



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 weeknight dress rehearsals), Performance at annual CYSO Gala (includes 1 weeknight 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

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

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

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

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 weeknight 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



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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.

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.



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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.

Symphony Orchestra: \$1,600
Philharmonic Orchestra: \$1,100
Concert Orchestra: \$950
Debut Orchestra: \$850

Accelerando Strings: \$750
Preparatory Strings: \$850
Overture Strings: \$500
Jazz Orchestra: \$750

Steel Orchestras: \$300 - \$600
Chamber Music: \$700
Composition Seminar: \$450

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!](#)**