All such requests must be for bonafide public purposes, must be for **\$5,000 or less**, and usually require matching funds after the grant is awarded.

Requesting Entity (public or non-profit): Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra - a program of the Roaring Fork Music Society non-profit

Submitted By: Sarah Graf

Phone Number: 970-306-1235 E-mail: rfyouthorchestra@gmail.com

Date of Board of County Commissioners Meeting to consider this item: May 4, 2026
(Must be submitted by **Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.** prior to Monday meeting)

Topic of Request: The Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra brings together 100 students, ages 5-18, to learn how to play and perform as an orchestra. Our goal is to make instrumental music affordable and accessible for the youth of our region and to present free public performances in our rural communities.

Name(s) of presenters: Sarah Graf

Board Action Requested: Grant funding for the Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra program

Funding Requested: \$ \$5,000

Specifically explain what the funding will be used for: The Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra program, including need-based scholarships for students

Fund Balance (Current Year): \$ \$44,884 Current P&L Statement attached
(Please provide summary of current year P&L Statement)

PLEASE PROVIDE: Seven (7) paper copies and one (1) E-mail copy of all documentation to support the agenda request to **Volta Mercer**, email: vmercerc@garfieldcountyco.gov or mail to 108 8th Street, #101, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601, no later than Wednesday, 11 a.m. prior to the Monday meeting. Failure to provide backup material timely and as requested may result in removal or continuance of your agenda item at the County's discretion.

Mission Statement

The Roaring Fork Music Society is dedicated to making orchestral and traditional music education and performances accessible and affordable to the youth and community members of the Roaring Fork Valley region through its Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra program. We believe in inspiring and educating the next generation of musicians — empowering them to carry their musical skills onto the performance stage, throughout their community and into all aspects of their lives.

About the Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra (RFYO)

Now in its 15th year, the RFYO is the only K-12 youth orchestra in the Roaring Fork Valley region. We now have 100 student musicians from Rifle to Aspen, ages 5 to 18, who participate in rehearsals, lessons, and concerts to learn how to play and perform in an orchestra. Currently, no schools in the Roaring Fork Valley offer continuous K-12 strings or orchestral music programs. The RFYO works to fill this gap. Students play string, wind, brass and percussion instruments. Our goal is to make high quality music instruction accessible and affordable for all students through need-based scholarships for lessons and tuition. Without the RFYO, many of these students would not be able to afford private lessons and would not have the opportunity to play in an orchestra.

Scholarships & Instrument Lending Library

The RFYO provides musical opportunities to all students regardless of their ability to pay by offering need-based partial and full scholarships for lessons and tuition. The costs associated with playing a musical instrument can be prohibitive for many families. These include instrument rentals, lesson fees, as well as orchestra tuition. 64 out of the 100 RFYO students are receiving scholarships for weekly lessons and RFYO tuition for the 2025-26 school year. Families pay reduced or free lesson and tuition rates, and have access to borrowing an RFYO instrument. Teachers are paid directly for teaching scholarship lessons. The total scholarship lesson budget for the 2025-26 school year is \$28,800 and an additional \$27,352 goes towards our tuition-free Musica program in Silt and reduced tuition rates. Our full program budget is \$115,130.

RFYO Sidewalk Strings & Summer Music

The RFYO Sidewalk Strings ensemble plays bluegrass, fiddle and traditional music. This group performs live for Ballet Folklórico dancers at the Día de los Muertos celebration in downtown Carbondale each fall and will be playing at outreach events throughout the valley this summer.

RFYO Musica in New Castle & Silt

In January 2026 we started our fifth class of RFYO Musica violinists in Silt at Cactus Valley Elementary School (CVES). We created this part of the RFYO in 2022 to serve students at CVES, which is on a four-day school week with very little extracurricular arts programming. Our Musica program is a tuition-free and we make the program as accessible as possible by providing instruments and all materials. In 2022 we began offering a group in New Castle as well. It is our goal to grow these opportunities for the young musicians from New Castle to Rifle and add our more advanced orchestra levels as students progress. 27 students now attend rehearsals each Thursday at Riverside Middle School in New Castle in addition to the 20 students who attend groups on Fridays in Silt.

