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**SYSO MISSION & VISION**

**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.

**SYSO PROGRAMS**

Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO) is one of the largest youth symphony organizations in the United States. SYSO operates five orchestras during the academic year, presents the Marrowstone Music Festival at Western Washington University and SYSO Summer Music, and operates the programs of the Seattle Conservatory of Music. SYSO also runs in-school programs as part of the SYSO in the Schools initiative. These include the Endangered Instruments Program (EIP), a special in-school program providing free musical instruction on less-commonly studied orchestral instruments. The Musical Pathways Project (MPP) is a collaboration with Seattle Public Schools to strengthen the schools’ capacity to provide high quality music instruction to students from elementary through high school in under-resourced areas of the school district. Each year more than 1,800 students participate in at least one of these SYSO programs.

**SYSO Academic Year Orchestras**

**Prelude String Orchestra (PSO)** is the newest addition to the SYSO orchestra family. Under the direction of Mika Armaly, the PSO serves as the very first orchestral ensemble experience for beginning string musicians.

**Symphonette Orchestra (SO)** presents beginning and intermediate musicians with the opportunity to gain valuable performance experience in a full orchestra environment that includes strings, winds, brass, and percussion. Repertoire is varied and serves as an introduction to the full orchestral experience.

**Debut Symphony Orchestra (DSO)**, which was founded in 1946 as a training group for Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra, was referred to as the “Little Symphony” until 1990.

**Junior Symphony Orchestra (JSO)** is the penultimate orchestra whose repertoire, which is both varied and challenging, consists primarily of larger scale 19th and 20th century works.

**Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra (YSO)**, founded in 1942 under the direction of Francis Aranyi, is SYSO’s flagship orchestra comprised of the most talented and accomplished players. Repertoire encompasses a variety of styles ranging from early music to world premieres. YSO members also often participate in partnership programs with other major arts institutions, such as performing for the Pacific Northwest Ballet School dancers or side-by-side with Seattle Symphony Orchestra musicians.

**Rehearsals**

**Prelude String Orchestra**
CONDUCTOR: MIKA ARMALY
Shorecrest High School
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

**Symphonette Orchestra**
CONDUCTOR: KATE LABIAK
Shorecrest High School
Saturdays, 10:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
All Sectionals on Saturday Mornings

**Debut Symphony Orchestra**
CONDUCTOR: MARK ADAMO
Shorecrest High School
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
All Sectionals on Saturday Mornings

**Junior Symphony Orchestra**
CONDUCTOR: MARCUS TSUTAKAWA
Shorecrest High School
Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
All Sectionals on Saturday Mornings

**Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra**
CONDUCTOR: JUAN FELIPE MOLANO
Music School, University of Washington
Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
All Sectionals on Saturday Mornings
General Guidelines

• Bring all music, a music stand, and a pencil to every rehearsal and come musically prepared.
• Arrive 10 minutes before rehearsal begins, instrument ready, music stand out with music in place, and ready to begin.
• Make rehearsals a priority by honoring the attendance policy (see below).
• Becoming a section leader or principal is an honor to earn and with it comes a higher level of responsibility. These musicians must be available for all rehearsals and the Music Director considers them “assistant conductors.” They will be expected to model excellent attendance, attitude, leadership, discipline, and cooperation.
• Percussionists are required to assist in the moving, setting up, dismantling and putting away of all percussion equipment for rehearsals and concerts. They must arrive to rehearsal at least 15 minutes early to set up the section and plan to stay until all percussion equipment is put away.
• All orchestra members are responsible for setting up their sections and putting away their stands in a neat and orderly fashion.
• Respect all members’ desire to participate fully without distraction. If your behavior becomes a distraction, you will be asked to leave rehearsal.
• SYSO is a guest of rehearsal facilities and all SYSO members are expected to abide by all facility rules and regulations.
• Food or drinks are not allowed in the rehearsal rooms.
• Pick up all trash around the rehearsal room and turn in extra music at the conclusion of each rehearsal, sectional, or concert.
• It is possible for a student to be a full time member in more than one orchestra; however, a second tuition will be charged.
• SYSO makes available all information about rehearsals, concerts, special events, and changes. It is the responsibility of the parent and/or student to obtain this information and to be aware of any changes. This information will be available at the tables located outside your student’s rehearsal hall. It can also be acquired in the SYSO office or through SYSO’s online communications and website. Any questions about the schedule should be directed to your Orchestra Secretary. (See Communicating with SYSO, page 7 for more information.)

Attendance Policy

Each participant will be allowed only two absences during the preparation time for each concert. If a third absence occurs, participation in the upcoming concert is at the discretion of the conductor and will require an audition of the part for the conductor. If a fourth absence occurs or the third absence is the Dress Rehearsal, the conductor will decide whether or not the student will be allowed to play in the concert, with or without an audition. Giving less than a month’s notice for an absence from a concert disqualifies the student from further participation in SYSO.

Reporting an Absence

Follow these instructions if you are unable to attend a rehearsal or sectional: If the student will be absent for any reason s/he must submit an excuse with the reason for the absence and turn it into the orchestra secretary, two weeks prior to the anticipated absence.

