PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK
2021-2022
FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dear musicians,

On behalf of the entire CYSO organization, it is my great pleasure to congratulate you on a successful audition and welcome you to the CYSO family! This season will be very special, as it marks CYSO’s 75th anniversary. We take pride in our distinguished history and reputation as a premier training ground for the next generation of orchestral musicians and leaders in our world.

Members of CYSO go on to the nation’s finest collegiate programs, pursuing careers in music and many other fields of study. CYSO alumni are found in nearly every top orchestra across the globe, including nine alumni in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and nine in the Lyric Opera Orchestra of Chicago. We hope you will make the most of this opportunity to launch your own successful career in music, or whatever field you may choose.

Your membership in CYSO is an enormous opportunity to create experiences and memories that you will have for a lifetime, and that is both a privilege and a responsibility. Always remember that just as everyone else’s participation affects your experience, so does your participation affect everyone else’s experience. This is why every CYSO member is expected to maintain the organization’s high standards and comply with the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook.

We ask that both parents and students take time to read this handbook thoroughly. It will answer most of your questions and give you a head start on the adventure ahead. The staff is ready and willing to help you each step of the way, and we look forward to working together for a mutually rewarding 2021-2022 season.

With congratulations and best wishes,

Allen Tinkham
Music Director
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**GENERAL PROGRAM AGE RANGE**

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<th>HIGH SCHOOL</th>
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<tr>
<td>OVERTURE STRINGS</td>
<td>PREPARATORY STRINGS</td>
<td>ACCELERANDO STRINGS</td>
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<td>DEBUT ORCHESTRA</td>
<td>CONCERT ORCHESTRA</td>
<td>PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUMBIES</td>
<td>GROOVE STEEL ENSEMBLE</td>
<td>JUNIOR STEEL ENSEMBLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAZZ ORCHESTRA</td>
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<td>KAISO STEEL ORCHESTRA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Note that age ranges indicated on the chart are a general picture of CYSO ensembles. Student placements are based on a number of factors, including playing level, age, student maturity level, and open ensemble spots.*

**ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA</th>
<th>PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA</th>
<th>ACCELERANDO STRINGS</th>
<th>KAISO STEEL ORCHESTRA</th>
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SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

CYSO OFFICE INFORMATION

Fine Arts Building
410 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 833
Chicago, Illinois  60605

Phone: (312) 939-2207
Fax: (312) 939-2015
Website: www.cyso.org

OFFICE HOURS

Administrative Staff:
Monday – Friday   9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Operations Staff:
During the season (September – May)       During the Summer (June – August)
Monday – Friday   9:00 am – 5:00 pm       Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday   8:30 am – 5:15 pm
Sunday   10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Artistic staff are available by appointment. Contact Madalyne Tregellas Maxwell to make arrangements.
ARTISTIC STAFF

ALLEN TINKHAM  
Music Director,  
Symphony Orchestra  
Conductor  
he/him/his

TERRANCE MALONE GRAY  
Associate Conductor  
Philharmonic Orchestra  
Conductor  
he/him/his

DANIELLA VALDEZ McTIGHE  
Director of String Ensembles, Accelerando Strings & Preparatory Strings Conductor  
she/her/hers

DONALD DeROCHE  
Director of Chamber Music  
he/him/his

SCOTT McCONNELL  
Director of Steel Orchestras  
he/him/his

PHAREZ WHITTED  
Director of Jazz Orchestra  
he/him/his

MICHAEL MASCARI  
Concert Orchestra Conductor  
he/him/his

DANA GREEN  
Debut Orchestra Conductor  
he/him/his

ANNE HUYNH McTIGHE  
Assistant Director of String Ensembles  
she/her/hers

STEVEN GOODEN  
Symphony Orchestra Assistant Conductor  
he/him/his

BENJAMIN FIRER  
Philharmonic Orchestra Assistant Conductor  
he/him/his

LAURA YAWNEY  
Concert Orchestra Teaching Assistant  
she/her/hers
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

SUSAN LAPE  
Executive Director  
slape@cyso.org | x220  
she/her/hers

MADALYNE TREGELLAS MAXWELL  
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mmaxwell@cyso.org | x230  
she/her/hers

MARTHA NOLIN  
Director of Finance  
mnolin@cyso.org | x300  
she/her/hers

ABBEE HAMBRIGHT  
Director of Marketing  
ahambright@cyso.org | x310  
she/her/hers

KAYTIE FARIES  
Operations Manager  
kfaries@cyso.org | x240  
she/her/hers

KEVIN GUPANA  
Development Coordinator. Events & Communications  
kgupana@cyso.org | x200  
he/him/his

BRIDGET DUFFY  
Development Coordinator. Individual Giving  
bduffy@cyso.org | x290  
she/her/hers

KAREN MARI  
Community & Family Engagement Coordinator  
kmar@cyso.org | x250  
she/her/hers

NICOLAS CHONA  
Operations Assistant  
nchona@cyso.org | x260  
he/him/his

COLIN MARUSEK  
Operations Assistant  
cmarusek@cyso.org | x280  
he/him/his

MEREDITH SHANER  
Grant Writer  
mshaner@cyso.org  
she/her/hers

FACULTY
For a complete list of CYSO Faculty, visit our website at www.cyso.org/staff-and-board. To get in touch with a faculty member, please contact Madalyne Tregellas Maxwell.
## WHO TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday program schedules and Jazz program schedule</th>
<th>Colin, x280 or <a href="mailto:cmarusek@cyso.org">cmarusek@cyso.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday program schedules (excluding Steel ensembles)</td>
<td>Nicolas. x260 or <a href="mailto:nchonoa@cyso.org">nchonoa@cyso.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel Orchestra schedules and emergency absences, audition information for Steel Orchestras</td>
<td>Scott, x270 or <a href="mailto:smcconnell@cyso.org">smcconnell@cyso.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audition information for full and string orchestras, Google Classroom, parent volunteering, and absence questions</td>
<td>Karen, x250 or <a href="mailto:kmari@cyso.org">kmari@cyso.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audition information for the Jazz Orchestra, Chamber Music information, and Policy questions</td>
<td>Kaytie, x240 or <a href="mailto:kfaries@cyso.org">kfaries@cyso.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition, accounts, and financial assistance</td>
<td>Martha, x300 or <a href="mailto:mnolin@cyso.org">mnolin@cyso.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising, concert ticketing, and merchandise orders</td>
<td>Abbey, x310 or <a href="mailto:ahambright@cyso.org">ahambright@cyso.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations, fundraising events, and CYSO board</td>
<td>Kevin, x200 or <a href="mailto:kgupana@cyso.org">kgupana@cyso.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CYSO COMMUNICATIONS

- **Google Classroom** (classroom.google.com) houses rehearsal and concert schedules, announcements, and repertoire downloads, along with easy links to pay tuition and complete an absence form. Students will be assigned a login and sent an invitation to join their ensembles’ Google Classroom at the beginning of the season. If you're unable to access Google Classroom during the season, contact Karen Mari at kmari@cyso.org.

- **CYSO Email Communication**: Almost all CYSO updates will be sent via email. There are two types of emails you will receive from us: marketing emails include concert and event announcements and monthly newsletters, and operations emails with rehearsal reminders, concert details, free ticket offers, traffic updates, and other ensemble announcements. Since these email lists are separate, you may unsubscribe from the marketing emails if you choose. **CYSO requires that you do not unsubscribe from Operations emails, as these contain important information that you will not be able to access any other way.** If you notice you are not receiving regular operations emails, please contact a CYSO staff member.

*Please keep us updated on any changes of address, phone number, or email by contacting your orchestra’s Operations Assistant.*
## REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY PROGRAM REHEARSALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensemble</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overture Strings</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Curtiss Hall (10th floor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumbies Steel Ensemble</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:00 am</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Room 802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory Strings</td>
<td>10:30 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Curtiss Hall (10th floor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debut Orchestra</td>
<td>10:00 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Room 833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groove Steel Ensemble</td>
<td>10:30 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Room 802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert Orchestra</td>
<td>12:30 - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Room 833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Steel Orchestra</td>
<td>1:00 - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Room 802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accelerando Strings</td>
<td>1:00 - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Curtiss Hall (10th floor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaiso Steel Orchestra</td>
<td>3:15 - 5:15 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Room 802</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SUNDAY PROGRAM REHEARSALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensemble</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Composition Seminar</td>
<td>10:45 - 11:45 am</td>
<td>Roosevelt University, Room TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philharmonic Orchestra</td>
<td>12:00 - 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Room 833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO Chamber Music</td>
<td>12:30 - 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Roosevelt &amp; Fine Arts Building, Rooms TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO Percussion Ensemble</td>
<td>12:00 - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Room 802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symphony Orchestra</td>
<td>3:00 - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Room 833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Chamber Music</td>
<td>3:00 - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Roosevelt &amp; Fine Arts Building, Rooms TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Percussion Ensemble</td>
<td>3:00 - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Room 802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE</td>
<td>6:45 - 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Room 833</td>
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### TUESDAY PROGRAM REHEARSAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensemble</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jazz Orchestra</td>
<td>6:00 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts Building, Room 833</td>
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</table>
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (SO)

Internationally recognized as one of the foremost youth ensembles, CYSO’s Symphony Orchestra is composed of many of our most talented and dedicated young musicians. Under the direction of Music Director Allen Tinkham and with support from Assistant Conductor Steven Gooden, students have the opportunity to hone their skills performing the most advanced orchestral repertoire alongside exciting new works by contemporary composers. Symphony Orchestra’s annual season features collaborations with leading cultural institutions, a concerto competition, and performances at world-class venues including Symphony Center’s Orchestra Hall and Millennium Park’s Jay Pritzker Pavilion. As our flagship ensemble, SO has been featured on national television including CNN’s Fourth of July broadcast and on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND RETREAT

Each fall, Symphony Orchestra begins their season with a mandatory Labor Day weekend retreat. Retreat runs Friday evening through Sunday midday of Labor Day weekend. This annual event involves full orchestra rehearsals, sectionals, and the opportunity for students to socialize with one another. Attendance at the retreat is required for all SO students.

