

2021-2022
Orchestra Handbook



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COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Overview

SYSO prioritizes the health and safety of its musicians, faculty and staff. We follow three basic principles in making decisions regarding COVID-19 risk mitigation:

1. We commit to providing the high-quality music education experience which SYSO is known.
2. We follow the science and guides of the recommendations by government health agencies.
3. We will be transparent and communicative.

We also think it is important to remember:

1. The best tool to protect yourself and the community is for all eligible persons to get vaccinated.
2. The additional mitigation efforts to wear masks, increase ventilation and airflow, implement hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting, and staying home if ill or exposed to someone with COVID-19 will also reduce the spread of the virus.
3. Social distancing, even though it is not required by the governmental public health agencies at this time, will be implemented to the extent possible.
4. COVID-19 continues to change with new variants and for this reason, the guidance for responding to COVID-19 also changes.

Washington State COVID Guidelines

On June 30, 2021, Washington State has reopened under the [Washington Ready](#) plan. All industry sectors previously covered by the Roadmap to Recovery or the Safe Start plan (with the limited exceptions noted below) may return to usual capacity and operations.

SYSO will follow guidelines that are in line with the State of Washington Department of Health [Washington Ready](#) plan, including:

- Social distancing between musicians is not required, however 3 feet between musicians will be maintained to the extent possible.
- Limiting number of people who can be in a space (beyond the physical capacity of a given room or the restrictions imposed by the facility) is not required
- Health screenings upon entrance are not required
- **Continue to require face coverings /masks even for those who are fully vaccinated** (two weeks from completing the vaccine series).
- Highly encourage all eligible students (12 years and older) to be vaccinated
- Brass & woodwind players will need to use appropriate bell covers
- Provide adequate ventilation
- Monitor students/staff/faculty for symptoms of COVID-19 and following all proper procedures if someone becomes sick
- Educate students, families, staff, and faculty to stay home when sick.
- Provide information to public health officials if there is a COVID-19 outbreak

SYSO will take the following *additional measures* beyond what is recommended by the Washington State Department of Health to mitigate the risks of the coronavirus:

- Require all staff and teaching faculty to be vaccinated (unless they are granted a valid exemption and instead will need to provide a negative COVID test when teaching for SYSO)
- **By January 2022, all students who are eligible to be vaccinated will be required to be fully vaccinated** in order to participate in SYSO.
- We recommend planning to start the vaccine process by November if a student is eligible and not yet vaccinated. Find a vaccination site at [Vaccine.gov](#).
- Valid medical and religious exemptions will be considered but are not guaranteed. Contact Executive Director Kathleen Allen at kathleen.allen@syso.org to request an exemption.

For more details about SYSO's COVID protocols, visit syso.org.

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 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 Mark Adamo, 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.

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.

Rehearsals

Once sectionals have been completed for each trimester, full orchestra rehearsal times will change slightly. These times will be communicated to families.

Prelude String Orchestra

CONDUCTOR: MARK ADAMO

Shoreline Conference Center
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Symphonette Orchestra

CONDUCTOR: KATE LABIAK

St. Mary's Catholic School
Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Debut Symphony Orchestra

CONDUCTOR: BRYAN KOLK

St. Mary's Catholic School
Saturdays, 11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Junior Symphony Orchestra

CONDUCTOR: MARCUS TSUTAKAWA

St. Mary's Catholic School
Saturdays, 1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra

CONDUCTOR: JUAN FELIPE MOLANO

St. Mary's Catholic School
Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

SYSO RULES & EXPECTATIONS

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.
- 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 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 8 for more information.)

Attendance Policy

Each participant will be allowed only two absences without any penalty during the preparation for each term’s program, this includes any COVID-related absences. After the third cumulative absence, the student will be asked to play for the orchestra conductor who will determine how many pieces, if any, the student is ready and comfortable to play in the concert.

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 a planned absence from a concert disqualifies the student from further participation in SYSO. If an absence from a concert is COVID-related it will not disqualify a 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 a planned 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 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. School participation is encouraged but not required.

AUDITIONS

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 receive the qualitative comments from the adjudicators who reviewed the videos for the August Placement Auditions you should contact Izchel Chacón, Manager of Orchestras and Partnerships, 253.642.7880 or izchel.chacon@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.

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/or private lessons. The schedules for seating auditions will be at syso.org. Check the student portal for more information after October 1, 2021.

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 with any audition inquiries.

TUITION & FINANCIAL AID

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 22, 2021 and the second half is due January 21, 2022.

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.

2021-22 Tuition Rates

Prelude	\$950
Symphonette	\$1250
Debut	\$1270
Junior	\$1570
Youth	\$2040

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.

In the event that an in-person rehearsal must be put on hold, SYSO is committed to continuing our services online during any possible limited quarantine periods and therefore we will not be refunding tuition for that time period.

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 February 28, 2022 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.

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.