For an illness or family emergency: Notify the Orchestra Secretary before the scheduled rehearsal time, by emailing or calling your Orchestra Secretary, or by leaving a message at 206.660.6616.

Absence from a Dress Rehearsal: Missing a scheduled dress rehearsal is unacceptable. One month’s notice MUST be submitted if missing a Dress Rehearsal. Even if the student has not missed any rehearsals for that concert period, missing a dress rehearsal puts participation in the upcoming concert at the discretion of the conductor. If the student misses a dress rehearsal, regardless of the issue, prior notification to the Orchestra Secretary is required.

Absence from a Concert Performance: Giving less than a month’s notice for an absence from a concert disqualifies the student from further participation in SYSO. Your remaining Tuition will not be waived.

Tardiness: A late arrival to a rehearsal is disruptive. If a student is late to rehearsal or sectional it will be counted as a half absence. Being late to rehearsal twice will be counted as one absence.

Extended Absences: We realize that families have busy schedules and there may be occasions when a student needs to take a trimester off. This is acceptable with significant advance notice. Please note that families will still be required to pay a full year of tuition.

Inclement Weather Policy

To determine if a Saturday rehearsal is cancelled due to inclement weather, please follow these procedures:
• Call the SYSO emergency number (206.660.6616) after 6 a.m.
• If possible, please check email. The Manager of Orchestra Operations will notify each Orchestra Secretary of the status of the rehearsal. Then Orchestra Secretaries will send a rehearsal status update email to all orchestra members.
• Of course, weather and road conditions fluctuate from area to area, so if the roads are not safe to travel in the area please let the Orchestra Secretary know of the absence by phone or email.

School Participation Policy

SYSO is committed to an alliance with our public and private schools. SYSO students are strongly encouraged to participate in their school music programs where they exist. Beyond playing their SYSO instrument in the school orchestra, students can meet this expectation in any number of ways, including: playing other instruments they are interested in, singing in choirs, taking part in school musical theatre performances, or coaching younger students.
# Auditions

## Preparing for Auditions

**Returning** students of Prelude String Orchestra (PSO), Symphonette Orchestra (SO) and Debut Symphony Orchestra (DSO), and **new** students 13 or younger, prepare:

- One major scale (one or two octaves according to your ability)
- One minor scale (one or two octaves according to your ability)
- A two-minute solo piece (does not need to be memorized)
- You will also be required to sight-read.

**Returning** students of Junior Symphony Orchestra (JSO) and Youth Symphony Orchestra (YSO), prepare:

- One major scale (two or three octaves according to your ability)
- One minor scale (two or three octaves according to your ability)
- All excerpts provided for your instrument on the SYSO website
- You will also be required to sight-read.

**New** students 14 years and older, it is your choice to prepare:

- One major scale (two or three octaves according to your ability)
- One minor scale (two or three octaves according to your ability)
- A two-minute solo piece (does not need to be memorized)
- You will also be required to sight-read.

## Open Auditions

Open auditions for the coming season occur at the end of August. The dates for these open auditions for the Academic Year Orchestras are announced in the preceding spring. Each instrument is scheduled on a specific date and time. Auditioning students can complete applications and schedule an audition time online at syso.org. Preparations for auditions of this size are a complex organizational undertaking. The focus of the organization is not only the 600+ young musicians, but also the availability of our conductors, coaches, staff and rental space. Therefore, the online application and scheduling process is usually accessible by late spring.

**Results from your Placement Auditions**

If you would like to know your scores from your August Placement Audition you should email Janice Gatti, Manager of Orchestra Operations, at janice@syso.org. Requests for this information via email will be available to you from October 1–December 1. Please allow one week for a response.

## Yearly Orchestra Advancement

Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra prides itself for its sequential curriculum of musical growth and advancement. Each orchestra presents students with new technical and expressive challenges. Advancement through the SYSO orchestral curriculum from year-to-year is dependent on individual student progress, demonstrated musical and technical growth, and attendance and attentiveness in rehearsals. Returning students who do not demonstrate appropriate growth in these areas may not be offered a position in an orchestra. Students participating in our programs are strongly encouraged to work with their private teachers and in their personal practice regimen both during the year and over the summer to ensure satisfactory progress through our orchestras.

## Movement Between the Orchestras

If an orchestra vacancy occurs during the year, a new member is often, but not always, selected to fill the position. In the event a position is to be filled, the first chair player of the orchestra(s) under the orchestra with the vacancy will be invited to audition for the position. A student placed in a specific orchestra at the fall auditions who decides not to participate in one complete concert period is not eligible to move to the next level without first participating through an entire concert period in their originally assigned orchestra.

## Seating Auditions

Seating auditions are required for each member of each orchestra for each concert cycle. These auditions serve to provide conductors and coaches an opportunity to evaluate student progress, plan rehearsals, select repertoire, and provide extra help if necessary. Generally, sectional rehearsals and coaching sessions will provide students with basic preparation for seating and part assignment auditions. However students are strongly advised to work on audition excerpts in their personal practice and private lessons. The schedules for seating auditions are at syso.org, and are available from Orchestra Secretaries, and at the main auditions in Aug/Sep. Students unable to attend a scheduled seating audition during the season must arrange a private audition with their coach to take place at least 2 weeks in advance of the scheduled audition date. A $20 Early Audition Fee will apply and must be delivered to the Orchestra Secretary at the time of the audition.

