2020-2021 Basic Requirements for Membership

1. CYSO’s programs run from Labor Day weekend through the end of May. A full season calendar will be sent to accepted members in mid-July.

**Symphony Orchestra (SO):**
- Weekly Sunday rehearsals: 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm or occasionally 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Includes sectionals & seating auditions
- SO Performances: 2 Orchestra Hall concerts (may include 2 weekend dress rehearsals), Performance at annual CYSO Gala (includes 1 weekend dress rehearsal), 2 Community Concerts, other special concert opportunities as they arise
- Mandatory SO Labor Day weekend retreat: 08/28/2020 - 8/30/2020
- Percussion Ensemble rehearsals (required of all SO percussionists): 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm (see Chamber Music Program for Percussion Ensemble performances)
- Optional Concerto Competition

**Philharmonic Orchestra (PO):**
- Weekly Sunday rehearsals: 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm. Includes sectionals & seating auditions
- PO Performances: 2 concerts at various Chicago venues, 1 performance at Orchestra Hall w/Symphony Orchestra, 1 education concert, 1 Student Composition Reading Session (works by students in CYSO’s Composition Seminar), Other special concert opportunities as they arise
- Percussion Ensemble rehearsals (required of all PO percussionists): 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm (see Chamber Music Program for Percussion Ensemble performances)
- Optional Concerto Competition

**Concert Orchestra (CO):**
- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm except for first rehearsal of season, extended 12:30 pm – 5:00 pm. Includes sectionals & seating auditions
- Performances: 2 concerts at various Chicago venues, 1 education concert
- Audition Seminar with the Music Director
- Optional Concerto Competition

**Debut Orchestra (DO):**
- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Includes sectionals & seating auditions
- Performances: 2 concerts at various Chicago venues, 1 education concert

**Preparatory Strings (PS):**
- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Includes theory, sectionals & seating auditions
- Performances: 2 concerts at various Chicago venues. A selected group of approximately 15 PS musicians will perform at annual CYSO Gala (includes 1 weekend dress rehearsal)

**Overture Strings (OS):**
- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 9:00 am – 10:15 am
- Performances: 2 concerts at various Chicago venues

**Jazz Orchestra (JO):**
- Weekly Tuesday rehearsals: 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm, includes sectionals
- JO Performances: 2 big band concerts and 1 combo concert at various Chicago venues. A select combo group will perform at annual CYSO gala. Other special concert opportunities as they arise
- Optional Ambassadors opportunity
- Optional participation in Essentially Ellington’s Jazz in the Chi Festival in February 2021

**Accelerando Strings (AS):**
- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Includes theory, sectionals & seating auditions
- Performances: 3 concerts at various Chicago venues, 1 Community concert
2020-2021 Basic Requirements for Membership

Kaiso Steel Orchestras (KSO):
- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 3:15 pm – 5:15 pm
- 2 performances per year, 4 in-school performances requiring two school absences in early spring, 2 education concerts. A select group of students will perform at annual CYSO gala. Other concert opportunities as they arise.

Junior Steel Orchestras (JSO):
- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- 2 performances per year. Other concert opportunities as they arise.

Groove Steel Ensemble (GSE):
- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
- 2 performances per year. Other concert opportunities as they arise.

The Jumbies Steel Ensemble (JSE):
- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 9:00 am – 10:00 pm
- 2 performances per year. Other concert opportunities as they arise.

Groove Steel Ensemble (GSE):

Available Enrichment Programs:

Chamber Music Program (CHM) – available to SO & PO members only:
- Sunday rehearsals: 12:30 – 2:30 pm (SO) or 3:00 – 5:00 pm (PO), groups placed based on Fall seating auditions and placements are locked in for full season
- Performances: 2 Chamberpaloozas at the Fine Arts Building, multiple Chamber Showcases, Other special concert opportunities as they arise
- Optional participation in Ambassadors only performances: 4 in-school concerts requiring two school absences in January - March, 2021
- Optional participation in regional competitions (approval of CYSO and coach needed)

Ambassadors (AMB) – available to SO, PO, & JO members only:
- Rehearsals: Sunday 12:30 – 2:30 pm (SO), Sunday 3:00 – 5:00 pm (PO), or Tuesdays at an agreed upon time (JO)
- 2 in-school concerts and 2 in school masterclasses requiring two school absences in January – March, 2020

Composition Seminar (CMP) – available to SO, PO, CO, AS, & JO members only:
- Sundays 10:45 – 11:45 am
- Includes reading/recording by professional chamber ensemble, reading/recording by Philharmonic Orchestra

2. Agree to adhere to the CYSO attendance policy:
   - **Symphony Orchestra**: Students are allowed three excused absences in each fall and spring concert repertoire cycle and one excused absence in the winter cycle (gala); there are three cycles per season.
   - **Philharmonic Orchestra & Jazz Orchestra**: Students are allowed two excused absences per concert repertoire cycle; there are three cycles per season.
   - **Concert Orchestra, Accelerando Strings, Steel Orchestras**: Students are allowed three excused absences per concert repertoire cycle; there are two cycles per season.
   - **Debut Orchestra, Preparatory Strings, & Overture Strings**: Students are allowed two excused absences per concert repertoire cycle; there are two cycles per season.
   - **Dress Rehearsals & Concerts**: Attendance at all dress rehearsals and concerts is mandatory.
   - **Chamber Music & Composition Seminar**: Students are allowed two excused absences per semester; there are two semesters per season.
3. **Annual tuition fee.** Below are the current season of 2019-2020 tuition fee rates. Rates for 2020-2021 are subject to change. Financial assistance is available for all programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orchestra</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symphony Orchestra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philharmonic Orchestra</td>
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<td>Jazz Orchestra</td>
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<td>Chamber Music</td>
<td>$700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Composition Seminar</td>
<td>$450</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4. **Student Fundraising**

   **Symphony Orchestra:**
   - Sell a minimum of 8 tickets to each Orchestra Hall concert.
   - Participate in CYSO's annual fundraiser, the Noteworthy Campaign.

   **All other orchestras:**
   - Participate in CYSO's annual fundraiser, the Noteworthy Campaign.

5. **CYSO strongly recommends participation in your school music program:**

   CYSO recognizes the importance of school music programs in their communities and strongly encourages its members to be active participants in those programs. CYSO and the schools share a common goal of educating student musicians.

6. **For further details about the requirements for membership,** click [here](#) to take a look out at our [2019-2020 Student and Parent Handbook](#)!