

2023-2024 Basic Requirements for CYSO Membership

1. Participate in all rehearsals and concerts throughout the CYSO season.

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

Symphony Orchestra (SO):

- Weekly Sunday rehearsals: 3:00-6:00 pm or occasionally 3:00-8:00 pm. Includes sectionals & seating auditions
- SO Performances: 2 Orchestra Hall concerts (may include 2 weeknight dress rehearsals), Performance at annual CYSO Gala (includes 1 weeknight dress rehearsal), 2 Community Concerts, other special concert opportunities as they arise
- Mandatory SO Labor Day weekend retreat: **09/01/2023 - 09/03/2023**
- Percussion Ensemble rehearsals (required of all SO percussionists): 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm (see Chamber Music Program for Percussion Ensemble performances)
- Optional Concerto Competition

Concert Orchestra (CO):

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

Debut Orchestra (DO):

- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 10:00 am-12:00 pm. Includes sectionals & seating auditions
- Performances: 2 concerts at various Chicago venues, 1 education concert

Accelerando Strings (AS):

- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 1:00- 3:00 pm. Includes theory, sectionals & seating auditions
- Performances: 3 concerts at various Chicago venues and 1 Community concert

Philharmonic Orchestra (PO):

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

Preparatory Strings (PS):

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

Overture Strings (OS):

- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 9:00-10:15 am
- Performances: 2 concerts at various Chicago venues

Jazz Orchestra (JO):

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



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Kaiso Steel Orchestras (KSO):

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

Junior Steel Orchestras (JSO):

- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 1:00-3:00 pm
- 2 performances per year. Other concert opportunities as they arise.

Groove Steel Ensemble (GSE):

- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 10:30 am-12:00 pm
- 2 performances per year. Other concert opportunities as they arise.

The Jumbies Steel Ensemble (JSE):

- Weekly Saturday rehearsals: 9:00-10:00 pm
- 2 performances per year. Other concert opportunities as they arise.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS:

Chamber Music Program (CHM)

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

Ambassadors (AMB)

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

Composition Seminar (CMP)

- Open to SO, PO, CO, AS, & JO members
- Sundays 10:45-11:45 am
- Includes reading/recording by professional chamber ensemble, reading/recording by Philharmonic Orchestra

2. Agree to adhere to the CYSO attendance policy.

- **Dress Rehearsals & Concerts:** Attendance at all dress rehearsals and concerts is mandatory.
- **Symphony Orchestra:** 3 excused absences in each fall and spring concert repertoire cycle; 1 excused absence in the winter cycle (gala). (3 total cycles per season)
- **Philharmonic Orchestra & Jazz Orchestra:** 2 excused absences in each of the season's 3 concert cycles.
- **Concert Orchestra, Accelerando Strings, Steel Orchestras:** 3 excused absences in each of the season's two concert cycles.
- **Debut Orchestra, Preparatory Strings, & Overture Strings:** 2 excused absences in each of the season's two concert cycles.
- **Chamber Music & Composition Seminar:** 2 excused absences in each of the season's two semesters



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3. Pay CYSO's annual tuition fee.

Below are the current season of 2022-2023 tuition fee rates. Rates for 2023-2024 are subject to change. Financial assistance is available for all programs.

Symphony Orchestra: \$1,750
Philharmonic Orchestra: \$1,200
Concert Orchestra: \$1,050
Debut Orchestra: \$950
Accelerando Strings: \$900
Preparatory Strings: \$950

Overture Strings: \$600
Jazz Orchestra: \$850
Steel Orchestras: \$400 - \$700
Chamber Music: \$700
Composition Seminar: \$550

4. Participate in Student Fundraising.

Symphony Orchestra:

- Sell a minimum of 8 tickets to each Orchestra Hall concert.
- Participate in CYSO's annual raffle fundraiser. Students are asked to sell \$100 in raffle tickets.

All other ensembles:

- Participate in CYSO's annual raffle fundraiser. Students are asked to sell \$100 in raffle tickets.

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

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

For further information on requirements for CYSO membership, please review our Family & Student Handbook at cyso.org/handbook