## Mid-Season Auditions

Positions for new students auditioning after the annual concert season has begun are on a space-available basis only. Please feel free to email orchestra@syso.org or call us at 206.686.3150 with any audition inquiries.
TUITION, FINANCIAL AID, WORK-STUDY

Tuition

Tuition may be paid in full or through our payment plan. If families have more than one child in our orchestras, please inquire about our Sibling Discount.

The first half of the tuition is due October 18, 2019 and the second half is due January 17, 2020.

The full tuition amount is due in full by the scheduled tuition payment dates listed above regardless of the student’s attendance at rehearsals or concerts.

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<td>Prelude $950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symphonette $1250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debut $1270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior $1570</td>
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<td>Youth $2040</td>
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No Refund Policy

SYSO has a No Refund policy in regard to tuition. We plan for a student to commit for the entire orchestra year. The full tuition fee will be due and payable for the entire year regardless of the student’s non-attendance at rehearsals or concerts.

Tuition Security Deposit

The credit card number used for the application fee will be kept on file for the purposes of the Tuition Security Deposit. No charges will be made to your account provided your tuition is paid in full by the due date(s). If full tuition has not been paid by March 1, 2020 the credit card on file will be automatically charged for the full tuition amount. A 3% credit card fee is applied to all payments.

Financial Aid

In an effort to keep tuition affordable for all students, SYSO underwrites a significant percentage of the actual cost of each student’s participation.

SYSO does provide financial aid to ensure that financial resources are not a barrier to participation. Families requesting financial aid must complete the required financial aid form found online at syso.org. These forms are also available from the Orchestra Secretary or you may call the SYSO office and request a form to be mailed to you. We require families to submit the first page of their IRS 1040 income tax form (with social security numbers redacted) with their financial aid application.

Financial aid decisions are made using an objective methodology for calculating a family’s ability to contribute towards tuition. All information about families’ financial situations is kept strictly confidential.

If a student or parent is willing to engage in work-study, the amount of the award can be increased.

Work-Study

SYSO offers a limited number of student work-study positions. Work-study duties can include acting as stage crew, setting up and/or cleaning up rehearsal rooms, or assisting with SYSO events as needed. Students on work-study can receive partially subsidized tuition depending on circumstances.

Work-study positions available to parents require a significant time commitment. The position of Orchestra Secretary for each orchestra requires proficiency in volunteer management, customer relations, emailing, and scheduling. Please contact Janice Gatti, Manager of Orchestra Operations at 206.686.3150 or janice.gatti@syso.org to express interest and learn more about these positions.

The deadline to submit an application for Financial Aid or Work-Study is September 30, 2019.

Instrument Liability

All SYSO students/families are responsible for their instruments. Lost, stolen or damaged instruments (or instrument accessories) are not the responsibility of SYSO. SYSO strongly urges you to check with your family insurance agent regarding instrument insurance.

Instrument Loans

Generally, students are expected to provide their own instruments; however, SYSO has some instruments available for loan on a first-come, first-serve basis. A rental fee may apply. Please call the SYSO office at 206.686.3150 for instrument availability or for more information.
COMMUNICATING WITH SYSO

All relevant and timely information from SYSO will come through the following methods of communication. We realize that families are inundated with email and we make our best efforts to keep communication streamlined.

Orchestra Secretary Weekly Missives

Every week the Orchestra Secretary will send information about rehearsal schedules, upcoming events or other reminders. It is very important that parents/students read these emails every week.

SYSO Website

On our website, there is a wealth of information including a SYSO calendar, SYSO news, descriptions of SYSO’s various programs, audition procedures, this parent handbook, fundraising updates, parent association information, board of directors information, alumni news, and sectional coaching schedules. We will post any emergency closure information on the home page. Directions to rehearsal locations and biographies of faculty and staff are also available. www.syso.org

Musical Monday

We communicate with SYSO families through the online newsletter Musical Monday, which is sent the first Monday of the month. Musical Monday includes dates of upcoming concerts and events, and reminders pertaining to the coming week. Please look for this publication and read it thoroughly. If families are not receiving Musical Monday, we advise to first check the Spam or Junk Mail boxes. Otherwise, please contact the SYSO office at info@syso.org.

All-SYSO Email List

This list is used to distribute information pertinent to the entire SYSO community. These will include important messages about the organization’s mission, future plans, leadership, special events, etc. This method of distribution is for high-priority messages only and is unavailable for parent-generated messages.

Social Media

SYSO has a presence on various social media, including Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. We use these formats to share interesting information that helps build community and keep families informed. We encourage parents, extended families, friends and community members to interact with us on these platforms. We ask families to please refrain from posting concert recordings on social media sites so as not to violate any potential music copyright stipulations.