NEW! Rehearsal Assistant Discount

SYSO is committed to ensuring participation in our programs is accessible and equitable. For many years we have enabled students to engage in our orchestras - regardless of their financial situation - by always budgeting for ample financial aid. In the past, we have also made a work study role a component of receiving financial aid, but we now recognize that asking students to work for their aid can be problematic and inequitable. This year, we remove work study from the financial aid process. Financial aid will continue to be amply funded and awarded based on a family's financial circumstances and needs.

SYSO still relies on the support of our community to prepare for rehearsals and so we are instituting a new **Rehearsal Assistant Discount**. This is a position that students or parents can sign up for that involves helping SYSO to set up and tear down for weekly rehearsals. This is very important work to make sure our rehearsals run smoothly and we will need people who can commit to being a Rehearsal Assistant for the entire Academic Year Orchestra program (weekly September-May).

A Rehearsal Assistant will receive a discount of **25% off annual tuition**. This discount can be added to a financial aid award, but it cannot be added to an orchestra secretary discount. SYSO needs Rehearsal Assistants to set up and tear down at both sites - St. Peter's and St. Mary's - and if a Rehearsal Assistant misses their work session twice they will be in jeopardy of having the discount rescinded.

A sign-up form and schedule will be available on the SYSO Student Portal and through Orchestra Secretary Missives. If a student is interested in being a Rehearsal Assistant for community service credit in lieu of the 25% discount, please contact Janice Gatti, AYO Rehearsal Site Coordinator, at janice@syso.org.

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 253.642.7880 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.

Student Portal

The Student Portal located at syso.org/student-portal will be the best place to search for information regarding rehearsals, concerts, music, handbooks, and more. Weekly missives will also be stored on the portal for quick access to important information. Please check the Student Portal at least once per week for updates.

SYSO Website

On our website, there is a wealth of information including a SYSO calendar, SYSO news, descriptions of SYSO's various programs, concerts, audition procedures, this Orchestra 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.

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 Orchestras and Partnerships

If the Orchestra Secretary is not available or not able to address your question or concern, the next person to turn to is Izchel Chacón, Manager of Orchestras and Partnerships. Izchel is available Monday-Friday by phone at 253.642.7880 or by email at izchel.chacon@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. Conversations will be kept confidential. 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 at board@syso.org.

See page 15 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.

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

Detailed information about concert dress requirements will be posted on the Student Portal and communicated directly to the families and students in advance of the concerts and may vary depending on the performance venue.



Tickets

SYSO is committed to making orchestra concerts accessible to all families. Tickets to all SYSO concerts are now \$10.

Visit syso.org for ticket information.

SUPPORTING SYSO

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 and the many benefits of community that SYSO's programs are able to offer students in the Puget Sound region. We hope you will consider the effect SYSO's programs have had on your student, and ask that you contribute at a meaningful level to guarantee SYSO is able to continue offering high-quality education to students of different means and access across our region. Respectfully in consideration of your time and commitment to SYSO, but in recognition of the funds needed to deliver our broad spectrum of programming, we request your support in two main fundraising initiatives:

SYSO Annual Fund

The goal of SYSO's Annual Fund is to provide the funding to maintain the best possible music education for your student. Funds raised from this campaign are directed to sustaining our team of professional coaches and conductors, as well as to meet the many costs associated with our students' performances at premier local venues. The Annual Fund takes place during two campaigns: Fall (September-December 31 2021), and Spring (May-June 30 2022).

Though we are grateful for your support no matter the time of year, we hope you will consider supporting SYSO's Annual Fund in two community giving campaigns: GivingTuesday (November 30, 2021), and Washington's statewide giving campaign, GiveBIG (early May 2022). These campaigns are entirely online, so we hope you will take this opportunity to share the impact of SYSO's work with your communities on social media or via email.

Spring Online Silent Auction March 7-12, 2022

Our Spring Online Silent Auction is our largest fundraiser of the year. The auction brings together artists, inventors, creators, lovers of the arts, and lifelong SYSO supporters to celebrate every student's right to music education that enriches their growth.

The auction will provide support to help guarantee SYSO can share music with even more people in our community. To guarantee local students have access to their musical communities year-round, funds raised will be directed toward SYSO's summer operating expenses, including student scholarships and other operating costs.

Support your favorite local businesses by purchasing gift cards and re-donating them, or consider purchasing a Fund-A-Need to provide direct support to the SYSO program that has had the most impact on your family. We hope you will share our auction with your online communities to increase awareness of our 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.

Support SYSO
syso.org/support



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 academics, and performance opportunities that expand student knowledge and enrich student appreciation.

The classes offered by the Seattle Conservatory of Music are designed to give young musicians the confidence, experience, and knowledge to excel in their school ensembles, youth orchestras, choirs, private lessons, competitions, college auditions, and more.

We stress the importance of understanding the circumstances of each students' musical journey and are always happy to advise on curriculum. This is important both for those who may be exploring music seriously for the first time and for students aspiring to the world's finest music conservatories..