Rehearsal Locations and Enrollment

The RFYO currently offers weekly rehearsals in New Castle, Carbondale, Silt and Aspen. During the last 15 years, total enrollment has increased steadily. 100 students have participated during the current school year, ranging from complete beginners to advanced high school musicians.

RFYO Community Outreach Concerts

The RFYO offers free family-friendly educational concerts in each community. Each year at least 1900 community members attend these concerts and events. Students have played concerts and holiday singalongs at the Silt and Basalt Libraries, Glenwood Springs High School, Colorado Veteran's Nursing Home, Third Street Center, TACAW, Launchpad, Carbondale Farmers Market, Harris Concert Hall and coffee shops in Silt and New Castle.

After-School Programming

The RFYO helps to fill the need for high-quality after-school programming. RFYO students learn important skills that transfer into many aspects of their lives. Playing in an orchestra teaches students teamwork, determination, listening skills, and fine motor skills while also offering a creative outlet and a means of self-expression. For many students it also provides them with a vital community of close friends with similar interests.

Grant Request

Grant funding would support the Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra program. Funding would specifically help sustain and expand the RFYO program and performances in the Silt and New Castle area of Garfield County, including providing need-based scholarships to make it possible for all students to participate.

Program Costs

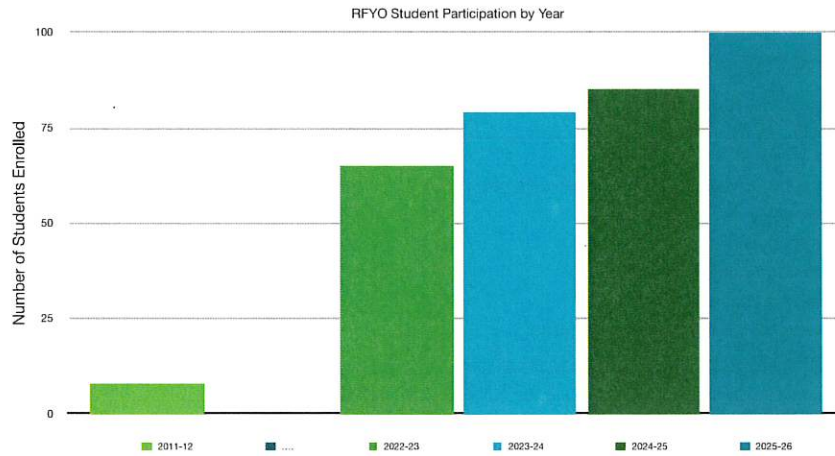
The primary costs of the RFYO program are compensating the teachers for time working with students in rehearsals and concerts, and offering need-based scholarships for weekly lessons and RFYO tuition. Each year there are 30 rehearsal weeks, 13 free community performances and 3-5 weeks of summer programming. Students attend one rehearsal per week and an individual lesson. Students have at least 2 hours of contact time each week when they are working with a teacher who mentors them, is involved in their musical life and offers encouragement and guidance. By engaging professional musicians and educators from the community to teach, the RFYO creates a collaborative effort between local teachers, school music teachers, and the RFYO.

It is our goal to have a meaningful impact on every student who takes part, and for each student to experience a connection with their peers, teachers and the audience through the creation and performance of each musical work.



