

Dear GMYS Families and Community,

I come to you as not only the Executive Director of this organization but as a parent. I understand that in these uncertain times, it is difficult to make decisions regarding how you and your family should interact with the world and that there is a fine line between safety concerns and the need for social interaction. These are all choices that are very personal to each family because while we all may be in the same ocean; we are not all in the same boat. This is why we took the opportunity to survey our community. As we struggled to come up with the best pathway forward, we knew that it was your voices that would ultimately lead the way. With that said, through our survey, an overwhelming 79% of you expressed the desire for in-person classes while a smaller handful expressed the want or need for virtual options.

**Let the Adventure Begin!** Given the current climate of the pandemic, GMYS season will begin virtually with the hope of merging into a hybrid format of both in-person and online, so that YOU can choose the format that works best for your family. On your application, you can let us know if the hybrid option is something that your family would like to pursue once it becomes available. This way, we can group students into classes for an easy transition to in-person learning. Hybrid classes will alternate modes of instruction every week through in-person class attendance one week with a small group of students (no more than 9) for 60 minutes. The following week, these same students will attend class online for 75 minutes. Each week, the classes will alternate between in-person meetings and online classes. Families will also have the option to continue classes solely online, in which case, students will attend an online class every week for 75 minutes. Additionally, families will be able to live stream classes, have access to a library of class recordings and connect between rehearsals using Smart Music. Learn more about this season's offerings and how to register [here](#). Some ensembles require an audition for placement. These criteria can be found [here](#).

As we prepare to offer in-person class options, safety is our top priority. Knowing this, GMYS reserves the right to shift to virtual only at any time (even after the hybrid classes begin). Furthermore, we have crafted very strict criteria regarding safety procedures based on recommendations from the CDC and the Performing Arts Aerosol Study (specific to wind instruments). These can be reviewed [here](#). We will be exercising a "no tolerance" policy in regards to these procedures. All families will be required to sign an expectations document upon enrollment as a commitment to following these procedures. Online only families will also have an expectations document for online etiquette and safety. It is highly recommended that each family review these procedures in detail to assist in making an informed decision when the time comes to implement in-person learning.

Lastly, GMYS humbly asks for your help as an uncertain season begins to unfold. These new circumstances have unique expenses and loss of regular season funding. In order to keep tuition prices low and programs accessible, we are asking that you give of yourself through donation or volunteerism if you are willing and able. You can donate towards the tuition of a student in need via your enrollment application or towards the general operation of the organization [here](#). Donations of supplies such as hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, Lysol and other cleaning supplies will assist in keeping our supply budget low once classes meet in-person and the donation of time and talent through volunteerism will assist in lowering administrative costs. Please be in contact with Sofia Torres, Board President, for supply donation and volunteer opportunities.

However, the **BIGGEST** help that you can provide for GMYS is simply to be an advocate, invite your friends, tell our story and build enrollment.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions, concerns or ideas for the coming season. We appreciate your patience and continued dedication as we navigate uncharted territory and do our best to keep music on your journey. **LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN!**

See you soon!



Jessica Munch-Dittmar  
Executive Director (and Mom!)  
Greater Miami Youth Symphony  
**A Total Community Project**  
[jmunch-dittmar@gmys.org](mailto:jmunch-dittmar@gmys.org)  
(305) 667-4069