

## **Local symphonies partner for young musician apprenticeship**

### **New program begins this September for members of Kawartha Youth Orchestra**

PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO – The Peterborough Symphony Orchestra (PSO) is partnering with the Kawartha Youth Orchestra (KYO) to launch an exciting new apprenticeship program, open to members of the KYO. The PSO-KYO Apprenticeship is designed to provide dedicated young students of advanced capability on their instruments with an enriching opportunity for musical excellence.

KYO musicians who have requested an apprenticeship audition will meet with the selection panel mid-September. Applicants who are offered a place in the program will then meet with KYO and PSO Music Director Michael Newnham to discuss their individual goals and create a development plan intended to expand their repertoire and take their playing to the next level. Apprentices will be invited to play with the PSO, receive mentorship from PSO musicians, and receive continued guidance from Maestro Newnham.

Education is a priority of both the PSO and the KYO. The PSO and its sponsors organize education initiatives throughout the year to increase musical interest and knowledge with children of varying degrees of musicality. Recently, the KYO began a junior orchestra, which allows children as young as 8-years the opportunity to play their instrument in an orchestral setting and learn the fundamentals of ensemble performance. This experience will hopefully lead them to one day join the KYO.

The PSO-KYO Apprenticeship is a way to support youth musicians who have been training for some time and are interested in increasing their skills and continuing their progress into young adulthood, which may benefit the PSO if those musicians choose to continue playing and ultimately join the orchestra. Maestro Newnham says, “The KYO has had very close ties to the PSO since its inception. Coaches, staff, and even their Music Director (me) are shared. The continued existence, flourishing and growth of the KYO is in the very best interests of the PSO. Both organizations make Peterborough and the Kawarthas that much stronger through music.”

*Peterborough Symphony Orchestra is a non-profit charity located in downtown Peterborough at 159 King Street. For over 50 years the PSO has been a cultural cornerstone of the Peterborough community, and has a reputation as one of the finest community-based orchestras in Canada.*