REHEARSALS

Weekly SO rehearsals: Sunday afternoons from 3:00 - 6:00 pm (occasionally 3:00 – 8:00 pm with a dinner break) in Suite 833 of the Fine Arts Building. Refer to the detailed season schedule for specific dates and times of SO rehearsals and other events.

Dress rehearsals: Orchestra Hall concert dress rehearsals take place on stage at Symphony Center whenever possible. These rehearsals are an opportunity for the students to become familiar with the venue’s acoustics and are crucial for the ensemble to feel comfortable on stage and give their best performance at the concert. All dress rehearsal dates are published at the beginning of the season and attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory. Students are not required to wear concert dress for these rehearsals. See pages 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.
SECTIONALS
Sectionals are mandatory sessions that provide additional assistance in preparing season repertoire. Each section works with top professional musicians from the Chicago area. Sectionals are held throughout the season on regular rehearsal days at the Fine Arts Building and Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave. Refer to the Season Calendar for sectional dates, times, and locations.

CONCERTS

**Orchestra Hall Concerts:** Symphony Orchestra gives one Orchestra Hall performance per semester in the hall that is home to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

**Gala Performance:** Symphony Orchestra performs at CYSO’s annual Gala fundraiser, our largest fundraiser of the season, held in late winter/early spring each year.

**Community Concerts:** Prior to each Orchestra Hall concert, Symphony Orchestra performs a community concert. These concerts provide our students with a valuable performing opportunity before each Orchestra Hall concert. These concerts are typically sponsored by area public high schools. If you know of a school or organization that would like to sponsor a Symphony Orchestra concert, please contact Madalyne Maxwell.

**Millennium Park Concerts:** When possible, Symphony Orchestra performs an outdoor concert at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. Performances typically take place in June or early July.

**Attendance at concerts is mandatory.** See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy. Additional Concert and Performance opportunities may arise.

TOURING

In June 2022, Symphony Orchestra members will have the opportunity to join us on a concert tour to Berlin, Leipzig, Prague and Vienna. CYSO has enjoyed a rich tradition of international touring, and tour participation is strongly encouraged for all Symphony Orchestra members. Professionally managed tours provide students with unparalleled experiences and the opportunity to perform in venues rich in history and tradition. On recent tours, CYSO students have delighted audiences around the world at concerts at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, China; Festival de Verano de Fuenlabrada in Madrid, Spain; the Palau de la Musica in Valencia, Spain; the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Germany; Smetana Hall and the Rudolfinum’s Dvorák Hall in Prague, Czech Republic; The Frederick Chopin Conservatory of Music in Warsaw, Poland; Carnegie Hall in New York; Teatro El Círculo in Rosario, Argentina; and Teatro Solís in Montevideo, Uruguay. Visit cyso.org/tour for information on our upcoming trip to Europe and highlights from the 2019 Tour of the Baltics.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERTO COMPETITION

The Symphony Orchestra’s Concerto Competition is held in late February/early March. Concerto Competition winner(s) appear with the orchestra the following season at Orchestra Hall and on a community concert. CYSO opens the final competition to the public. All Symphony Orchestra students who have not previously won are eligible to participate. Complete guidelines are listed on the Concerto Competition application, which is emailed to students in December.
CORE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (CORE)

CORE Chamber Orchestra, led by CYSO Music Director Allen Tinkham, is made up of a select group of exceptional Symphony Orchestra students and provides some of the most advanced training and distinguished performance opportunities available to young musicians anywhere. CORE stands for Classical Orchestral Repertory Ensemble, and is dedicated to performing the classics of orchestral repertoire that cannot be performed in the larger setting of Symphony Orchestra. Season repertoire includes symphonies and overtures by Beethoven, Brahms, Schumann, Mendelssohn, and more. Symphony Orchestra students are selected for CORE by Maestro Tinkham based on the SO fall seating auditions. If selected for CORE, students are required to participate.

REHEARSALS

Weekly CORE rehearsals: Sunday evenings 6:45-8:00 pm. Rehearsal time includes a 45 minute dinner break for the students. Refer to the season calendar for up-to-date CORE rehearsal information.

Dress rehearsals: Scheduled before each major performance, these rehearsals offer an important opportunity for students to run through the entire program and ease any potential concert nerves. Students are not required to wear concert dress for these rehearsals. Attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

CONCERTS

Season Concerts: CORE performs a concert in the fall/winter and spring. Please refer to the detailed season schedule for specific dates and times of CORE performances and other events.

Community/Education Concerts: CORE Chamber Orchestra presents community and education concerts as opportunities arise. They are generally scheduled prior to the main semester concert, and give students another opportunity to perform the repertoire. CYSO requests your cooperation in taking off one school day per season to play these school concerts. A note on CYSO letterhead explaining the concert and requesting an excused absence from school will be available on Google Classroom. CYSO will sign off on service hours for participation in these education performances upon request. If you know of a school or organization that would like to sponsor a CORE Chamber Orchestra concert, feel free to reach out to Madalyne Maxwell.

Attendance at concerts is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

HIGHLIGHTS

Audition Judging Experience: CORE members will not only perform the classical masterworks, but will also participate in peer-to-peer evaluation through blind seating auditions for string principals. Strings who are interested in sitting principal will be judged in a completely blind audition by a jury of their peers. The winds & brass will be placed at Maestro’s discretion. Any student in CORE is welcome to be a judge. All final decisions are approved by Maestro Tinkham.
SO ENRICHMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

CHAMBER MUSIC
Meets Sundays for SO students from 12:30 – 2:30 pm. See pages 31 - 32 for more information.

AMBASSADORS
Part of the Chamber Music program, Ambassadors rehearses Sundays from 12:30 – 2:30 PM. See page 33 for more information.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
Required for all SO percussionists. Rehearses Sundays from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. See page 32 for more information.

KAISO STEEL ORCHESTRA
CYSO's most advanced steelpan ensemble. Meets Saturdays from 3:15 – 5:15 pm. See pages 29 - 30 for more information.

JAZZ ORCHESTRA
Jazz Orchestra is audition-based and meets on Tuesdays from 6:00 — 8:30 pm. See page 27 for more information.

COMPOSITION SEMINAR
Composition Seminar meets Sundays from 10:45 – 11:45 am. See page 34 for more information.
Philharmonic Orchestra, led by Associate Conductor Terrance Malone Gray and with support from Assistant Conductor Benjamin Firer, is composed of talented student musicians from the Chicago area and provides an advanced orchestral experience. PO's season features exclusive training opportunities including sectionals and coachings with professional Chicago musicians, a concerto competition, and multiple performance opportunities in some of the area’s most renowned venues including the University of Chicago's Logan Center for the Arts, North Shore Center for Performing Arts, the Studebaker Theater, and Symphony Center’s Orchestra Hall. Philharmonic Orchestra students have the opportunity to perform advanced orchestral repertoire and new works by contemporary composers.

REHEARSALS
Weekly PO rehearsals: Sunday afternoons 12:00 - 2:30 pm (unless otherwise noted) in Room 833 of the Fine Arts Building. Refer to the detailed Season Schedule for specific dates and times of PO rehearsals and other events.

Dress rehearsals: Scheduled before each major performance, these rehearsals offer an important opportunity for students to run through the entire program and ease any potential concert nerves. Students are not required to wear concert dress for these rehearsals. Attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

SECTIONALS
Sectionals are mandatory sessions designed to provide additional assistance in preparing season repertoire. Each section will work with prominent Chicago area musicians who have extensive experience in the art of orchestral playing. Sectionals will be held throughout the season on regular rehearsal days at the Fine Arts Building and Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave. Please refer to the Season Calendar for sectional dates, times and locations.

CONCERTS
Season Concerts: Philharmonic Orchestra presents 3 regular season concert, an education concert, and will perform the opening piece of the Spring Orchestra Hall concert. Please refer to the detailed season schedule for specific dates and times of Philharmonic Orchestra performances and other events.
CONCERTS CONTINUED

**Education Concerts:** Service learning is an important part of the CYSO experience. Each spring the Philharmonic Orchestra performs an Education Concert for Chicago Public Schools students. *CYSO requests your cooperation in taking off one school day per season to play these school concerts.* A note on CYSO letterhead explaining the concert and requesting an excused absence from school will be available on Google Classroom. CYSO will sign off on service hours for participation in these education performances upon request.

**Orchestra Hall Concert:** In addition to Philharmonic Orchestra’s three concerts each season, the ensemble also performs the opening piece on Symphony Orchestra’s Orchestra Hall concert in May. *Attendance at concerts is mandatory.* See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

**PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONCERTO COMPETITION**
Philharmonic Orchestra holds its annual concerto competition in February. Selected winners are featured at a performance with Philharmonic Orchestra in the subsequent season. Winners must be enrolled in either PO or SO at the time of their performance with the Philharmonic Orchestra.

**PO ENRICHMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES**

**CHAMBER MUSIC**
Meets Sundays for PO students from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. See pages 31 - 32 for more information.

**AMBASSADORS**
Part of the Chamber Music program, Ambassadors rehearses Sundays from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. See page 33 for more information.

**PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**
Required for all PO percussionists. Rehearses Sundays from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. See page 32 for more information.