Address Updates

Families should notify SYSO immediately of any change of address, phone numbers, or email addresses so that our records are accurate. Please forward updated information to the Orchestra Secretary, to info@syso.org and orchestra@syso.org with “Contact Information Update” in the subject line of the email.

Questions and Concerns

Parents are encouraged to ask questions, address concerns, bring forward ideas, or extend compliments. To ensure efficient and effective lines of communication, we recommend that families proceed with their questions or concerns in the following order:

- **Orchestra Secretary**
  For questions or concerns related to orchestra matters of any kind, the first person to turn to is the Orchestra Secretary. He or she will be able to liaise with SYSO administration and artistic faculty and direct families to where to find the information requested. Orchestra Secretaries are available by email or at rehearsals.

- **Manager of Orchestra Operations**
  If the Orchestra Secretary is not available or not able to address your question or concer, the next person to turn to is Janice Gatti, SYSO Manager of Orchestra Operations. Janice is available Tuesday-Saturday by phone at 206.660.6616 or by email at janice.gatti@syso.org.

- **Conductor**
  Orchestra conductors make decisions about the curriculum, students’ musical progress, skills assessment, behavior, social interaction, or other related topics. Conductors are willing to discuss any of these topics with parents.

- **Music Director and Executive Director**
  Maestro Molano and Executive Director Kathleen Allen are available, accessible, and eager to answer questions, address issues, or receive ideas related to the organization as a whole. The Music Director and Executive Director can be involved if parents wish to further pursue a student issue. Email or scheduled appointments are the preferred methods for communication.

- **Board of Directors**
  In the rare instance when parents think their concerns have not been appropriately addressed by the Music Director or the Executive Director, parents can express their concerns in writing to the SYSO Board of Directors.

See page 16 for SYSO Administrative Staff contact information.
PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Concerts
Concert dates are set well in advance. There will be a schedule of each orchestra’s performance dates available at the information desk beginning at the auditions at the end of August. A calendar of events can be viewed online at syso.org.

Absence from a Concert Performance: Giving less than a month’s notice for an absence from a concert disqualifies the student from further participation in SYSO. Your remaining Tuition will not be waived.

Partnership Performance Opportunities
Periodically SYSO has the opportunity to perform outside of our regularly scheduled programs. It is SYSO’s intent to provide students the experience of many different types of performance venues. Past performances have included Seattle Symphony side-by-side concerts, partnerships with Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle Center’s Winterfest, collaborations with Seattle Opera and The 5th Ave Theatre, and many others. Special partnership performances will be included in the yearly schedule of concerts.

Audience Concert Etiquette
SYSO is an educational organization dedicated to offering children of all ages to the excitement of live concerts; however, very young children may not be quite ready for a formal concert setting. Parents are the best judge of their child’s capability to sit quietly through a concert. If a child becomes restless during a piece please exit quietly to the lobby.

For all Performance Venues: Turn off all pagers, cell phones, and watch alarms. Flash photography is strictly prohibited.
In Benaroya Hall: Videotaping is strictly prohibited.
In Meany Hall: Videotaping is allowed in designated areas of the hall only. Tripods are strictly forbidden.

Performer Concert Dress Requirements
If the dress code is not adhered to it will jeopardize your participation in the concert performance.

Prelude, Symphonette, Debut, and Junior
Males: Black dress slacks, black dress shoes, black socks, long sleeve white dress shirt, plain black tie (no bow ties). Tennis shoes and jeans (or jean-like trousers) are not acceptable.
Females: Skirt: Long black skirt (miniskirts are not acceptable). If wearing a skirt, dark or black hose is required. Dress Pants: Nice black dress pants are acceptable, jean-like pants are not acceptable. Blouse: Neatly pressed white, 3/4 to long sleeved blouse (tucked in); no sweaters. Shoes: Black dress shoes, no sandals, or tennis shoes. If wearing an open-toed shoe, black hose are REQUIRED. Jewelry: Please make all jewelry selections and hair adornments unobtrusive.

Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra
Males: Black tuxedo, long sleeve white dress shirt, black dress shoes, black socks, and black bow tie.
Females: Skirt: Long black skirt (miniskirts are not acceptable). If wearing a skirt, dark or black hose are required. Dress Pants: Nice black dress pants are acceptable, jean-like pants are not acceptable. Blouse: Neatly pressed black, 3/4 to long sleeved blouse; no sweaters. Shoes: Black dress shoes, no sandals, or tennis shoes. If wearing an open-toed shoe, black hose are REQUIRED. Jewelry: Please make all jewelry selections and hair adornments unobtrusive.

Ticket Information
Visit syso.org for ticket information.

• Single Tickets
General Admission and Reserved Seating single tickets can be purchased by visiting syso.org.

• YSO Season Subscriptions
Season Subscriptions are available for discounted prices of up to 40% off at syso.org.