Musicianship

Musicianship Skills is an integrated academics course where students will study music theory, ear training, and music history all in one class. This is a major change from how the Conservatory has previously functioned. Instead of offering separate classes we want to immerse our students in a holistic study of music and its associated skills and concepts. We hope to do this by providing them with a class in which they will be directly improving musical skills like rhythm, intonation, sight-reading, music analyzation, and more.

Musicianship Skills will have students taking deep dives into music theory, ear training, music dictation, and music history.

We strive to give our students a full and well-rounded music education that will empower them to get the most out of whatever musical activities they choose to engage over the course of their lives.

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.

Musicianship Course Levels

Intro to Musicianship Skills – Beginner students aged approximately 8-12 with only a couple of years of musical experience. For students part of SYSO's other programming these classes are generally geared for students of the Prelude and Symphonette orchestras, and SYSO Summer Music.

Intermediate Musicianship Skills – Geared for intermediate students aged approximately 12-16. Intended for intermediate students looking to dive deeper into the mechanics of music theory. Intro to Musicianship is not a prerequisite for the intermediate level. Some students repeat Intermediate Musicianship skills to continue honing their abilities and to dive deeper into specific topics. This class can also be appropriate for high school juniors and seniors looking to fill out their theoretical background before graduating high school and looking to get a head start in college. For students part of SYSO's programming this level is intended for advanced Symphonette students, Debut Symphony, Junior level students, advanced SYSO Summer Music students, and intermediate Marrowstone Students.

Advanced Musicianship Skills – This level is intended for students with a strong music theory background, either in the form of classes taken at the Conservatory or similar programs. Returning Conservatory students will be placed into an appropriate section of Advanced Musicianship Skills to continue their SCM curriculum. Admittance into Advanced Musicianship without taking previous SCM courses is done only by approval of the teacher and program manager.



Chamber Music

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

In Chamber Music, there is no conductor, so each player learns how to convey, play and listen simultaneously in a collaborative effort with peers. Articulation, dynamics, 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.

Audition Required*

*Students applying for the Academic Year Orchestras may reuse their audition for Chamber Music.

Collegiate Preparatory 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, in addition to community performances the year.

Collegiate Preparatory Class is designed to be taken over the course of several years starting as early as freshman year of high school as to educate, and guide students and families through the college audition process.

Audition Required

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
syso.org/conservatory

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

APPLY NOW!

[https://syso.org/programs/
conservatory/audition/](https://syso.org/programs/conservatory/audition/)

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 advanced students, 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/summermusic 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.

St. Mary's School

611 20th Ave S. Seattle, WA 98144

Follow I-5 to S Dearborn St in Seattle. Take exit 164 (or 164A if I-5 South). Continue on S Dearborn St. Drive to 20th Ave S.

Shoreline Conference Center

18560 1st Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155

Follow I-5 to NE 175th St in Shoreline. Take exit 176 from I-5 N. Continue to the Shoreline Conference Center.

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.

St. Mary's School:

Parking is available around the block of St. Mary's School. There is an empty parking lot on the South side of the school available for parking. Please note, the Food Bank line may coincide with pick-up/drop off times on Saturday at the front of the building.

Shoreline Conference Center:

Please drop off/pick up students at the main entrance of the building. There is a parking lot available to use. After the second week of rehearsals, families are welcomed to watch rehearsals from the auditorium (please be sure to sign in if watching rehearsals).

SYSO STAFF & BOARD

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Conductor

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Debut Symphony Orchestra
Conductor

Juan Felipe Molano
Youth Symphony
Orchestra Conductor

Kate Labiak
Symphonette Orchestra
Conductor

Marcus Tsutakawa
Junior Symphony Orchestra
Conductor

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musicians & music educators

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Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra

11065 5th Ave NE, Suite A, Seattle, WA 98125

206.362.2300 fax: 206.361.9254

syso.org

marrowstone.org

info@syso.org

2021-22 SYSO CONCERT SEASON

Sunday, November 21, 2021 | 3:00 p.m.

Youth Symphony Orchestra and Debut Symphony Orchestra
BENAROYA HALL

Sunday, December 12, 2021 | 3:00 p.m.

Prelude String Orchestra, Symphonette Orchestra,
Debut Symphony Orchestra, and Junior Symphony Orchestra
UW MEANY HALL

Saturday, March 12, 2022 | 7:30 p.m.

Youth Symphony Orchestra and Symphonette Orchestra
UW MEANY HALL

Sunday, March 13, 2022 | 3:00 p.m.

Junior Symphony Orchestra, Debut Symphony Orchestra,
and Prelude Symphony Orchestra
UW MEANY HALL

Saturday, March 26, 2022 | Time TBA

Youth Symphony Orchestra Side-by-Side
with Seattle Symphony Orchestra
BENAROYA HALL

Sunday, May 15, 2022 | 3:00 p.m.

All 5 Orchestras: Youth Symphony Orchestra, Junior Symphony
Orchestra, Debut Symphony Orchestra, Symphonette
Orchestra, and Prelude Symphony Orchestra
BENAROYA HALL