**COMPOSITION SEMINAR**
Composition Seminar meets Sundays from 10:45 – 11:45 am. See page 34 for more information.

**KAISO STEEL ORCHESTRA**
CYSO’s most advanced steelpan ensemble. Meets Saturdays from 3:15 – 5:15 pm. See pages 29 - 30 for more information.

**JAZZ ORCHESTRA**
Jazz Orchestra is audition-based and meets on Tuesdays from 6:00 - 8:30 pm. See page 27 for more information.
CONCERT ORCHESTRA (CO)

Led by conductor Michael Mascari and supported by Teaching Assistant Laura Yawney, the Concert Orchestra provides advanced orchestral training to predominantly high school aged student musicians. Concert Orchestra students have the opportunity to perform advanced orchestral repertoire. Their season includes weekly rehearsals, sectionals, a concerto competition, an audition seminar, and concerts in some of the area's most renowned venues including Harris Theater, Northwestern University’s Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, and the University of Chicago’s Logan Center for the Arts.

REHEARSALS

Weekly CO rehearsals: Saturday afternoons 12:30-3:00 pm (unless otherwise noted) in Room 833 of the Fine Arts Building. Refer to the detailed Season Schedule for specific dates and times of Concert Orchestra rehearsals and other events.

Dress rehearsals: Scheduled before each major performance, these rehearsals offer an important opportunity for students to run through the entire program and ease any potential concert jitters. Students are not required to wear concert dress for these rehearsals. Attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

SECTIONALS

Sectionals are mandatory sessions designed to provide additional assistance in preparing season repertoire. CO’s fall and spring sectionals will be lead by prominent Chicago area musicians who have extensive experience in the art of orchestral playing. Sectionals will be held on regular rehearsal days at the Fine Arts Building and Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave. Please refer to the Season Calendar for sectional dates, times and locations.

CONCERTS

Season Concerts: Concert Orchestra presents at least one concert each semester in early December and early May, as well as an Education Concert in the spring. Please refer to the detailed season schedule for specific dates and times of Concert Orchestra performances and other events.

Education Concerts: Service learning is an important part of the CYSO experience and Concert Orchestra is featured in the spring at the Chicago Cultural Center in a set of educational concerts sponsored by the International Music Foundation for Chicago Public Schools elementary school.
students. CYSO requests your cooperation in taking off one school day per season to play these school concerts. A note on CYSO letterhead explaining the concert and requesting an excused absence from school will be available on Google Classroom. CYSO will sign off on service hours for participation in these education performances upon request.

Attendance at concerts is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA CONCERTO COMPETITION

Concert Orchestra holds its concerto competition in January. Selected winners are featured at a performance with the Concert Orchestra in the subsequent season. To perform on that concert, Concerto Competition winners must be enrolled in either CO, PO, SO, or have graduated the previous season.

AUDITION SEMINAR

An audition seminar is held once annually for the Concert Orchestra. The seminar is led by the Music Director and is designed to provide insight into the audition process, including tips on long-term preparation, appropriate audition etiquette, handling nervousness, and day-of audition advice.

CO ENRICHMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

COMPOSITION SEMINAR

Composition Seminar meets Sundays from 10:45–11:45 am. See page 34 for more information.

KAISO STEEL ORCHESTRA

CYSO’s most advanced steelpan ensemble. Meets Saturdays from 3:15–5:15 pm. See pages 29 - 30 for more information.

JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Jazz Orchestra is audition-based and meets on Tuesdays from 6:00—8:30 pm. See page 27 for more information.
ACCELERANDO STRINGS (AS)

Under the direction of CYSO Director of String Ensembles Daniella Valdez, Accelerando Strings is CYSO’s most advanced string ensemble, and provides advanced string orchestra training to high school aged student musicians. The Accelerando Strings season includes weekly rehearsals that focus on technique, basic string repertoire, musicianship and presentation skills. Accelerando Strings students perform in some of the area’s most renowned venues including Roosevelt University’s Ganz Hall, Studebaker Theater, Northwestern University’s Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, and the University of Chicago’s Logan Center for the Arts.

REHEARSALS

Weekly AS rehearsals: Saturdays from 1:00-3:00 pm (unless otherwise noted) in Curtiss Hall (10th floor) in the Fine Arts Building. Refer to the detailed season calendar for specific dates and times of Accelerando Strings rehearsals and other events.

Dress rehearsals: Scheduled before each major performance, these rehearsals offer an important opportunity for students to run through the entire program and ease any potential concert jitters. Students are not required to wear concert dress for these rehearsals. Attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

SECTIONALS

Sectionals are mandatory sessions designed to provide additional assistance in preparing season repertoire. Each section will work with prominent Chicago area musicians who have extensive experience in the art of orchestral playing.

Sectionals will be held throughout the season on regular rehearsal days at the Fine Arts Building and Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave. Please refer to the season calendar for sectional dates, times and locations.
CONCERTS

Season Concerts: Accelerando Strings performs 3 regular season concerts, including one CPS community concert in the spring. Please refer to the detailed season schedule for specific dates and times of Accelerando Strings performances and other events.

Community Concert: Accelerando Strings will present one Community Concert in collaboration with a CPS high school during the winter semester.

Attendance at concerts is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

AS ENRICHMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

COMPOSITION SEMINAR
Composition Seminar meets Sundays from 10:45–11:45 am. See page 34 for more information.

KAISO STEEL ORCHESTRA
CYSO’s most advanced steelpan ensemble. Meets Saturdays from 3:15–5:15 pm. See pages 29 - 30 for more information.

JAZZ ORCHESTRA
Jazz Orchestra is audition-based and meets on Tuesdays from 6:00—8:30 pm. See page 27 for more information.
DEBUT ORCHESTRA (DO)

Debut Orchestra is a full orchestra led by Dana Green and supported by an teaching assistant. DO provides predominantly middle school-aged student musicians with their first exposure to high level full orchestra training. Their season includes weekly rehearsals, sectionals, and performances at local venues such as the Studebaker Theater and Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall.

REHEARSALS

Weekly DO rehearsals: Saturday mornings 10:00 am-12:00 pm (unless otherwise noted) in Rooms 833 & 838 of the Fine Arts Building. Refer to the detailed season schedule for specific dates and times of Debut Orchestra rehearsals and other events.

Dress rehearsals: Scheduled before each major performance, dress rehearsals are an important opportunity for students to run through the entire program and ease any potential concert jitters. Students are not required to wear concert dress for these rehearsals. Attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

SECTIONALS

Sectionals are mandatory sessions designed to provide additional assistance in preparing season repertoire. Each section will work with prominent Chicago area musicians who have extensive experience in the art of orchestral playing.

Sectionals will be held throughout the season on regular rehearsal days at the Fine Arts Building and Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave. Please refer to the Season Schedule for sectional dates, times and locations.
CONCERTS

Season Concerts: Debut Orchestra performs a concert in early December and in early May to close the season. Please refer to the detailed season schedule for specific dates and times of Debut Orchestra performances and other events.

Community Concert: Debut Orchestra may perform one Community Concert at an area middle school.

Attendance at concerts is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

DO ENRICHMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

JUNIOR STEEL ORCHESTRA
Junior Steel Orchestra meets weekly on Saturdays from 1:00 – 3:00 pm after Debut Orchestra rehearsal. See pages 29 - 30 for more information.
Preparatory Strings, led by Director of String Ensembles Daniella Valdez and supported by Assistant Director Anne Huynh McTighe, provides string orchestra training to predominantly elementary school aged student musicians who read music and have at least two years of playing experience on their instruments. Weekly rehearsals focus on technique, ensemble performance skills, and basic string repertoire. The Preparatory Strings season includes two performances at local venues that have included the Studebaker Theater and Northwestern University’s Pick-Staiger Concert Hall.

**REHEARSALS**

**Weekly PS rehearsals:** Saturday mornings 10:30 am-12:30 pm (unless otherwise noted) on the 10th floor of the Fine Arts Building in Curtiss Hall. Refer to the detailed season calendar for specific dates and times of Preparatory Strings rehearsals and other events.

**Dress rehearsals:** Scheduled before each major performance, these rehearsals offer an important opportunity for students to run through the entire program and ease any potential concert jitters. Students are not required to wear concert dress for these rehearsals. **Attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory.** See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

**SECTIONALS**

Sectionals are mandatory sessions designed to provide additional assistance in preparing season repertoire. Each section will work with prominent Chicago area musicians who have extensive experience in the art of orchestral playing.

Sectionals will be held throughout the season on regular rehearsal days at the Fine Arts Building and Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave. Please refer to the season calendar for sectional dates, times and locations.
CONCERTS

Season Concerts: Preparatory Strings performs a concert in early December and in early May to close the season. Please refer to the detailed season schedule for specific dates and times of Preparatory Strings performances and other events.

Gala Performance: Select Preparatory Strings students perform at CYSO's annual Gala fundraiser, CYSO's largest fundraiser of the season, held in late winter/early spring each year.

Attendance at concerts is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

PS ENRICHMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

JUMBIES STEEL ENSEMBLE

Junior Steel Orchestra meets weekly on Saturdays from 9:00 – 10:00 am. See pages 29 - 30 for more information.
OVERTURE STRINGS (OS)

Overture Strings, led by Anne Huynh McTighe, under the direction of Director of String Ensembles Daniella Valdez, provides entry level string orchestra training to our youngest elementary school aged student musicians. Their season includes two performances and weekly rehearsals that focus on technique, ensemble performance skills, basic string repertoire, and music theory.

REHEARSALS
Weekly rehearsals: Saturday mornings 9:00 - 10:15 am (unless otherwise noted) on the 10th floor of the Fine Arts Building in Curtiss Hall. Refer to the detailed season calendar for specific dates and times of Overture Strings rehearsals and other events.