• Group Sales
Groups of 10 people or more can purchase tickets for $5 per person. For group sales to YSO concerts, please contact Benaroya Hall Group Sales at 206.215.4818.
Welcome
All parents of SYSO orchestra students are automatically a member of the Parent Association (PA). While the Parent Association leadership team oversees the direction of the PA meetings and the planning of events, all parents are welcome and encouraged to participate and provide input and feedback. In addition, there are many opportunities for parents to get involved as volunteers. With your participation, we will work together to help students deepen friendships and allow families to connect.

Goals
During the 2019-20 season, the PA leadership team will focus on helping parents make connections, providing platforms to share information for parent, and helping them support their students’ music education. The PA leadership team also plays a critical role by facilitating communications between parents and SYSO’s board and staff.

Events
The PA provides all SYSO parents and families with an open forum where they can meet as a group to share ideas. The Parent Education Series and events with guest speakers or professional musicians are usually scheduled Saturday mornings at Shorecrest High School. Check our website (syso.org/PA) or the PA announcements in the Musical Monday for details. Attend and meet our enthusiastic group of parents!

Volunteer Job Descriptions
The PA is led by a team of parent volunteers. Volunteering is a wonderful way to get involved and meet other SYSO parents, and strengthens the SYSO community. Let us know if you can help! Volunteer requests for specific events will be sent via emails from SignUpGenius by the PA Volunteer Coordinator. Thank you in advance for helping us build a strong SYSO community!

Parent Association Co-Chairs
Sets goals for the Parent Association, supports and provides direction to the other members of the PA leadership team. Plans and provides the agenda for the PA meetings and events. Serves as liaison between the PA and SYSO’s board and staff and shares parent concerns and feedback.

Parent Education Chair
In partnership with the PA Co-Chairs, selects topics for the Parent Education Series. Recruits speakers for the Parent Education Series and informs parents about the events. Works with SYSO staff to ensure event logistics are met (venue reserved, refreshments planned, etc.).

Volunteer Coordinator
Identifies volunteer needs and sends volunteer requests through SignUpGenius. Communicates with the PA Co-Chairs and orchestra secretaries to ensure that enough volunteers are recruited for PA events and orchestra auditions. Maintains a list of volunteers and hours to be submitted for the volunteer appreciation event at the end of the year.

Event Volunteers
Critical to the success of our events. Each event has multiple volunteer opportunities. Example of tasks include: room set-up, assisting with registration or check-in, serving food, etc.

Hospitality and Food Donation
Our events succeed thanks to the generous in-kind support of SYSO parents. From home baked cookies and refreshments to access to event space, in-kind services and donations from parents make our events extra-special.

All events take place at Shorecrest High School unless otherwise indicated. Dates are preliminary.

Halloween Trunk-or-Treat
Saturday, October 26, 2019
Shorecrest High School Parking Lot

November PA Event
Saturday, November 2, 2019

YSO Social
Wednesday, November 13, 2019
Location and time TBD

January PA Event
Saturday, January 18, 2020

April PA Event
Saturday, April 25, 2020

Contact the Parent Association
Ikuko Hellevik, PA Co-Chair, SYSO Board member
PA@syso.org

Christine Chang, PA Co-Chair, SYSO Board President
PAedu@syso.org

Hana Park, PA Chair
PAedu@syso.org

Tracey Belding, Volunteer Coordinator
PAvolunteer@syso.org
Thank you for your family’s participation in our Academic Year Orchestras! As your student progresses this year, you will see the impact of their education first hand. Providing this quality education relies on support from every member of our community. We invite you to consider the effect SYSO has on your student and ask you to contribute at a meaningful level to ensure all of our students have a life-changing experience. In respect for your time, but in recognition of the funds needed to deliver our programming, we request your support during two initiatives:

**SYSO Annual Fund**

The goal of the Annual Fund is to provide your student the best possible music education. Funds raised from the campaign allow us to enlist premier coaches and conductors, and provide meaningful performance opportunities for our students. The Annual Fund will take place during two campaigns: Fall (September – December 31, 2019) and Spring (May – June 30, 2020).

**Annual Benefit**

**Sunday, March 29, 2020 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

The annual benefit provides a platform for the entire SYSO family to raise their support to ensure high-quality music education for all. Join fellow SYSO parents, alumni, conductors and coaches, and music appreciators to celebrate our students and the fantastic 2019-20 season.

The annual benefit will feature student performers, presentation of the distinguished alumni award, remarks from SYSO leadership, and a raise-the-paddle opportunity. The 2020 benefit combines the celebratory elements of last year’s gala with a return to a daytime format. Join us for a brunch on a non-concert Sunday, to get to know SYSO and the impact of donations on our many programs.

**Double Your Impact!**

**Employer Matching Gifts and Workplace Giving**

Does your employer have a Matching Gift Program? If so, you might be able to double your donation amount. Check with your employer to learn about Matching Gift opportunities.

Does your employer host regular Workplace Giving Campaigns? If so, please consider nominating SYSO as a potential recipient. SYSO staff are always happy to help you navigate matching gift and workplace giving opportunities.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**How will my gift be utilized by SYSO?**

Your support provides top-tier coaches and conductors, and offers performance opportunities in premier venues for all students. By donating, you spark a love of music in our students and empower them to pursue their dreams.

