



Green Mountain Youth Symphony

"the music is just the beginning . . ."

May 21, 2021

To: The GMYS Community

From: GMYS Board

We STILL miss seeing GMYSers in person! We're also thankful for all the support – patience and donations – you have continued to give GMYS during the last year plus.

With all the progress in public health, we're more optimistic each month, but at our most recent Board meeting we reluctantly decided that we must delay the restart of rehearsals until January 2022. It was hard to do this knowing that many of you miss making music in a group. It can be hard to stay motivated to practice when you miss the fun of playing together.

Waiting just one more semester will make the best use of GMYS' limited resources and allow us ample planning time for the restart. As you know, we have a very small, very part-time staff, even when we're fully operational. Bob & Leah have been working significantly reduced hours since last spring, just doing what's needed to keep GMYS afloat. During this time Leah was able to secure funding through COVID recovery programs so we can continue paying our basic bills and will have the cash reserves needed to restart operations later in the fall.

The continued pause will give Leah & Bob the time to begin the process of scheduling everything from auditions through the spring concert and CAMP 2022 over the next few months, while carefully conserving financial resources. Our program planning is usually done a year in advance and it will take this time to properly plan a safe restart.

Leah & Bob have both stayed in touch with other youth orchestras and performing arts organizations over the past year, and we've gotten input from local music teachers about what is (and isn't) working for in-person music instruction. Because we rely on rented spaces and our musicians come from a wide geographic region, the Board agrees that waiting just a little longer is the responsible way to protect everyone's safety, preserve our resources, and is most likely to avoid having to reverse course when we do resume orchestra rehearsals.

The GMYS Board members remain available to anyone with questions ([our emails are on the GMYS website contact page](#)). Leah & Bob will keep you all informed once they're able to arrange for safe auditions. We expect that will be in late October or early November to be ready for January rehearsals.

If any GMYSers have been able to gather safely with a pod of friends to play and would like help finding new chamber music to work on, please reach out to Bob or Leah. We have some chamber music in our library and can point you to other free or low-cost sources, too.

Hoping to see you at auditions later in the fall!