



Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts
Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor

570 Central Avenue
New Providence, NJ 07974
(908) 771-5544
NJYS.org

Peter H. Gistelinck, Executive Director

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Dear **Musicians, Families, and Friends of the New Jersey Youth Symphony,**

What an unforgettable season this has been! As I look back, I am deeply grateful for the music we created despite being apart, as well as for the new learning experiences we were able to share together as a community. Kicking off the season with a virtual U.S. Youth Orchestra Festival and ending with in-person outdoor concerts, music never stopped here at NJYS.

Our many video projects, online courses, workshops, master classes, and webinars created new opportunities to expand our world of music and include new genres and disciplines. Your enthusiastic participation in the Stay-Home-and-Play digital concert videos brought much needed hope and joy to the older adults of our community. Every NJYS ensemble's impressive presentation at virtual events such as Messengers of Hope Virtual Concert Festival, Playathon, and the annual Gala lifted our spirits and enriched the lives of thousands of people.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our incredible team of managers, conductors, coaches and administrative staff at Wharton Arts for their amazing work in providing the best possible experience for our student musicians during this difficult time.

Then, there is you. Thank you so much for doing your part in helping NJYS maintain its high level of music-making while contributing to the creation and sustenance of an inclusive community for all members. I am feeling positive and hopeful for the 2021-2022 season and I look forward to welcoming you back into our rehearsal space and concert halls. Have a healthy and safe summer, and see you in September!

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen H. Cha-Pyo".

Helen H. Cha-Pyo
Artistic Director & Principal Conductor