

## **Etowah Youth Orchestras**

**“Where will the music take you?”**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **The EYO Premieres “At Home for the Holidays: An EYO Holiday Celebration”**

*Holiday special to be seen on EYO YouTube and Facebook channels*

GADSDEN, AL, December 7, 2020 - - The Etowah Youth Orchestras’ new holiday special, “At Home for the Holidays: An EYO Holiday Celebration,” will premiere on the EYO’s YouTube channel on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM. The holiday special, which will feature performances by members of the Etowah Youth Symphony and Etowah Youth Philharmonic Orchestras and the Etowah String Sinfonia, is sponsored by The Exchange Bank of Alabama and Greater Gadsden Area Tourism.

“We knew that, given the current climate, a live, in-person performance would not be prudent or responsible,” noted EYO Music Director Mike Gagliardo. “However, we also knew that it was important – this year more than ever – to spread some holiday cheer with the wonderful sounds of the season!”

The 90-minute special features the EYO’s after-school ensembles – the Symphony, Philharmonic and String Sinfonia – performing holiday favorites that include music from Leroy Anderson and the Boston Pops, Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker*, and the TV and movie versions of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, as well as traditional holiday carols. But the special won’t just feature the full orchestras.

“We knew it was important to add variety to the show,” Gagliardo added. “In order to do just that, we broke out the string, woodwind, brass and percussion sections from the Symphony and Philharmonic, in order to feature a couple of selections each by those instruments.” The EYO also included performances by a staple of the annual Rock & Roll Christmas show – North Pole Soul, the by-audition group that regularly serves as the “rock band out front” for the holiday event. “We know that people will be missing the R&R show this year. It will be back before you know it, but we wanted to give our audience just a little taste to let them know that the show isn’t going away for good!” North Pole Soul’s set includes songs by The Band, the Eagles, and John Lennon & Yoko Ono.

To add even more variety, the EYO partnered with various locations across Etowah County to film segments of the holiday special. Besides the Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural

Arts in Gadsden, portions of the program were filmed at Rainbow Presbyterian Church in Rainbow City, J&D Farms in Southside, the Gadsden Mall, and The Coffee Bar in Gadsden.

Gagliardo and the EYO staff are excited about the new special, which is produced by Double Springs Media (who are EYO alumni Michael and Andrew Panik). “It’s an old-school, feel-good holiday special for the entire family – it features great music, and some fun surprises.”

Following the premiere on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM on the EYO’s YouTube channel, the special will be available for on-demand viewing from December 13<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup> on both the YouTube channel and the EYO’s main Facebook page. There is no cost to view the special, but viewers are encouraged to support the EYO through an existing fundraiser on the program’s Facebook page.

EYO YouTube channel – [www.youtube.com/c/EtowahYouthOrchestras](http://www.youtube.com/c/EtowahYouthOrchestras)

EYO Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/EtowahYouthOrchestras](http://www.facebook.com/EtowahYouthOrchestras)

The Etowah Youth Orchestra is a project of the Gadsden Cultural Arts Foundation, in partnership with the Attalla City, Etowah County, and Gadsden City Boards of Education and the City of Gadsden.