**What benefits will I receive for donating?**

All donors are invited to special events that demonstrate the impact of their support from dress rehearsal access to concert receptions. Recognition is provided in all five concert programs at your discretion. SYSO is a registered 501c(3) nonprofit organization; all donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

**Contact SYSO’S Development Team**

**Robin Castrogiovanni**  
Director of Development and External Relations  
206.686.7074  
robin.castrogiovanni@syso.org

**Brittany Gilbertson**  
Development Manager  
206.686.3146  
brittany.gilbertson@syso.org
The Seattle Conservatory of Music is a program of Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra. Its mission is to provide students with a full curriculum of music, academic, and performance opportunities that expand student knowledge and enrich student appreciation.

Classes take place on Saturday Afternoons between 2:00-6:00 PM and are a 30 week commitment starting in late September and end in early mid-May. Certain Chamber music groups rehearse Saturday mornings at Shorecrest High School in conjunction with Youth Symphony rehearsals.

The Conservatory serves a vital role for helping students become well-rounded musicians with academic and performances study courses that will enrich their orchestral experience with SYSO. The Seattle Conservatory of Music is a highly customizable and versatile program with a wide array of classes to fulfill a range of needs and wants. Recommended curriculum and placement tests are available upon request.

Core Academics

Music Theory
These courses cover the basic vocabulary necessary to understand and analyze music. Fundamentals from key signatures to basic four-part harmony, as students advance they will study part-writing, and develop music analysis skills, as well as techniques such as species counterpoints and eventually atonal theory.

Ear Training
These courses correspond directly with Music Theory topics. Students learn to identify musical ideas by listening they practice taking rhythmic, melodic, and four-part dictation. Sight-reading and pitch sense are developed through singing.

Music History & Literature
The history courses offered help students develop a broad knowledge of music literature and historical styles that is crucial to effective performance. We use a chronological approach designed to study interrelationships between composers, styles, and surrounding cultures.

Composition
The study of music composition is one of the most exciting and enriching pursuits in a comprehensive music curriculum. Composition class is a seminar-based course for young composers of all levels, from beginning students exploring the creation and sculpting of simple melodies, to highly advanced composers honing details of full orchestral pieces.

Performance Study

The performance study classes are must-haves for young musicians seeking a career in music performance.

Collegiate Performance Preparation Class
This course trains students to become well-rounded, confident musicians who are capable of performing under pressure, and are knowledgeable in self-presentation. It prepares students for collegiate music school and orchestra auditions, as well as local, national, and international competitions. Weekly performance classes give students the opportunity to play and also to be evaluated by the audience. Visiting guest artists regularly present master-classes. Community performances are scheduled throughout the year. High school seniors are given solo performance opportunities in preparation for auditions and support in collegiate audition tour management. Sophomores and juniors are assigned college research projects.

Violin Audition Class
This weekly orchestral excerpt “boot camp” for advanced violin students is taught by former Seattle Symphony concertmaster Maria Larionoff. Standard orchestral repertoire and concertmaster solos will be studied in addition to regular “mock” auditions. Audition tips and techniques will be discussed and there will be a leadership workshop to cultivate the skills necessary to effectively lead a violin section. Sight reading practice will be included, as well as an intensive spiccato seminar.
Chamber Music

Chamber music is an essential part of any orchestral performer’s performance education.

In Chamber Music, an enormous world of great literature is opened to the student as well as heightened musical awareness as they apply listening skills to the execution of their individual parts. A wonderful hybrid of solo and ensemble skills, each player is an equally important part of the overall performance, at times heard as an individual, and then also as a supportive ensemble member. There is no conductor, so each player learns how to convey, play and listen simultaneously in a collaborative effort with peers. Articulation, dynamic, and tempo concepts are addressed in detail as each player matches and blends with colleagues as the students demonstrate their collaborative musical project.

Weekly coaching sessions culminate in two recitals each year. Students are matched according to age, level of advancement and repertoire instrumentation to form the groups. Subjects covered include listening skills, teamwork, shared commitment, ensemble/rehearsal techniques, and reading/interpretation of the score. Depending on the situation, more instrument specific aspects may be explored which may include bowing, and fingering/breathing choices for given passages.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
seattleconservatory.org

Contact SCM Operations Manager Evan Berge
206.686.3142 | evan.berge@syso.org
Tuesday - Saturday

Student Testimonials

“SCM classes make learning music a much richer experience. Music history gets me in the head of the composer in the context of his era. Music theory breaks down the structure almost mathematically and shows how all the notes work together. Ear training forces me to listen more mindfully to my own playing, as well as to that of other musicians. There really is no place else like SCM...it makes me love music more, and I am in the company of friends who take music as seriously as I do.”

MARTHA SPRAGUE
SCM STUDENT SINCE 2015

“Seattle Conservatory’s Performance class was invaluable in preparing me for numerous competitions, and ultimately, my conservatory auditions. Being able to perform on a regular basis for peers and listen and critique others under the guidance of my instructor has really expanded my musical horizons, and has given me great confidence as I head off to study violin performance at Juilliard this fall.”

