

How to Advance Through SYSO

Mission: SYSO harnesses the power of music education to provide young people pathways to artistic excellence, intellectual development, and emotional growth.

Vision: SYSO will positively shape the artistic, social, emotional, and intellectual development of young people. We will be recognized as a leader in music education locally and nationally. Our programs and performances will be celebrated for their innovation and excellence. We will ensure equitable access to our programs, remain a model of financial sustainability and earn generous, committed and broad-based community support.

“...provide pathways to artistic excellence, intellectual development, and emotional growth.”

Practice, play, practice, play, practice, play

“If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music.”

— Albert Einstein

- Daily Practice Techniques for a lifelong love of your instrument
 - Start with scales, arpeggios and rudiments and play IN TUNE with the most beautiful sound you can create. Be diligent.
 - Use a metronome
 - Mark your music neatly (accidentals, fingerings, bowings, phrasing)
 - Use sophisticated practice techniques
 - Rhythmic variations on tricky technical passages (. short / _ long)
 - . _ . _ (short long short long)
 - _ . _ . (long short long short)
 - . . _ _ (short short long long)
 - . _ _ . (short long long short)
 - _ _ . . (long long short short)
 - _ . . . (long – tri – pl – et)
 - . . . _ (tri – pl – et - long)
 - Isolate problems (shifts, fingerings, breaks, string crossings))
 - Listen to yourself, Record yourself (self-critique)
 - Play for your family, friends, animals (This is especially helpful when preparing for your auditions)
 - Practice only on the days you eat! Consistent - not sporadic (30mins/day is better than 60 mins every other day)
 - Listen to music (in the car, on the bus, while you are getting ready for school).
 - Listen to your piece
 - Listen to other pieces by the composer you are studying
 - Listen to similar works
 - Listen to composers you have never heard

- Learn about the composer you are studying
 - When did they live? How did they live? Any good stories about them? History is awesome and usually very interesting.
- USE YOUR TIME WISELY! Pay attention to details

Helpful hints specifically for SYSO – (See above and repeat)

- Placement Auditions (August)
 - Prepared piece (2 minutes max)
 - Choose a piece that is well prepared and shows your ability
 - Scales (1 major and 1 minor of your choice; Winds & Brass: 1 – 2 octaves and Strings: 2 – 3 octaves)
 - Even, controlled, fluid
 - One slurred, one articulated
 - Eighth-notes @ 72bpm per quarter-note
 - Sight-reading (will be given to student based on ability)
 - Practice with teacher
 - Rhythm over pitch. Keep Going!
 - Key signature!!!
 - Adjudicators grade on:
 - Intonation (pitch)
 - Rhythm/tempo (speed and rhythm accuracy)
 - Tone/articulation (sound quality – is the sound lovely & resonant)
 - Musicality/Musicianship/Dynamics (phrasing, variety of sound)
 - Sight-reading (see below)
- Weekly Rehearsal Participation and Preparation
 - Bring SYSO music to private lessons
 - Practice orchestra music as part of daily regimen
 - Be early!!! On time is LATE and LATE is unacceptable (Thank you Mr. Cole).
 - Be attentive
 - Develop listening and ensemble skills
 - Prepare for seating auditions well in advance
 - Ask questions of coaches, conductors
- Be an awesome leader for your school music programs and community events. Music provides a great and fun opportunity to lead, which will be a lifelong positive skill.
 - Be a music advocate for your school. Offer great leadership to your fellow friends and classmates.
 - Perform in school activities.
 - Perform in local retirement facilities
- Keep Playing!!! Summer Study and Vacation Planning
 - Attend Summer Music Camps
 - Consider how to plan a practice regimen around vacations
 - Listen to recordings, Bring a copy of your music on vacation
 - Summer Practice and Lessons
 - Masterclasses/ Alternative Teacher Viewpoints

Thank you for being part of SYSO!!