



THE DENVER FOUNDATION

January 18, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestras (CYSO). The CYSO has been a respected, long-standing grantee of The Denver Foundation. We have financially supported the tremendous and strategic growth of the organization through direct grants and donor-advised funds in the amount of \$49,500 since 1996.

The Denver Foundation believes that CYSO is singularly qualified to meet the challenge of adding to its core programming by engaging with the **National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards**. The demand necessitates it. Among many venerable qualities, CYSO has a *27-year history* of providing youth symphony orchestra programs for aspiring young musicians in the Denver Community. Since 1996, CYSO has established itself in the following ways:

- CYSO is a leader in music education outreach programs in schools serving low-income students. The outreach program is a *model program* that brings instruments and teachers to the students. It also offers scholarships for its summer camps and its collection of orchestral groups.
- Historically, the agency has been *inclusive* in its approach at all levels of the organization.
- Compensation for instructors is higher than the area average and this helps to maintain effective, *quality teachers*. Also, many current instructors have a deep connection to CYSO because they were former students.
- CYSO enjoys the *support of many area music retailers* and violin shops. The businesses sponsor students, donate violins and instrument repair, as well as provide general support to the program. The University of Denver provides an office, rehearsal space, and phone.

Should you or any of the reviewers of this proposal have any questions about this letter or endorsement of CYSO, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christiano Sosa
Program Officer, ext. 159