Dress rehearsals: Scheduled before each major performance, these rehearsals offer an important opportunity for students to run through the entire program and ease any potential concert jitters. Students are not required to wear concert dress for these rehearsals. Attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory. See pages 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

Concerts
Season Concerts: Overture Strings performs a concert in early December and in early May to close the season. Please refer to the detailed season schedule for specific dates and times of Overture Strings performances and other events.

Attendance at concerts is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.
Building on Chicago’s rich history as a center of jazz music creation and innovation, CYSO’s Jazz Orchestra is dedicated to the study and performance of classic and contemporary big band jazz music. The orchestra is composed of high school-aged student musicians under the direction of jazz musician and educator Pharez Whitted. The Jazz Orchestra performs everything from classic big band swing charts steeped in jazz tradition to new works that incorporate the current and emerging styles defining the genre today.

**REHEARSALS**

**Weekly rehearsals:** Tuesday evenings from 6:00 – 8:30 pm (unless otherwise noted) in Room 833 of the Fine Arts Building. Refer to the detailed Season Schedule for specific dates and times of Jazz Orchestra rehearsals and other events.

**Dress rehearsals:** Scheduled before each major performance, these rehearsals offer an important opportunity for students to run through the entire program and ease any potential concert jitters. Students are not required to wear concert dress for these rehearsals. **Attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory.** See pages 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

**SECTIONALS**

Sectionals are mandatory sessions designed to provide additional assistance in preparing season repertoire. Each section will work with top professional musicians in the Chicago area. Sectionals will be held throughout the season on regular rehearsal days at the Fine Arts Building. Please refer to the Season Calendar for sectional dates, times and locations.
CONCERTS

Season Concerts: Jazz Orchestra presents 2 to 3 concerts each season. Please refer to the detailed season schedule for specific dates and times of Jazz Orchestra performances and other events.

Gala: Select Jazz Orchestra students perform at CYSO’s Gala fundraiser, our largest fundraiser of the season, held in late winter/early spring each year.

Education Concerts: Engaging children from the Chicago Public Schools is an important part of CYSO’s program. Each season, Jazz Orchestra performs an Education Concert in collaboration with CPS arts integration partners who work intensively with selected Chicago public elementary schools. CYSO requests your cooperation in taking off one school day per season to play these school concerts. A note on CYSO letterhead explaining the concert and requesting an excused absence from school will be available on Google Classroom. CYSO will sign off on service hours for participation in these education performances upon request.

Attendance at concerts is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

JAZZ ORCHESTRA ENRICHMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

AMBASSADORS
Part of the Chamber Music program, Ambassadors rehearses Sundays from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. See page 33 for more information.

COMPOSITION SEMINAR
Composition Seminar meets Sundays from 10:45 – 11:45 am. See page 34 for more information.

KAISO STEEL ORCHESTRA
CYSO’s most advanced steelpan ensemble. Meets Saturdays from 3:15 – 5:15 pm. See pages 29 - 30 for more information.
STEEL ORCHESTRAS

CYSO’s Steel Orchestras are comprised of four steelpan ensembles made up of elementary, middle, and high school students. Under the direction of Director of Steel Orchestras Scott McConnell, this is a full year program that introduces students to music through the steelpan (also called the steel drum), a unique percussion instrument with roots in the Caribbean islands and culture of Trinidad and Tobago. Rehearsals focus on basic music theory, technique, and musicianship, building a diverse repertoire and learning about calypso—the traditional music of Trinidad and Tobago—as well as other musical styles from classical to jazz.

No experience is necessary to join CYSO’s Steel Orchestras. Ensembles range from beginner to experienced young musicians. To join, students participate in a tryout and are placed in an appropriate ensemble based on their age and musical experience. The CYSO Steel Orchestra program is supported in part by a generous donation from The Alvin & Louise Myerberg Family Foundation.

STEEL ORCHESTRA DESCRIPTIONS

The Jumbies | The Jumbies is designed for students in grades 1-3. No formal music experience is required. Students perform a showcase recital at the end of each semester in December and May.

Groove Steel Ensemble | Groove is for beginner students in grades 4-8 with little to no music experience. No formal music experience is required. Students will be introduced to music notation throughout the semester.

Junior Steel Orchestra | Junior Steel is designed for students in grades 4-8 or students who demonstrate an intermediate level of music. Students in Debut Orchestra and Preparatory Strings are also encouraged to participate in this ensemble as an enrichment program. Students will continue to develop their interpretation of notated music throughout the semester with focus on syncopated rhythms.
Kaiso Steel Orchestra | Kaiso is for high school students and is the only steelpan program that requires an audition to join. Students in Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra, Concert Orchestra, and Accelerando Strings are encouraged to participate in this ensemble as an enrichment program.

REHEARSALS
Weekly Rehearsals: Saturdays in room 802 of the Fine Arts Building.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ensemble</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:00 am</td>
<td>Jumbies Steel Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Junior Steel Orchestra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Groove Steel Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 – 5:15 pm</td>
<td>Kaiso Steel Orchestra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCERTS
Season Concerts: All four steel ensembles and orchestras perform a joint concert in early December and in early May to close the season. Other performance opportunities may arise and members will be notified of additional performance opportunities as soon as they are finalized.

Gala: Select Kaiso students perform at CYSO’s annual Gala fundraiser, our largest fundraiser of the season, held in late winter/early spring each year.

Education Concerts: Kaiso Orchestra is also featured in the winter and spring at the Studebaker Theater and the Chicago Cultural Center in a set of educational concerts sponsored by the International Music Foundation for Chicago Public Schools elementary school students. CYSO requests your cooperation in taking off one school day per season to play these school concerts. A note on CYSO letterhead explaining the concert and requesting an excused absence from school will be provided for each student and available electronically on Google Classroom. CYSO will sign off on Service Hours for participation in these education performances.

Attendance at concerts is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

KAISO STEEL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

COMPOSITION SEMINAR
Composition Seminar meets Sundays from 10:45 – 11:45 am. See page 34 for more information.

JAZZ ORCHESTRA
Jazz Orchestra is audition-based and meets on Tuesdays from 6:00—8:30 pm. See page 27 for more information.
CHAMBER MUSIC (CHM)

All SO and PO students have the opportunity to enroll in Chamber Music. Led by Dr. Donald DeRoche, CYSO Director of Chamber Music, the program offers a wide array of performance opportunities for all types of chamber ensembles.

Curriculum includes weekly coaching from eminent Chicago area professional musicians, masterclasses, and recitals; all focusing on practical skills needed for small ensemble playing. The practice of both standard and contemporary works is encouraged to significantly expand student repertoire. In recent years, CYSO chamber ensembles have been featured on National Public Radio's From the Top, WFMT's Introductions, and have won awards at national and local chamber music competitions.

REHEARSALS

Weekly Rehearsals: Chamber Music rehearses weekly on Sundays from 12:30 – 2:30 pm for SO students or 3:00 - 5:00 pm for PO Students at the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave or Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave. Chamber Only students may be placed in a group that meets at either time. See the season calendar for details.

CHAMBER CONCERTS AND RECITALS

Chamber ensembles are required to perform at spring and fall annual Chamberpalooza recitals. Chamberpalooza is a multi-room experience that is the culminating performance that occurs at the end of each semester. Each chamber ensemble is also required to perform on one of the CYSO Chamber Showcases presented in the Spring. In addition, ensembles may take advantage of area chamber competitions, community service performances, and paid performance opportunities. Attendance at concerts is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

Student interest for Chamber Music will be collected during registration.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Percussion Ensemble is required for all Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestra percussionists. The group rehearses on Sundays from 12:00 - 2:00 pm before Symphony Orchestra rehearsal for SO students, and 3:00 - 5:00 pm after Philharmonic Orchestra for PO students. Each SO & PO percussionist receives a full tuition scholarship to participate in Percussion Ensemble. Ensembles perform at Chamberpalooza recitals in the fall and spring.
AMBASSADORS
Part of CYSO’s Community Engagement Programs, Ambassadors provides training in advanced musicianship, public speaking, and leadership development for four CYSO ensembles who present interactive music education programs to Chicago Public Schools students. Ambassadors consist of three Chamber Music ensembles (string quartet, brass quintet, woodwind quintet) and a Jazz Orchestra combo group chosen by CYSO staff. The fall semester focuses on selecting repertoire and developing an engaging educational performance/demonstrations and the spring semester includes visits to area elementary schools for performances and masterclasses.

PERFORMANCES
In-School Concerts: In addition to the Chamberpalooza concerts for SO and PO participants, Ambassadors visit various Chicago area schools to perform two in-school concerts, two masterclasses and provide access to school children that otherwise may not be able to attend concert performances. These concerts take place in January and February, over two non-consecutive school days. CYSO staff will provide documentation of the student’s participating for the school administration. Transportation to and from the schools and lunch is provided by CYSO. Attendance at concerts is mandatory. See page 38 - 42 for the full attendance policy.

Service Hours: All Ambassador Students receive 8 service hours per performance day. The form can be completed by a CYSO Operations staff member.

COMPOSITION SEMINAR
Composition Seminar guides student composers as they develop improvisation and listening skills, learn basic score analysis, and study an overview of 20th and 21st century music. Composition Seminar is open to high school students and enrollment takes place over the summer. The program supplements students’ understanding of musical concepts in rehearsals, broadening their potential for growth. Students interested in Composition Seminar must demonstrate an understanding of basic music theory before enrolling.

 Weekly seminars: Sundays from 10:45 – 11:45 am at Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave.

CURRICULUM
Fall: Improvisation, listening, score analysis, overview of 20th/21st Century music, and a chamber music recital. Eight classes and four ½ hour private lessons focused on a chamber piece and compositional process (lesson schedule to be determined by student and teacher).

