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Who Will Be The Maestro For A Moment?

COLUMBUS, GA, April 17, 2014—Dr. Kamlesh Ansingkar, Dr. Karen Stuart and Joseph Brannan all have a close connection to the Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus (YOGC).

Dr. Ansingkar has two children in the program. His daughter Koyal is the concertmaster for the youth orchestra and his son, Kunal plays violin in the string orchestra. Joseph Brannan was played clarinet in the youth orchestra from 1999-2001, and Dr. Karen Stuart's son, Alex Mayweather, was the principal bassist in the youth orchestra before graduating in 2012. They all have experienced the benefits of the program first hand.

As a fundraiser for the Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus, the three candidates will vie for community votes at one dollar per vote. The winner will take the baton to conduct the talented young musicians of the YOGC in their spring concert finale on April 29, at 7 p.m. in Bill Heard Theater at RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. Voting will continue in the lobby right up until the concert begins.

Dr. Ansingkar has been practicing his victory "happy dance" in hopes that he will become the Maestro winner. Joseph Brannan has been seen wearing his headphones and practicing his conducting every chance he gets, and Dr. Stuart has called on the powers of "Harry Potter" to help her win. All candidates will agree that the real winners will be the talented young musicians who are benefitting from the music education and performance opportunities the program provides.

The YOGC string and symphony orchestras include top middle-and high-school musicians from across the Chattahoochee Valley. Students travel from as far away as Auburn to rehearse each Monday evening with conductor Jim Palmer, and the ensembles perform three public concerts each season in addition to several special events. The organization is a 501(c)3 nonprofit group, which depends solely on grants and the generosity of corporate, foundation and individual donors for its funding.

To vote for your favorite maestro candidate or to learn more about YOGC, visit [www.yogc.org](http://www.yogc.org) or call 706.256.3614.

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