RFYO Participation by Year

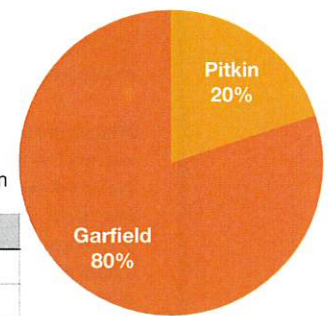
Year	# of Students
2011-12	8
....
2022-23	65
2023-24	79
2024-25	85
2025-26	100



RFYO Students by county of residence

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Pitkin	34	31	15	10	14	20	11	20
Eagle	0	3	3	2	2	2	2	0
Garfield	37	41	42	48	49	57	72	80
Total:	71	75	60	60	65	79	85	100

RFYO Students by County of Residence 2025-26



RFYO Students receiving need-based scholarships for lessons and/or tuition by county of residence/town

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Pitkin	6	5	5	4	11	7	9
Garfield	19	16	23	24	22	30	40
RFYO Musica Silt	N/A	N/A	8	8	15	15	15
Total Students:	25	21	36	36	48	52	64

Community Audience Members at RFYO free public concerts and events

Outreach Concerts by School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Glenwood Springs High School Spring Concert			150	150
Third Street Center/Carbondale Middle School	550	150	150	—
TACAW Winter Concert	—	150	150	175
Harris Concert Hall FALL concert	—	150	150	175
Día de los Muertos Ballet Folklorico Carbondale Festival	450	500	500	500
Silt Library Holiday Concert	60	70	70	75
New Castle Coffee/Wild Coffee Holiday Concert	40	45	60	60
Launch Pad Holiday Events and First Friday	150	150	150	150
Basalt Regional Library Holiday Concerts	100	100	100	100
Wheeler Opera House - Polar Express movie	—	500	-	—
Pitkin County Library Holiday Singalong	40	—	-	—
Carbondale Farmer's market/downtown	50	50	75	Summer
Mountain Fair Oasis Stage	100	—	100	Summer
Rotary Club Performances	25	—	—	45
Glenwood Kiwanis performance				Summer
Ballet Folklorico end of year performance	500	—	—	—
Beginning Strings outreach performance	150	100	100	—
Musica Showcases at Cactus Valley Elementary	70	35	35	135
Bach to Bluegrass event		80	140	—
Total:	2285	2000	1930	1565