Spring: Listening, score analysis, overview of 20th/21st Century music, and an orchestra reading session. Eight classes and four 30 minute private lessons focused on a short orchestra piece and the process of reproduction and parts (lesson schedule to be determined by student and teacher).
FINANCIAL POLICIES

FEES AND TUITION PAYMENT POLICIES

Fee Schedule 2021-2022
All Tuition and other program fee amounts and their due dates by program can be found in Section 5 beginning on page 48.

Due Dates Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/2/2021</td>
<td>Registration and tuition payment option due. Tuition payment options include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) Pay tuition in full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) Set up a payment plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3) Apply for financial assistance and make a $50 tuition deposit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/1/2021</td>
<td>Notification of financial assistance amounts for those who applied for financial assistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early/mid September</td>
<td>Mandatory CYSO Parent Meetings are scheduled for each ensemble. Tuition statements will be available in the information packets distributed at these meetings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payment Options
At the time of registration, families will have the options to:
1) Pay tuition in full
2) Set up a payment plan
3) Apply for financial assistance and make a $50 tuition deposit, for which payment by credit or debit card will be required.

If you would like to pay by check or cash, please contact Martha Nolin at mnolin@cyso.org. Tuition payment plans will require a credit/debit card. Additional credit/debit card payments, including those for Enrichment Programs, can be made at the CYSO website at www.cyso.org/tuition

Payment Plans
All programs will have an eight-month plan based on total tuition for the year for the months of June through January. Details about the plans are available during registration.
*Tuition payment plans will require a credit/debit card.

Refunds
All fees and tuition payments are non-refundable, with some exceptional cases to be reviewed.

Delinquent Accounts
Families with outstanding tuition balances from the prior years will need to pay their prior year balances before they can register for the current year’s programs. Families with accounts not in good standing will be contacted after December 31st and will be subject to a status review which could result in a student not being able to take a seating audition in January for the Spring season.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS

Students will have access to the online CYSO financial assistance application through the registration form. If your family income is $100,000 or below and you’re concerned about CYSO tuition, we encourage you to apply for financial assistance. Families in higher income brackets and those with unique circumstances may also qualify for assistance. All families with tuition concerns are welcome to apply for Financial Assistance.

Required materials and information for the Financial Assistance Application include:

- The completed online application
- A copy of the first page of the family’s Federal Income Tax Form 1040 for 2020. Please block out all Social Security numbers, as CYSO does not use this information.
- $50 deposit

Families applying for financial assistance for multiple students should submit only one application. Families will still have to submit page one of the online registration for each student.

CYSO considers factors such as household income, number of children in CYSO programs, special family circumstances, and other unique details when determining each student’s financial assistance amount.

The financial assistance application must be completed with all of the required information and the $50 deposit must be paid before applications can be reviewed. Applications submitted after the July 2nd due date cannot be guaranteed assistance for the 2021-2022 season. However, a significant change in financial status could qualify you for assistance during the season. If you think you may be eligible for financial assistance based on a change of income or other financial circumstances during the 2021-2022 season, please contact Martha Nolin at (312) 939-2207 or mnolin@cyso.org.

Applicants will receive their financial assistance amount by 8/01/2021. At that time, families will be able to set up a payment plan or pay in whole any portion of Orchestra Tuition and Enrichment Program Tuition not covered by the financial assistance amount. Every effort will be made to meet the needs of students and their families. Applicants can expect strict confidentiality regarding all sensitive information provided.
AUDITION POLICIES

ENTRANCE AUDITIONS
All students must complete a successful entrance audition to be a member of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras’ programs. Current members who wish to remain in their present program do not have to re-audition for the following year, with the exception of students on probationary status. Entrance auditions are held each March for current students and April for new students. All students will pay an audition fee if auditioning. Please review the Audition FAQ and Audition Requirements for more information. Audition registration and excerpts for each season are posted in January.

SEATING AUDITIONS
Seating auditions are conducted in all orchestra programs to assess the level of the orchestra and track improvement. There is generally a rotation of seating assignment between each piece which varies by section. Seating auditions are held in August and January.

Music for seating auditions is chosen from season repertoire and is distributed to the students approximately one month in advance. Please refer to the season calendar for specific dates, times and locations. Audition date and time assignments are assigned to students and can only be rescheduled with prior CYSO staff approval.

All CYSO students are required to take a seating audition in order to participate that semester. Students who do not take their seating audition may not be allowed to participate in rehearsals until one has taken place.

Seating placements remain in effect for the entirety of each concert cycle. Please note that seating is subject to change. SO Gala and PO & AS winter concert seating is determined from the fall seating auditions. CORE placements are selected based on their fall seating audition. Seating Auditions are mandatory for all students. If you are concerned with the date of spring auditions, email your orchestra's operations assistant immediately. All make up seating auditions must be performed before the audition date.
ATTENDANCE POLICIES

PHILOSOPHY
Membership in CYSO is both a privilege and a responsibility. As one of the nation's finest youth orchestra programs, CYSO maintains its standing through the commitment and dedication of our musicians. Participation at rehearsals results in successful performances. CYSO attendance guidelines define players' responsibility in order to ensure the group's success. Regular attendance maintains the musical integrity of the orchestras, as well as each player's individual efforts and investments. The policies below apply to all CYSO program members, unless otherwise noted.

SIGN-IN & ARRIVAL
Upon arrival, students must sign in at the check-in table. Failure to do so will result in an absence. All orchestra members must be warming up at least 10 minutes before rehearsal or sound check is scheduled to begin. Percussion and harp students must arrive 20 minutes prior to the start of the rehearsal to set up equipment. Rehearsal downbeat is given at the time noted on the schedule. Students are considered late if they are not in their seats when rehearsal announcements begin. One late arrival/early departure is equivalent to 1/3 of an absence.

Remember to allow extra time for any potential travel delays (i.e. parking, traffic, train delays, special events, and slow elevators). City events and congestion are very common on weekends in downtown Chicago. We do our best to inform families of events that may create additional travel delays. Watch for email “TRAFFIC ALERTS” from CYSO.

ABSENCE DEFINITIONS
A limited number of absences are allotted as described under ABSENCE LIMITS for all CYSO students. We do not recognize excused or unexcused absences. Absences may be used for the following reasons: school band/orchestra concerts, mandatory school event, ILMEA audition/festival/conference, college audition, family religious event, significant illness/injury, or death in the family or similar family emergency.

Late Arrivals: Students will be recorded tardy if they are not in their seats when tuning begins. Please submit an Absence Form (cyso.org/absence) if you plan to arrive late for any reason. For day-of emergencies, please contact the office directly.

Early Departures: Students must submit an Absence Form in advance if they need to leave a rehearsal or CYSO event early due to a school band/orchestra commitment or important family matter. Early departure due to a train schedule or other transportation issue is not permissible.

Missing half of or more of a rehearsal is equivalent to one full absence. Three late arrivals and/or early departures accrued during a concert cycle will equal one absence.

Mandatory Events: Dress rehearsals, soundchecks, and concerts are mandatory for all CYSO programs. An absence from a mandatory event may result in being placed on probation or removed from the program at the discretion of the CYSO staff. If you are absent from a mandatory event, you will be charged for the cost of a substitute replacement musician. If students have a conflict with a mandatory event, they must email an Operations staff member directly in addition to filling out an absence form. The only acceptable reason for such an absence that will not automatically result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the Artistic Staff are a death in the family, severe illness/injury accompanied by a doctor’s note, or a school band/orchestra concert accompanied by proper reporting of the absence.
## PROGRAM ABSENCE LIMITS

### Symphony Orchestra & Encore Chamber Orchestra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Accrued Absences</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Concert Cycle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>No penalty, unless a mandatory event is missed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Student is place on Probation* and video jury is required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Automatic dismissal from CYSO Programs**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gala Concert Cycle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No penalty, unless a mandatory event is missed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Student is placed on Probation*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Automatic removal from Gala concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Concert Cycle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>No penalty, unless a mandatory event is missed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Student is place on Probation* and video jury is required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Automatic dismissal from CYSO Programs**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Symphony Orchestra students who reach this number of absences will automatically be required to send in a Probationary Jury Video before the next rehearsal. If they do not submit their video prior to 24 hours before the upcoming rehearsal, they will not be permitted to participate in that rehearsal, and that will count as their fourth absence. A fourth absence will automatically demand a second probationary video and the student’s participation with the orchestra will be reviewed. Please reference page 41 - 42 for Probationary Procedures.

** The ONLY acceptable excuses for a fifth excused absence that will not automatically dismiss a student from CYSO are: a death in the family or a severe illness/injury accompanied by a doctor’s note.

### Philharmonic Orchestra & Accelerando Strings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Accrued Absences</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall, Winter, Spring Concert Cycles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>No penalty, unless a mandatory event is missed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Student is place on Probation* and video jury is required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Automatic dismissal from CYSO Programs**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please reference page 41 - 42 for Probationary Procedures

**The ONLY acceptable excuses for a fourth excused absence that will not automatically dismiss a student from CYSO are: a death in the family or a severe illness/injury accompanied by a doctor’s note.
### Concert Orchestra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Accrued Absences</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall &amp; Spring Concert Cycles</td>
<td>No penalty, unless a mandatory event is missed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Student is placed on Probation* and video jury is required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Automatic dismissal from CYSO Programs**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please reference page 41 - 42 for Probationary Procedures

**The ONLY acceptable excuses for a fourth excused absence that will not automatically dismiss a student from CYSO are: a death in the family or a severe illness/injury accompanied by a doctor’s note.

