

SYSO Update for Academic Year Orchestras (AYO) and Seattle Conservatory of Music (SCM)

UPDATED: March 16, 2020

Dear SYSO students and families,

Given Governor Inslee's order on March 13 closing all Washington schools through April 24, we are canceling all AYO rehearsals and SCM classes until April 24.

SYSO staff is exploring whether we can extend the season so students will be able to accomplish their artistic and educational goals for this year. We will be evaluating this within the context of Governor Inslee's order today, which prohibits gatherings with over 50 participants. We will stay in touch as major developments occur.

The coaches and conductors will continue sharing online resources and recommendations on how to practice the repertoire for the rest of the season.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Executive Director Kathleen Allen at Kathleen.allen@syso.org.

UPDATED: March 11, 2020

Dear SYSO students and families,

The COVID-19 situation continues to develop rapidly. Given recent public health recommendations and Governor Inslee's order today prohibiting large group gatherings and community events, we are canceling all AYO rehearsals and SCM classes until April 1. Also, we are canceling the 4 Orchestras concert on March 22 and the Endangered Instruments Program (EIP) Side-by-Side event on March 21. As noted in a previous communication, we have postponed the SYSO Power of Music Brunch fundraiser on March 29 to a later date.

By canceling or postponing these events, we hope to aid in community efforts to contain the progression of COVID-19. While SYSO students have worked very hard in the last few months on winter repertoire, the health and safety of SYSO students, staff, coaches, and community members remain our top priority.

Here is a summary of changes to SYSO events:

- Canceled: Academic Year Orchestra rehearsals until April 1
- Canceled: Seattle Conservatory of Music classes until April 1
- Canceled: EIP Side-by-Side event on March 21
- Canceled: 4 Orchestras concert on March 22
- Postponed: Power of Music Brunch fundraiser on March 29

SYSO will be working with Brown Paper Tickets to automatically issue a full refund, including credit card processing fees, for March 22 concert tickets.

SYSO leadership and staff are continuing to monitor the situation, and we will stay in touch as major developments occur. SYSO staff is exploring whether we can extend the season so students will be able to accomplish their artistic and educational goals for this year.

We encourage all of our students to continue practicing and playing. In the coming weeks, we plan to share resources, methods, and ideas for learning virtually. Even if we can't connect in person to make music, music remains an important way for us to connect and build community, especially in challenging times.

We are grateful for your support and understanding as SYSO navigates this unprecedented situation and wish everyone in the SYSO community good health. If you have questions regarding these decisions, please feel free to reach out to Executive Director Kathleen Allen at Kathleen.allen@syso.org.

SYSO's Response to COVID-19 - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

UPDATED: March, 5, 2020 12:30 p.m.

The health and safety of SYSO students, staff, coaches, and community remain our top priority. SYSO is closely monitoring the developments related to COVID-19 incidences in our community. SYSO leadership and board members are continuing to re-evaluate SYSO's response as this situation unfolds.

Given these recommendations and guidance provided by Governor Jay Inslee today, **SYSO will cancel rehearsals on Saturday, March 7 for Academic Year Orchestras and cancel classes for Seattle Conservatory of Music.** Please expect further communication next week regarding future rehearsals and SYSO concerts scheduled for March.

We want to thank SYSO families in advance for their understanding, Maestro Molano wishes all students find this turbulent time as an opportunity to make their music practice at home a way to find joy in music and continue excelling as artists.

SYSO's Response to COVID-19 - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

February 29, 2020

At SYSO, our number one priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, faculty, coaches, and community. The SYSO Board of Directors, executive leadership, and staff members are continuing to assess SYSO's response to the impact of COVID-19 in our community. We are utilizing information from Seattle Public Schools and other major school districts, the King County Department of Public Health, the Washington State Department of

Health, and the Center for Disease Control to guide our response. Given the fluidity of this situation, SYSO may evolve its policies or make additional decisions based on new information. This purpose of this communication is to provide one place for Academic Year Orchestra parents to stay up-to-date with SYSO's response to COVID-19 and to read responses to commonly asked questions from families.

What is SYSO's policy regarding student or family travel and excused absences?

SYSO is following the policy of the Seattle Public Schools with regard to a 14-day recommended quarantine period for those students who have recently travelled to China. In addition, if your student has travelled to other countries with widespread sustained or sustained community transmission (SEE www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html) within the last two weeks, such as Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea, we ask that your student stay at home from rehearsal. They are excused from rehearsal, and this absence will not count against them.

What if a student or a family member has been exposed to COVID-19? Should the student come to rehearsal?

The safety and health of our students is our top priority. In an abundance of caution, if a student or family member has had close or indirect exposure to another person diagnosed with COVID-19, that student is excused from rehearsal. This absence will not count against them. If a student has an illness or fever, please keep the student home.

How do you define close or indirect contact?

The CDC has provided risk assessment resources (SEE www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html) to help individuals gauge their risk of exposure and recommended actions. You can also contact the Washington State Department Hotline at 1-800-525-0127. That said, we encourage parents to err on the side of caution to ensure the health and safety of SYSO students.

Are we changing or canceling rehearsals or concerts?

Rehearsals and concerts will continue as scheduled at this time. Please know that we are regularly monitoring the situation and may alter policies and decisions should the need arise. Again, if a student or family member has had exposure to another person diagnosed with COVID-19, we ask that students take an excused absence from rehearsal. This absence will not count against them.

Please contact SYSO Executive Director Kathleen Allen at Kathleen.allen@syso.org if there are any questions about SYSO's policy or you need any updates.

We encourage families to review these resources:

- King County Department of Public Health (link to www.kingcounty.gov/covid)
- Washington State Department of Health (link to <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>)
- Center for Disease Control (link to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>)

For students attending rehearsals, we encourage the following recommendations from the Washington State Department of Health:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces.
- Stay at home and away from others if you are feeling ill.