Roaring Fork Music Society BUDGET TO ACTUAL	FY 2025-26		FY 2024-25	
	Actual 4/24/26	Budget 7/1/25-6/30/26	Actual 6/30/25	Budget 7/1/24-6/30/25
Total Receipts:				
Individual Donations & Business sponsorships	\$ 26,888.48	\$ 47,500.00	\$ 43,705.00	\$ 40,000.00
Grants	\$ 47,688.36	\$ 65,250.00	\$ 64,858.01	\$ 65,000.00
RFYO Tuition	\$ 19,957.06	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,000.00
RFYO Prep Tuition Aspen	\$ 5,310.00	\$ 7,000.00		
Summer Programming Tuition	\$ 425.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,320.00	\$ 2,000.00
Event Ticket Sales Back to Bluegrass		\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,907.31	\$ 2,500.00
Interest	\$ 32.56		\$ 42.61	
Total Receipts:	\$ 100,311.46	\$ 144,250.00	\$ 133,332.93	\$ 125,500.00
EXPENSES:				
RFYO Program - TEACHER PAY				
RFYO Program Director/Co-Music Director	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
Co-Music Director - Britni Brown	\$ 937.45	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,249.87	\$ 1,250.00
Co-Music Director - Ross Kribbs	\$ 2,999.90	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
New Castle and Silt Assistant Director- Shaunna	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		
Teaching/conducting Staff general pay	\$ 25,815.75	\$ 28,521.00	\$ 26,717.50	\$ 27,700.00
Aspen Prep Teacher pay	\$ 2,592.50	\$ 2,720.00		
Sidewalk Strings and Collaborations	\$ 1,932.50	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,187.50	\$ 1,900.00
Summer Programming Staff	\$ 680.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Lesson Scholarship pay to teachers	\$ 22,117.00	\$ 28,800.00	\$ 25,814.00	\$ 27,500.00
RFYO Musica In Silt	\$ 9,700.19	\$ 13,540.00	\$ 14,008.13	\$ 14,165.00
Professional Development	\$ 93.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00
TOTAL TEACHER PAY:	\$ 80,365.29	\$ 101,531.00	\$ 90,127.00	\$ 93,215.00
RFYO program other expenses:				
Instrument Library Repairs/purchases	\$ 188.21	\$ 400.00	\$ 302.93	\$ 450.00
Concert & Rehearsal Spaces (Including Aspen prep)	\$ 2,823.75	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 1,652.50	\$ 2,575.00
Sheet Music	\$ 1,090.92	\$ 500.00	\$ 588.85	\$ 500.00
Office Supplies/Concert/teaching Supplies	\$ 313.05	\$ 900.00	\$ 932.26	\$ 500.00
Concert Posters, program, recruitment materials	\$ 1,061.17	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,223.87	\$ 800.00
RFYO Website, email and online platforms	\$ 440.25	\$ 625.00	\$ 623.94	\$ 650.00
Third Street Center Office/rehearsal space	\$ 5,507.93	\$ 6,499.00	\$ 5,462.28	\$ 4,350.00
Total RFYO Program Expenses:	\$ 91,790.57	\$ 115,130.00	\$ 100,913.63	\$ 103,040.00
Payroll & Related Expense - RFMS				
Executive Director	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
FICA	\$ 1,907.73	\$ 2,545.00	\$ 2,643.64	\$ 2,505.28
UI Premiums	\$ 455.75	\$ 680.00	\$ 678.88	\$ 732.96
Payroll Adjustment	\$ (0.72)			
Payroll & Related Expense:	\$ 12,862.76	\$ 17,225.00	\$ 17,222.52	\$ 17,238.24
Marketing & Fundraising				
Back to Bluegrass event expenses August 2024	\$ 0.00		\$ 1,751.11	\$ 1,920.00
Back to Bluegrass event expenses June	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,550.61	
Other marketing & fundraising expenses	\$ 564.85	\$ 400.00	\$ 382.47	\$ 400.00
Marketing & Fundraising Expenses:	\$ 564.85	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 8,684.19	\$ 2,320.00
Other Expenses				
Accountant fee	\$ 7,020.00	\$ 2,600.00		
Office/Computer/Copying/Bank Fees	\$ 53.24	\$ 100.00	\$ 97.81	\$ 100.00
Insurance (GL Insurance, D&O Insurance, Worker's	\$ 1,974.17	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 1,943.00	\$ 1,900.00
Business Registration Fees	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 20.00
PO BOX and bank fees	\$ 10.22	\$ 200.00	\$ 202.00	\$ 250.00
Paypal Fees/CO Gives Fees/venmo fees	\$ 685.97	\$ 400.00	\$ 431.91	\$ 375.00
Other Expenses:	\$ 9,778.60	\$ 5,285.00	\$ 2,709.72	\$ 2,645.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 114,996.78	\$ 144,040.00	\$ 129,530.06	\$ 125,243.24
EXCESS (Deficiency)	\$ (14,685.32)	\$ 210.00	\$ 3,802.87	\$ 256.76
Retained Earnings	\$ 59,569.36	\$ 59,569.36	\$ 55,766.49	\$ 55,766.49
Net	\$ 44,884.04	\$ 59,779.36	\$ 59,569.36	\$ 56,023.25

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date:

OCT 03 2014

ROARING FORK MUSIC SOCIETY INC
PO BOX 4862
ASPEN, CO 81612

Employer Identification Number:
46-5333149

DLN:
17053178319004

Contact Person:
BRYAN C WOESTE ID# 31660

Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:
June 30

Public Charity Status:
509(a)(2)

Form 990 Required:
Yes

Effective Date of Exemption:
March 4, 2014

Contribution Deductibility:
Yes

Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Letter 947

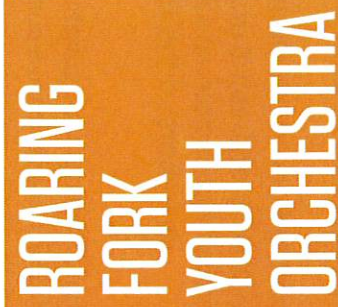
ROARING FORK MUSIC SOCIETY INC

We have sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamera Ripperda". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'T'.