### Debut Orchestra, Preparatory Strings, & Overture Strings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Accrued Absences</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall &amp; Spring Concert Cycles</td>
<td>No penalty, unless a mandatory event is missed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Student is placed on Probation* and video jury is required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Automatic dismissal from CYSO Programs**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Jazz Orchestra & Steel Orchestras

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Accrued Absences</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall, Winter, &amp; Spring Concert Cycles</td>
<td>No penalty, unless a mandatory event is missed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Student is placed on Probation* and video jury is required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Automatic dismissal from CYSO Programs**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chamber Music & Composition Seminar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Accrued Absences</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall &amp; Spring Concert Cycles</td>
<td>No penalty, unless a mandatory event is missed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Student is placed on Probation* and video jury is required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Automatic dismissal from CYSO Programs**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please reference page 41 - 42 for Probationary Procedures

**The ONLY acceptable excuses for a fourth excused absence that will not automatically dismiss a student from CYSO are: a death in the family or a severe illness/injury accompanied by a doctor’s note.
REPORTING AN ABSENCE

Students are required to submit an absence form at least 2 weeks in advance to report any scheduled absence, late arrival, or early departure. A complete absence form must give a reason for the absence. Absence forms can be filled out online by going to cyso.org/absence.

Please note that verbal approval of an absence from the conductor or staff member is not sufficient—an absence form must be submitted. In the case of a concert or dress rehearsal absence, students/families must also email an Operations staff member directly. Please do not speak with conductors regarding absences unless directed to do so by an Operations staff member.

In case of a last minute emergency, families should email or leave a voicemail for the appropriate Operations Assistant explaining your circumstance on the day of the absence. In such cases, an absence form must be submitted immediately following the day the student missed. Absences for sickness from dress rehearsals and/or concerts must be accompanied by a doctor’s note.

It is the responsibility of the students and their parents/guardians to report long-planned absences such as scheduled school band/orchestra concerts, mandatory school event, ILMEA audition/festival/conference, college audition, or family religious event. Absence forms must be submitted as soon as the students and parents become aware of such conflicts.

PROBATIONARY PROCEDURES

Per each CYSO program’s specific excused absence limit, students will be placed on probation if too many absences have been accrued. Students may also be placed on probationary status at the discretion of the artistic staff for any of the following reasons:

• Missing a mandatory CYSO event such as a concert or dress rehearsal
• Routine late arrivals or early departures
• Lack of preparation at rehearsals or seating auditions
• Disruptive/disrespectful behaviors towards the fellow musicians, conductor, or any CYSO staff

Excessive Absences, Missing Mandatory Events, Lateness or Early Departures

Students on probation will be required to complete the remainder of the season without any further excessive absences, absences from mandatory CYSO events, or routine lateness/early departures in order for Probationary Status to be lifted. At the discretion of the Artistic Staff, the student may also be required to perform a Probationary Jury or re-audition for CYSO for the next season.

Lack of Preparation

Probationary status caused by lack of preparation will require performing a successful Probationary Jury prior to participating in any concerts and for Probationary Status to be lifted. At the discretion of the Artistic Staff, the student may also be required to re-audition for CYSO for the next season.

Behavioral Issues

Disciplinary actions for individuals placed on Probationary Status due to behavioral issues may include suspension from CYSO programs for the remainder of the year; ineligibility to re-audition for CYSO the following year; or, in extreme cases, expulsion from CYSO. Probationary status resulting from behavioral problems will require a re-audition and approval from the artistic staff before being allowed to return to CYSO the following year.
Probationary Jury
Probationary status caused by lack of preparation or excessive absences may require performing a successful probationary jury prior to participating in any concerts either in person or via video. Whether or not the probationary jury is performance in person or sent in via video is up to the discretion of the conductor.

Students who fail to perform a successful Probationary Jury will remain on probationary status and given a period of time to improve their performance. Prior to participating in a concert, all students remaining on probationary status will be required to perform a second probationary jury. In case of poor performance at the second probationary jury, CYSO reserves the right to require a student to re-audition for their spot in CYSO for the next season, if they are not a senior or may dismiss any student from the concert and/or from CYSO programs.

Substitute fees
Families will be charged for the cost of a substitute replacement musician for concerts when necessary, which could amount to fees up to $300. CYSO will hire the substitute.

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

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

INSTRUMENT LIABILITY/THEFT

All CYSO students/families are responsible for their instruments and personal belongings brought to rehearsals or any CYSO events. Lost, stolen or damaged instruments, instrument accessories, and all other personal items are not the responsibility of CYSO. We strongly encourages members to have their instruments insured. In the event of damage or theft to your instrument or personal belongings while participating in a CYSO activity, please notify a CYSO staff member immediately.

STUDENT LIABILITY

CYSO is not responsible for any injury that may occur while at a CYSO rehearsal or event. All rehearsal and performance spaces used by CYSO are not owned or operated by CYSO, and therefore CYSO cannot exercise responsibility for a student after they have left the boundaries of the rehearsal or performance space. This includes hallways and other floors of the Fine Arts Building, and areas outside the respective performance spaces. CYSO asks that students do not leave the building of the rehearsal or performance space for any reason during rehearsals or concerts. Should you become injured while you are participating in a CYSO activity, please notify a staff member immediately.
CODE OF CONDUCT

Members of Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras perform locally and tour as a group. All participating musicians are representatives of the organization, and the behavior of each musician reflects upon the entire group. It is essential to respect the rights and property of others. We count on all participants to use common sense in avoiding situations and behavior that would put themselves or anyone else at risk, cause problems for the group, or adversely affect the safety, performance and enjoyment of all. CYSO strictly enforces a zero tolerance policy with regards to the use of drugs and alcohol, smoking, any other illegal activities, and any form of harassment towards students and staff both from CYSO students and their families. CYSO reserves the right to immediately dismiss any student or family who violates the CYSO Code of Conduct.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION AT CYSO

CYSO’S dedication to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) is inseparable from our commitment to musical excellence. We value the unique role and contribution of every one of our musicians and recognize that we will only create world-class music when each member of the ensemble can participate to their fullest potential. CYSO supports the personal and musical growth of our students, honors all voices, and stands in solidarity with our students, families, and community members to dismantle the systems that create inequality in music. Students come to CYSO through their common love of music, but quickly learn that they have so much more than music in common. The experience of sharing the stage with a diverse group of peers equips them to excel as the next generation of leaders.

CYSO PROMISES AND REQUESTS

CYSO’S PROMISES

CYSO promises to prioritize community. We recognize our students’ role as current and future leaders of the music community. We will model healthy group expectations, equipping students to show respect and cooperation in their own musical communities and the wider world.

CYSO promises to hold each student to the same achievement standards and provide equitable support for each student to rise to those standards. We know our students have worked hard to get into CYSO. Being a member of this organization takes dedication, perseverance, and sacrifice. Every person in CYSO is capable of their own personal greatness – CYSO will work to meet your unique needs so that nothing holds you back from going as far as you want to go.

CYSO promises to make space for brave conversations. We know it takes courage to ask for help, and it can be hard to point out problems. We promise that you will always have the time and space you need to have brave conversations with CYSO staff and faculty members.

CYSO promises to stand by our statement of solidarity. As musicians, we value perseverance. We don’t give up and walk away when things get challenging or frustrating. We’ve committed to standing with students and community members, and we mean it. We won’t back away from our promises.
CYSO promises to keep practicing. We are all a work in progress. Just like we practice our instruments every day, we will continue practicing equity and inclusion. We know we will make mistakes, and we promise to keep trying. We won’t walk away from difficult conversations.

CYSO promises to provide representation and inspiration. CYSO refuses to limit your dreams. We promise to show you the incredible diversity that exists within musical excellence. We hope it inspires you in your own unique journey.

CYSO’S REQUESTS

We ask CYSO students to speak up. We rely on you to let us know when something doesn’t feel right. If you feel that discrimination or inequity is occurring, name it. We can only address problems if we can talk about them first.

We ask CYSO students to respectfully speak & listen. Consider this before you speak: Is what you’re about to say true for you? Does it contribute to the conversation? Is it considerate? Whatever you say, we ask that you try to say it kindly. When someone else is speaking, we ask you to practice listening to understand, not to respond.

We ask CYSO students to engage in conversations that allow the group to reflect and learn. Learning new skills, both musical and interpersonal, can sometimes feel uncomfortable. We all make mistakes, and we ask that you be willing to apologize for yours and forgive others for theirs. We invite you to use questions & “I” statements, refrain from accusations, and assume that other learners have good intentions.

We ask CYSO students to call upon authority (Parents, Instructors, Staff) to help them navigate the conversation & empower them in the space. We understand that you may not always feel like you know the right thing to do or say. We encourage you to lean on a trusted adult’s wisdom to help you move through unfamiliar or uncomfortable situations. Include your adults in the conversation, and ask for the tools you need to advocate for yourself.

We ask CYSO students to create a respectful space. You share responsibility for your learning environment with CYSO. We ask you to work with your conductor and peers to make an ensemble agreement with your orchestra that outlines your in-rehearsal expectations.

We ask CYSO students to talk to us, even if they’re not sure what they’re trying to say. You don’t need to be sure what you’re feeling to talk to us – even “something isn’t right” is enough to start the conversation. We ask you to trust CYSO staff and faculty with your thoughts, even if we need to figure out what you’re saying together.

VERBAL, PHYSICAL, AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

CYSO does not tolerate any form of bullying. See a CYSO staff member immediately if you are experiencing verbal or physical harassment of any kind. CYSO Staff will interfere and assess the situation, and the student inflicting harassment may be asked to leave rehearsal. The staff member reserves the right to notify the student’s parents. If this harassment continues after one verbal and written warning, the student will be asked not to return to CYSO. Sexual harassment of any kind will result in dismissal from CYSO.