ADRIAN STEELE
SCM STUDENT

“The Theory, Ear Training and Collegiate Performance Prep Classes at the Seattle Conservatory of Music helped prepare me for my college auditions and gave me the academic and performance skills that I needed to be successful as a full-scholarship student at the Colburn School of Music.”

EVAN JOHANSON
SCM STUDENT
SUMMER AND IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

SYSO in the Summer

Marrowstone Music Festival (MMF)
MMF is the premier orchestra training program of the Pacific Northwest. Designed for students ages 14-25, Marrowstone offers a two-week session at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. The program boasts an internationally renowned faculty and provides all students with an intensive orchestral and chamber music experience. Students are given the opportunity to participate in master class instruction, chamber music, chamber orchestra and more.

SYSO Summer Music (SSM)
SSM is a Seattle-based summer program designed to provide excellent musical instruction and orchestral training for younger musicians, ages 7-14, who have had at least two years of playing experience or a minimum of one year of private instruction. The program includes string and wind ensembles, sectional and full orchestra rehearsals, and concerts for all students. SYSO Summer Music takes place in the greater Seattle area. Check syso.org/summercamps for program locations and date.

SYSO in the Schools

Endangered Instruments Program (EIP)
The Endangered Instruments Program, created in 1990 by former SYSO conductor Walter F. Cole, supplements music education in public schools by providing in-school instruction on less commonly studied or “endangered” instruments such as the double bass, bassoon, viola, trombone, tuba, percussion, and French horn. SYSO is committed to providing EIP coaching for Title I schools free of charge. Other schools can purchase coaching services from SYSO.

Musical Pathways Program (MPP)
The program supports school instrumental music students and teachers by providing highly trained teaching specialists that work directly under the supervision of classroom teachers to increase the size, diversity, and quality of school orchestra programs. Lessons occur during and after school, as a component of regularly scheduled school instrumental music classes.
DIRECTIONS

Benaroya Hall
200 University St., Seattle, WA 98101

Benaroya Hall is located on 3rd Ave between Union and University. The entrance for musicians is located on 2nd Ave at the NW corner of the building.

Driving North on I-5: Take the Seneca exit and go west. Turn right on 3rd Ave. Proceed for two blocks. Benaroya Hall is located on your left. There is parking under the hall, which can be entered from 2nd Ave. Driving South on I-5: Take the Union exit and proceed west until you reach 2nd Ave. Benaroya Hall is on the block of Union and 2nd Ave. There is parking under the hall, which can be entered from 2nd Ave.

University of Washington—Meany Hall

Driving North or South on I-5: Take the 45th St. exit. Head east on NE 45th St to 15th Ave NE. Turn right at 15th Ave NE and proceed to NE 41st St. Turn left into the university parking structure. Once inside the garage, follow the signs directing to Meany Theater.

University of Washington—School of Music

Driving North or South on I-5: Driving North or South on I-5: Take the 45th St exit and go east until you reach 17th Ave NE. Turn right and enter the University campus. The parking attendants at the gate will give you instructions.

Shorecrest High School
15343 25th Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155

Driving North or South on I-5: Take the 145th St exit (#175). Head east on 145th to 25th Ave NE. Turn left on 25th and travel approximately 1/2 mile. Shorecrest will be on your left. Parking is at the rear of the school.

Shorewood High School
17300 Fremont Ave. N. Shoreline, WA 98133

Driving North or South on I-5: Take the 175th St exit (#176). Head west on 175th to corner of Fremont Ave North. Shorewood High School will be on the left.

SYSO Office
11065 Fifth Ave NE, Suite A., Seattle, WA 98125

Driving North on I-5: Take the Northgate Way exit. Turn left onto 1st Ave NE, then right onto Northgate Way NE. Go to 5th Ave NE and turn left. Office is on the left side of the street. Driving South on I-5: Take the Northgate Way exit. Turn right onto Northgate Way NE. Go to 5th Ave NE and turn left. Office is on the left side of the street.

Pick-Up and Drop-Off Policy

It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to pick up their child on time, promptly after the conclusion of any SYSO activity.

Failure to pick up your child on time may cause them to wait at the location alone. SYSO is not responsible for your child after rehearsal ends.

Shorecrest High School:
Please be aware of the driving and parking regulations at Shorecrest High School. There is absolutely no curbside or loading dock parking at any time. The parking lot can get rather hectic and often the children are not paying attention to the traffic flow. Please use caution and move very slowly through the lot to ensure no one is injured.