Director, Exempt Organizations



ROARING FORK YOUTH ORCHESTRA

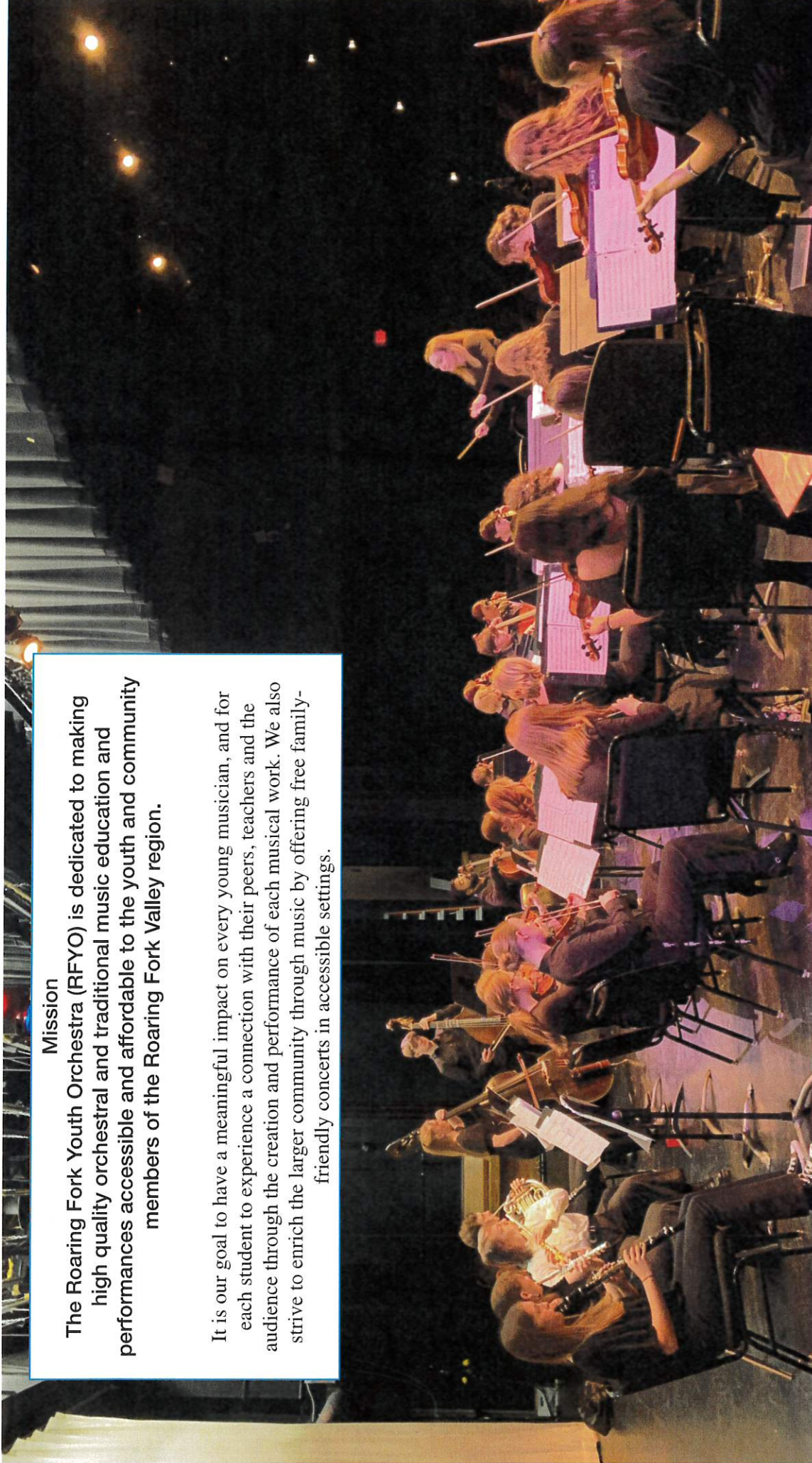
HISTORY OF THE RFYO

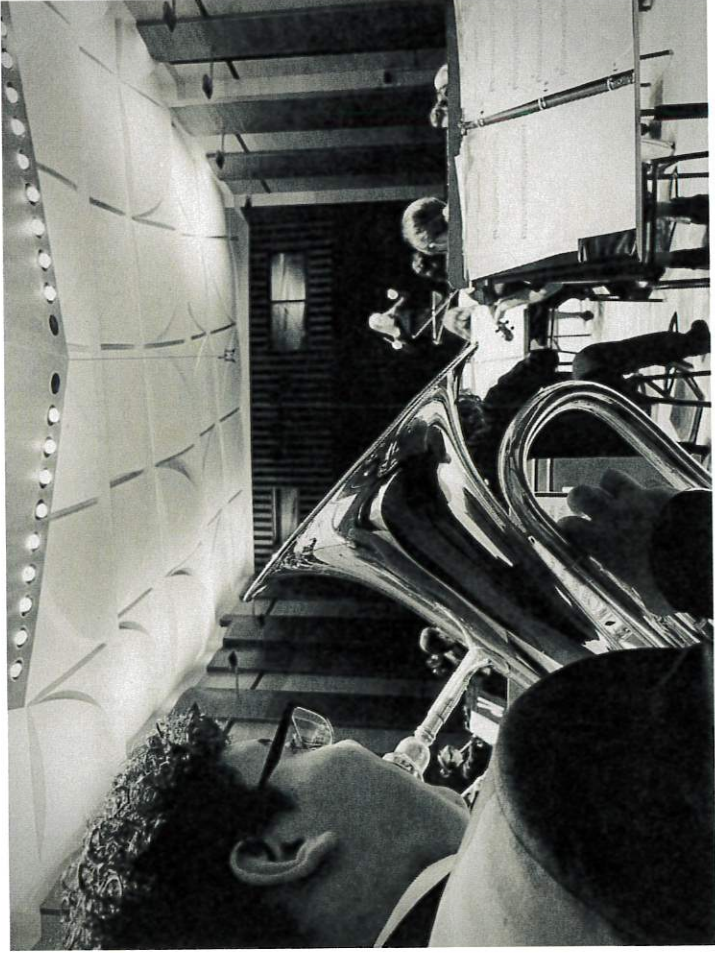
- K-12 youth orchestra program in the Roaring Fork Valley region
- A program of the local independent nonprofit Roaring Fork Music Society
- The RFYO was created by parents and teachers in 2011 to fill the gap left by the cancellation of string programs in the public schools. We are now in our 15th year.

Mission

The Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra (RFYO) is dedicated to making high quality orchestral and traditional music education and performances accessible and affordable to the youth and community members of the Roaring Fork Valley region.

It is our goal to have a meaningful impact on every young musician, and for each student to experience a connection with their peers, teachers and the audience through the creation and performance of each musical work. We also strive to enrich the larger community through music by offering free family-friendly concerts in accessible settings.