In addition to contacting staff directly, students and families may also use our incident report form online to anonymously report harassment or other concerning situations. Visit cyso.org/incident
MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION

Acceptance of your position in CYSO is a year-long commitment. The reasons for a student’s decision to terminate their membership mid-year will be reviewed by the Artistic Staff on a case-by-case basis and may result in ineligibility to re-audition for CYSO. We recognize, however, that unavoidable situations may arise where you are no longer able to continue your participation, such as serious illness in the family, or relocation due to a parent’s job. In such cases, exceptions may be made to allow the student to re-audition. Students who terminate their membership anytime after accepting their position will still be responsible for paying full tuition for that season.

WOODWIND AUXILIARY INSTRUMENT CHECK-OUT

Woodwind students may be assigned auxiliary instruments based on their fall and spring seating auditions. If a student does not have access to an auxiliary instrument, one can be checked out from CYSO. Students are responsible for purchasing the appropriate reeds and/or accessories. Any repairs due to loss, malicious damage, or neglect will be the responsibility of the student/family borrowing the instrument. Students must fill out the Auxiliary Instrument Check-out Form and have their parent/guardian sign the form as well. Please refer to this form for additional details on CYSO’s instrument check-out policy. Depending on availability and the number of students assigned to an auxiliary instrument, students may alternate taking the instrument home for independent practice.

AWARDS

CYSO presents two awards to deserving students each season and one award to a music educator. Applications for the awards are released in late winter/early spring.

Mollendorf Award | $1,000 award to a deserving graduating senior to be applied to musical study.
Albert Pick III Award | $1,000 award open to seniors who have been a member of CYSO for at least two consecutive years. The prize is awarded to a well-rounded member of the orchestra who has consistently been involved in service activities outside of music.
Music Inspiration Award | This student-nominated award was created to honor a school band/orchestra director or private lesson teacher who inspire and encourage their students.

REQUIRED FUNDRAISER

CYSO’s annual raffle is a required fundraiser for all members. Each student is required to sell $100 worth of tickets. Students will receive information on the raffle in December. Prizes will be awarded to the top selling student and the top selling orchestra.

PERFORMERS’ SEATING AT JOINT CONCERTS

When orchestras perform joint concerts, performers will be expected to attend the entire concert. Orchestra members who perform first will be seated in the audience free of charge for the remainder of the program. Students performing do not need to purchase tickets to the concert.
ORCHESTRA DRESS CODE

CYSO’s concert dress code is designed to ensure professionalism, an ensemble that appears uniform on stage, and students’ ability to perform. In addition, we believe that it should be simple for families to understand what is and is not acceptable for students to wear on stage, that finding concert clothing should be easy and affordable, and that students are able to determine the clothing choices that work best for them within the constraints of the dress code.

This dress code applies to all orchestras with the exception of steel and jazz (see following pages for Steel/Jazz dress codes).

Orchestras concert dress should include black dress clothing from head to toe, such as:

**What NOT to wear:**
- Short sleeves
- Bare toes, legs, or ankies
- Clothing with words or graphics
- Casual or athletic wear
- Visible undergarments or midriffs
- Hats
- Large accessories or clothing with colored accents
- Cologne or perfume of any type

Religious headwear is acceptable

A white shirt is acceptable as part of a tuxedo

Sleeves must be 3/4 length or longer

Black dress shoes are required

Legs must be all black, including pantyhose, tights, or socks.

Black tie, black bow tie, or no tie are all acceptable
STEEL ORCHESTRAS DRESS CODE

CYSO’s concert dress code is designed to ensure professionalism, an ensemble that appears uniform on stage, and students’ ability to perform. In addition, we believe that it should be simple for families to understand what is and is not acceptable for students to wear on stage, that finding concert clothing should be easy and affordable, and that students are able to determine the clothing choices that work best for them within the constraints of the dress code.

Steel Orchestras dress code includes:

- **JUMBIES**
  - Full-length khaki pants
  - Closed-toe black dress shoes

- **GROOVE, JUNIOR, & KAISO**
  - Religious headwear is acceptable

What NOT to wear:

- Any clothing on top of the Steel t-shirt
- Bare toes, legs, or ankles
- Clothing with words or graphics
- Casual or athletic wear
- Visible undergarments or midriffs
- Hats
- Large accessories or clothing with colored accents
- Cologne or perfume of any type
JAZZ ORCHESTRA DRESS CODE

CYSO’s concert dress code is designed to ensure professionalism, an ensemble that appears uniform on stage, and students’ ability to perform. In addition, we believe that it should be simple for families to understand what is and is not acceptable for students to wear on stage, that finding concert clothing should be easy and affordable, and that students are able to determine the clothing choices that work best for them within the constraints of the dress code.

Jazz Orchestra dress code includes:

- Dark (blue, grey, black, brown) suits, business-casual shirts, pants, long skirts.
- Religious headwear is acceptable
- Black closed-toe dress shoes

What NOT to wear:

- Brightly colored clothing
- Bare toes, legs, or ankles
- Clothing with words or graphics
- Casual or athletic wear
- Visible undergarments or midriffs
- Hats
- Large accessories
- Cologne or perfume of any type
TICKETING POLICIES

TICKETING DETAILS

Most performances by CYSO ensembles are ticketed events. Ticket prices vary depending on the ensemble, venue, and seat location. Concert and ticketing details are distributed in parent information packets at the beginning of the year, and are also available online at cyso.org/events. Tickets go on sale approximately one month before each concert. Families are encouraged to purchase tickets ahead of time as some events sell out. Any tickets that are still available the day of the concert will be sold at the door.

Concert Seating
Seating at most concerts is general admission (with the exception of Orchestra Hall performances) and is available on a first-come first-served basis. Orchestra Hall concerts have general admission (floor and upper balcony) and reserved seating sections (lower balcony and boxes) available for purchase. Online ticket sales close the Friday before the concert. In-person tickets are available from the Symphony Center box office beginning mid-day on the day of the event.

Limited Free Family Tickets
We strongly encourage members of all CYSO ensembles to attend the Symphony Orchestra performances at Orchestra Hall. Any student not performing at the concert is entitled to a $40 discount that can be redeemed for two free general admission tickets or used toward the cost of lower balcony seats. Families are also welcome to purchase additional tickets to the performance.

Note that because PO students perform at the spring Orchestra Hall Concert, the CYSO family discount does not apply to them for that performance.

Concert Accessibility
If you or a member of your party have accessibility needs or need accommodations to attend a CYSO event, please reach out prior to the performance so that we can make arrangements. Contact Abbey Hambright, CYSO Director of Marketing, at ahambright@cyso.org or call 312-939-2207 x310.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TICKET SALES REQUIREMENT

Symphony Orchestra members are required to fill 8 seats at both the fall and spring Orchestra Hall concerts. This ticket requirement helps ensure that students have a great audience at the concert and that we can continue to hold concerts in prestigious venues such as Orchestra Hall.

PR IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Families are encouraged to make contacts in their community with local newspapers, schools, PTA, service groups, senior citizens, musical groups, clubs, and churches to encourage attendance at CYSO concerts. CYSO gladly offers group discounts and can assist you with fliers and publicity materials. If you have specific ideas or questions about how to help CYSO promote concerts in your community, please contact Abbey Hambright, Marketing Manager, at (312) 939-2207, x310.
Welcome to the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras family! CYSO parents provide much of the daily support and encouragement makes the success of the organization possible. CYSO staff also depends on parents when planning and running important events, looking for volunteers, and for providing financial support through contributions.

**PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING**

Parent orientation meetings are held in August and September. Attendance is mandatory at the parent orientation for your child’s ensemble. Please see the season schedule for dates and times. These meetings provide parents with important scheduling details, policy information, and ways to get involved in special projects.

**PARENT SUPPORT & ENCOURAGEMENT**

In addition to providing the highest quality musical experiences, CYSO strives to teach students about professionalism, responsibility, and personal integrity. CYSO asks that our parents help their children fulfill their responsibilities to CYSO programs by encouraging 100% attendance, prompt arrival at rehearsals and concerts, private lessons on their instrument and at-home practice and preparation.

**PARENT PARTNERS**

CYSO Parent Partners is a group of parents who support and serve CYSO and our young musicians through fundraising, enrichment events, student support activities, and community service. **WE NEED YOU!** CYSO would not be the organization that it is today without the tremendous support we receive from parents. Our parents provide service in a variety of areas, and there are opportunities to match every interest.

If you are interested in serving as a Parent Partner, contact Karen Mari at kmari@cyso.org.
PARENT GIVING

Tuition covers approximately 40% of the actual program costs to participate in CYSO. Additionally, we provide approximately 1 in 4 students with financial assistance. CYSO is able to keep tuition costs affordable and provide financial assistance because of the generosity of our supporters. We encourage all families to make an annual contribution in an amount with which they are comfortable. You can also help by connecting CYSO with local foundations and corporations, checking with your company to see if they will match your gifts, or by attending one of our annual fundraising events.

SAFETY

All parents have a responsibility to create a safe environment for all students. CYSO safety procedures will be presented at all parent meetings. Please see the Emergency Procedure section of the Handbook for more details. Please notify a CYSO staff person if you become aware of any students violating any of the behavioral codes as defined in the Handbook.

ALLERGY POLICY

Please do not send peanuts, nuts, or derivatives (nut butters, nut oil) for snacks or treats. It is important that children learn to manage their own allergies as they become developmentally able to do so.
SECTION 5: TUITION & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Payment Options
At the time of registration, families will have the options to:

1) Pay tuition in full
2) Set up a payment plan
3) Apply for financial assistance and make a $50 tuition deposit, for which payment by credit or debit card will be required.

If you would like to pay by check or cash, please contact Martha Nolin at mnolin@cyso.org. Tuition payment plans will require a credit/debit card. Additional credit/debit card payments, including those for Enrichment Programs, can be made at the CYSO website at www.cyso.org/tuition

Refunds
All fees and tuition payments are non-refundable, with some exceptional cases to be reviewed.