School of Music, UW Campus:
When picking up your child from rehearsal, please be aware there is no parking allowed on the side street bordering the Music building. You will be ticketed. Arrange to meet your student at one of the parking lots close to the School of Music.
The Board is responsible for fiduciary oversight and governance of SYSO and all of its programs. The Board meets monthly during the academic year and holds at least one meeting each summer during the Marrowstone Music Festival. The Board comprises of the following members:

Christine Chang, President
SYSO Parent
Community Volunteer

Francisco J. Grijalva, Ed.D., Vice-President
Former Head of School & Musician
Head of School, Retired, The Overlake School

Jefferson Eby III, Treasurer
SYSO Alumni Parent
CFO, Washington Research Foundation

Erika Dowd, Secretary
Non-Profit Leader
Former Non-Profit Executive Director and Development Director

Jeffrey Barker
SYSO Alumni
Flautist, Seattle Symphony

Amanda Course
Community Leader & Musician
Communications Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Nancy Grauman
SYSO Alumni
Attorney, Sheppard Mullin Richter and Hampton LLP

Ikuko Hellevik
SYSO Parent
Community Volunteer

Alice Ikeda
SYSO Alumni
Owner, Ikeda/Vanderburg Productions

Andrew Krus
Director of Visual and Performing Arts, Lakeside School

Mae Lin
SYSO Alumni & Musician
Violinist, Seattle Symphony

Yoshiaki “Yoshi” Minegishi
Community Leader
Retired, IBM USA and Nortel Japan

Paul Rafanelli
SYSO Alum
Bassoonist, Seattle Symphony

Kathy Shaw
SYSO Alum
Program Manager, Le Cordon Bleu

Robert Sokol
Non-Profit Leader & SYSO Alumni
Chief Administrative Officer, Trinity Wall Street

Adam Tullman
Community Leader
Labor and Employment Attorney/Senior Counsel, PACCAR

**Board Committees**

The Executive Committee is generally made up of board officers and committee chairs and can function in place of the full board if the board cannot meet on a particular issue.

The Governance Committee oversees the growth and development of the board. This committee is responsible for succession planning; board member identification, recruitment, cultivation and selection; board assessment; and board education.

The Finance Committee ensures the long-term financial health of the organization and reviews and approves the annual budget. This committee also creates financial policies, such as the investment policy and oversees the annual audit.

The Development Committee sets the annual goals for fundraising and monitors all fundraising activities of the organization to ensure that they meet these goals. Marketing and Communications is integral to this process and will function under the umbrella of the development committee.

The Personnel Committee oversees the setting of staff salaries and benefits and monitors policies that pertain to workplace conditions.

The Program Committee reviews the organization’s various programs to ensure they are meeting the mission of the organization.

The Alumni Committee engages and cultivates alumni to continue participating in SYSO activities, encouraging alumni to help plan alumni events, share input on alumni communication, and to attend performances and events.

The Parent Association Committee’s mission is to facilitate parent involvement to keep SYSO programs at the highest possible level of quality and to make them accessible to all families.

If parents are interested in joining the board or have recommendations for potential board members, contact board@syso.org
Administrative Staff

Kathleen Allen
Executive Director
kathleen.allen@syso.org | 206.686.3125

Robin Castrogiovanni
Director of Development and External Relations
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Janice Gatti
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Izchel Chacón
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SYSO Summer Music Program Coordinator
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Annie Petersen
Marrowstone Music Festival Admissions & Operations Coordinator
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Brittany Gilbertson
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Bryan Lindeman
Data & Operations Manager
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Evan Berge
Administrative & Marketing Coordinator / 
Seattle Conservatory of Music Coordinator
evan.berge@syso.org | 206.686.3142

Artistic Staff

Juan Felipe Molano
Music Director

SYSO CONDUCTORS

Mika Armaly
Prelude String Orchestra

Kate Labiak
Symphonette Orchestra

Mark Adamo
Debut Symphony Orchestra

Marcus Tsutakawa
Junior Symphony Orchestra

Juan Felipe Molano
Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra
KEY SYSO EVENTS AND CONCERTS

The schedules for rehearsals, sectionals, seating auditions, additional rehearsals prior to concerts, and monthly Parent Association meetings can be found at syso.org

Saturday, September 14, 2019, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
SYSO Opening Day and Parent 101
Shorecrest High School

Saturday, September 21, 2019, 2:30-5:30 p.m.
Seattle Conservatory of Music Opening Day
Location TBA

Saturday, October 26, 2019, 10:00-12:00 p.m.
Trunk or Treat
Shorecrest High School Parking Lot

Saturday, November 2, 2019
November Parent Association Event
Shorecrest High School

Wednesday, November 13, 2019
YSO Parent Social
Location TBD

Sunday, November 17, 2019, 3:00 p.m.
Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra Concert
Russian Masters
Benaroya Hall

Sunday, December 15, 2019, 3:00 p.m.
4 Orchestras Winter Concert
UW Meany Hall

Saturday, January 18, 2020
January Parent Association Event
Shorecrest High School

Sunday, January 26, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
Seattle Conservatory of Music Recital
Location TBA

Sunday, March 1, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra Concert
Dances of the Americas
Benaroya Hall

Saturday, March 21, 2020
EIP Side-by-Side
Location TBD

Sunday, March 22, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
4 Orchestras Spring Concert
UW Meany Hall

Sunday, March 29, 2020, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Power of Music Annual Benefit Brunch
Location TBD

Saturday, April 25, 2020
April Parent Association Event
Shorecrest High School

Sunday, May 10, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
5 Orchestras: Pines of Rome
Rossini, Respighi
Benaroya Hall

Sunday, May 17, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
Seattle Conservatory of Music Recital
Location TBA