Musicians of the RFYO



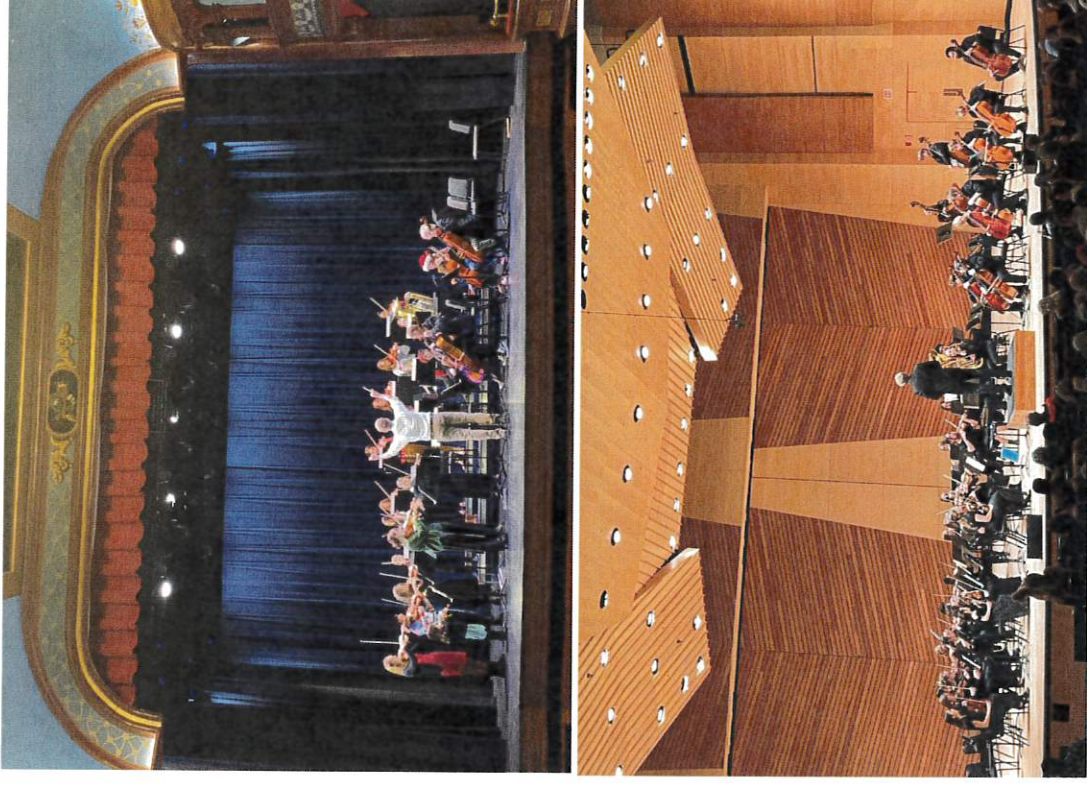
- 100 students, ages 5 to 18
- Play violin, viola, cello, bass, winds, brass, and percussion/piano
- From Aspen to Parachute

Making orchestral music accessible to all students

- Need-based scholarships for RFYO tuition and individual lessons - last year the RFYO provided 1,100 lessons through this program to 58 young musicians
- RFYO instrument lending library
- After-school rehearsal times at public school and community locations

Multiple levels and locations:

Musica, Prep, Sinfonia, Camerata, Sidewalk Strings
Silt, New Castle, Carbondale, Aspen





RFYO Sidewalk Strings

Bluegrass music

Improvisation

Non-classical techniques

Rhythm

Listening and working together

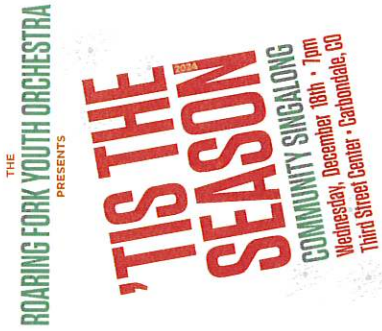
[Día de los Muertos Video](#)



RFYO students
are committed to:

- Weekly rehearsals
during the school year
- Weekly lessons
- Daily practice at home
- Concerts and outreach
performances





CONCERTS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Libraries
- Harris Concert Hall, TACAW, Glenwood Springs High School
- Third Street Center, Launch Pad, Farmer's Market in Carbondale
- 1900+ audience members each year
- RFYO mentors/teaching artists sit side-by-side with students in rehearsals and concerts

More information and upcoming concert
dates can be found at

www.RFYO.org