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**CONTEMPORARY YOUTH ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM SPECIAL ONE-NIGHT-ONLY  
PERFORMANCE WITH GRAHAM NASH AT SEVERANCE HALL**

**Cleveland, OH – April 8, 2015:** The Award-Winning Contemporary Youth Orchestra is pleased to announce an evening with legendary singer-songwriter Graham Nash on Friday, June 5, 2015. The event will take place at 8:00pm at Severance Hall in Cleveland, Ohio, as part of CYO's Rock the Orchestra annual Concert Series. Tickets went on sale March 7, 2015 at 10am Eastern Standard Time through [cyorchestra.org/tickets](http://cyorchestra.org/tickets).

Graham Nash will perform with the 115-member CYO and 65-member Chorus filled with musicians ages 11-18 from 64 school districts throughout Ohio. Nash will be the 15<sup>th</sup> participant in the Rock The Orchestra series which has featured many notable past performers, including Ben Folds, Jon Anderson (Yes), Styx, Pat Benatar, Jefferson Starship, and Bootsy Collins.

This year, CYO - the first youth orchestra in the country devoted to contemporary music - is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. CYO founding music director [Liza Grossman](#) says she sought Graham Nash because 'Graham's passionate voice has supported peace and social justice for decades. His music transcends generations, and the musicians in CYO want to be part of his powerful messages.'

Furthermore, this performance will amplify CYO's educational and artistic mission by bringing Graham Nash's music and lyrics to life through the energy of young musicians. The organization believes that his powerful messages of peace, love and justice are timely and will resonate with the audience, in the hall and beyond.

CYO is responsible for the orchestral interpretation and scores for this performance. CYO's team of composers for Graham Nash and CYO includes Stefan Podell, Paul Leary, Mau Quiros, and Linwood Bell.

Grossman continues, "These musicians want to be a part of something bigger than a single performance. Our goal is to deliver an experience to fans that are both intimately familiar with or just discovering Nash's powerful lyrics and passionate commitment to beliefs."

CYO's philosophy is to push the boundaries of music and allow its diverse community of high school-aged musicians to own their craft. The group is different from other orchestras because it focuses on preparing its members for a career in the entertainment industry – or any other industry in which confidence and creativity is required.

Contemporary Youth Orchestra, who is the winner of several American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Awards for Creative Programming, is known for pushing the envelope of orchestra music. *Rock the Orchestra* has been the group's flagship series since 2001. These performances have been internationally broadcast on PBS, VH1 Classic, Palladia, and AXSTV.

For concert and ticket information, visit [www.cyorchestra.org](http://www.cyorchestra.org).

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