Delinquent Accounts
Families with outstanding tuition balances from the prior years will need to pay their prior year balances before they can register for the current year’s programs. Accounts not in good standing on December 31st will be subject to a status review and could result in a student not being able to take a seating audition in January for the Spring season.

PROGRAM TUITION BY ENSEMBLE

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CORE (SO & CORE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
<th>Who Pays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Registration and tuition payment option, Financial assistance application due</td>
<td>$1,750/year, $50 (Registration deposit only for families applying for Financial Assistance)*</td>
<td>All SO &amp; CORE members, SO &amp; CORE members applying for Financial Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Financial assistance announced to families</td>
<td>Statement balance amount after financial assistance amount</td>
<td>SO &amp; CORE members receiving financial assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>SO enrichment programs – Tuition fees will be added to family’s statement.</td>
<td>Chamber Music - $700/year, Composition - $550/year</td>
<td>SO &amp; CORE members enrolled in enrichment programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Orchestra Hall ticket sales (see Section 3, page 43)</td>
<td>8 tickets or $160</td>
<td>Guests of SO members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Student fundraiser due (see Section 3, page 42)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Friends, family, local businesses, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Orchestra Hall ticket sales (see Section 3, page 43)</td>
<td>8 tickets or $160</td>
<td>Guests of SO members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Registration Deposit is required for students whose families are applying for Financial Assistance. The deposit is used to reserve the student’s spot in the orchestra, and is applied to the student’s tuition for the season.
## PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA (PO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
<th>Who Pays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Registration Application and tuition payment option</td>
<td>$1,200/year</td>
<td>All PO Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial Assistance Application Due</td>
<td>$50 (Registration deposit</td>
<td>PO Members applying for Financial Assistance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>only for families applying</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>for Financial Assistance.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Financial assistance announced to families</td>
<td>Statement balance amount</td>
<td>PO members receiving financial assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>after financial assistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>amount</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>PO enrichment programs – Tuition fees will be added to family’s statement.</td>
<td>Chamber Music - $700/year</td>
<td>PO Members enrolled in enrichment programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Composition - $550/year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Student fundraiser due</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Friends, family, local businesses, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(see Section 3, page 42)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Audition fee</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>All students auditioning for the next level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>orchestra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Registration Deposit is required for students whose families are applying for Financial Assistance. The deposit is used to reserve the student’s spot in the orchestra, and is applied to the student’s tuition for the season.

**CHMO students are students who are not participating in a full or strings orchestra. CHMO does not include students who signed up for Chamber Music as an enrichment program.
### CONCERT ORCHESTRA (CO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
<th>Who Pays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Registration Application and tuition payment option</td>
<td>$1050/year</td>
<td>All CO Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial Assistance Application Due</td>
<td>$50 (Registration deposit only for families applying for Financial Assistance.)*</td>
<td>CO Members applying for Financial Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Financial assistance announced to families</td>
<td>Statement balance amount after financial assistance amount</td>
<td>CO members receiving financial assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>CO enrichment programs – Tuition fees will be added to family's statement.</td>
<td>Composition - $550/year</td>
<td>CO Members enrolled in enrichment programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Student fundraiser due (see Section 3, page 42)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Friends, family, local businesses, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Audition fee</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>All students auditioning for the next level orchestra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Registration Deposit is required for students whose families are applying for Financial Assistance. The deposit is used to reserve the student's spot in the orchestra, and is applied to the student's tuition for the season.

### ACCELERANDO STRINGS (AS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
<th>Who Pays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Registration Application and tuition payment option</td>
<td>$900/year</td>
<td>All AS Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial Assistance Application Due</td>
<td>$50 (Registration deposit only for families applying for Financial Assistance.)*</td>
<td>AS Members applying for Financial Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Financial assistance announced to families</td>
<td>Statement balance amount after financial assistance amount</td>
<td>AS members receiving financial assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>AS enrichment programs – Tuition fees will be added to family's statement.</td>
<td>Composition - $550/year</td>
<td>AS Members enrolled in enrichment programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Student fundraiser due (see Section 3, page 42)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Friends, family, local businesses, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Audition fee</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>All students auditioning for the next level orchestra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Registration Deposit is required for students whose families are applying for Financial Assistance. The deposit is used to reserve the student's spot in the orchestra, and is applied to the student's tuition for the season.
### DEBUT ORCHESTRA (DO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
<th>Who Pays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Registration Application and tuition payment option</td>
<td>$950/year</td>
<td>All DO Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial Assistance Application Due</td>
<td>$50 (Registration deposit only for families applying for Financial Assistance,)*</td>
<td>DO Members applying for Financial Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Financial assistance announced to families</td>
<td>Statement balance amount after financial assistance amount</td>
<td>DO members receiving financial assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Student fundraiser due (see Section 3, page 42)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Friends, family, local businesses, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Audition fee</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>All students auditioning for the next level orchestra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Registration Deposit is required for students whose families are applying for Financial Assistance. The deposit is used to reserve the student’s spot in the orchestra, and is applied to the student’s tuition for the season.

### PREPARATORY STRINGS (PS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
<th>Who Pays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Registration Application and tuition payment option</td>
<td>$950/year</td>
<td>All PS Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial Assistance Application Due</td>
<td>$50 (Registration deposit only for families applying for Financial Assistance,)*</td>
<td>PS Members applying for Financial Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Financial assistance announced to families</td>
<td>Statement balance amount after financial assistance amount</td>
<td>PS members receiving financial assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Student fundraiser due (see Section 3, page 42)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Friends, family, local businesses, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Audition fee</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>All students auditioning for the next level orchestra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Registration Deposit is required for students whose families are applying for Financial Assistance. The deposit is used to reserve the student’s spot in the orchestra, and is applied to the student’s tuition for the season.
## OVERTURE STRINGS (OS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
<th>Who Pays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Registration Application and tuition payment option</td>
<td>$600/year</td>
<td>All OS Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial Assistance Application Due</td>
<td>$50 (Registration deposit only for families applying for Financial Assistance.)*</td>
<td>OS Members applying for Financial Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Financial assistance announced to families</td>
<td>Statement balance amount after financial assistance amount</td>
<td>OS members receiving financial assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Student fundraiser due (see Section 3, page 42)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Friends, family, local businesses, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Audition fee</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>All students auditioning for the next level orchestra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Registration Deposit is required for students whose families are applying for Financial Assistance. The deposit is used to reserve the student’s spot in the orchestra, and is applied to the student’s tuition for the season.

## JAZZ ORCHESTRA (JO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
<th>Who Pays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Registration Application and tuition payment option</td>
<td>$850/year</td>
<td>All JO Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial Assistance Application Due</td>
<td>$50 (Registration deposit only for families applying for Financial Assistance.)*</td>
<td>JO Members applying for Financial Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Financial assistance announced to families</td>
<td>Statement balance amount after financial assistance amount</td>
<td>JO members receiving financial assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>JO enrichment programs – Tuition fees will be added to family’s statement.</td>
<td>Composition - $500/year</td>
<td>JO Members enrolled in enrichment programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Student fundraiser due (see Section 3, page 42)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Friends, family, local businesses, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Audition fee**</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>All students auditioning for the full orchestrans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Jazz Orchestra students do not have to re-audition to retain their spot in JO for the 2022-2023 season.**
### STEEL ORCHESTRAS (STL)

*Note that these tuition rates apply to students enrolled ONLY in Steel*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
<th>Who Pays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Registration Deposit* and Financial Assistance application due</td>
<td>Jumbies - $300/year&lt;br&gt;Groove Steel - $550/year&lt;br&gt;Junior Steel - $700/year&lt;br&gt;Kaiso Steel - $700/year&lt;br&gt;$50 (Registration deposit only for families applying for Financial Assistance.)*</td>
<td>All STL members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1,</td>
<td>Financial assistance announced to families</td>
<td>Statement balance amount after financial assistance amount</td>
<td>STL members receiving financial assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Student fundraiser due (see Section 3, page 42)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Friends, family, local businesses, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Audition fee</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>All students auditioning for the next level STL Orchestra, or who wish to audition for a full or string orchestra.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Registration Deposit is required for students whose families are applying for Financial Assistance. The deposit is used to reserve the student’s spot in the orchestra, and is applied to the student's tuition for the season.
STORMS/TORNADOES
In the event of a severe storm or tornado, students should follow CYSO staff members to shelter in the central hallway. If time allows, students will be escorted to first floor theater or Grant Park South parking garage. Students should remain in the safe location until given the all clear by a designated staff member.

WINTER WEATHER
If rehearsal will be canceled due to winter weather, you will receive an email announcement the day of rehearsal by the following times:
• Saturday programs: 6:00 am
• Sunday Philharmonic & SO Chamber Music: 8:00 am
• Sunday Symphony Orchestra & PO Chamber Music: 10:00 am

For emergency student pick-up during winter weather, parents/guardians must come to the building and speak to a CYSO staff member in person in order to pick up their child. If the child drove or commuted by themselves, a CYSO staff member must speak to a parent/guardian directly via the phone before allowing the student to leave the building.

FIRE OR BOMB THREATS
Follow CYSO staff member to the central staircase. If staircase is obstructed, use fire escapes. Cross at Ida B. Wells Drive and gather across from the Fine Arts Building on the horseshoe.

INTRUDER LOCKDOWN
If a student feels they are being followed, or sees a suspicious person in the building, tell a staff member immediately. If the student is in the Fine Arts Building lobby, alert the security guard behind the desk. CYSO will perform a lockdown for intruder situations.

UNEXPECTED EMERGENCY EVENTS
Look to designated CYSO staff member for instructions.