

Welcome and Congratulations on your acceptance into the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra!

CYSO is excited to be part of your musical education. Please read this handbook in its entirety. Members and parents will find the following information not only useful, but necessary for the successful operation of each ensemble. This handbook and season schedule will help you stay organized and be prepared for all CYSO events. Please feel free to ask questions that will result in you having a more complete understanding of the CYSO and your membership.

INTRODUCTION

The Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra, Inc. (CYSO), incorporated in Maryland as an independent non-profit 501(c) 3 organization, was established in 1990 to meet a need in the region for a quality symphony orchestra for young people.

The purposes of the organization are:

1. to provide young musicians with an inspiring musical experience using standard orchestra literature;
2. to initiate, encourage, and support a symphony orchestra for young musicians, ages 8-21;
3. to nurture and support musical talent in individual youth;
4. to establish and participate in programs and activities designed to increase the understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of music and the other performing arts;
5. to provide an exposure to music through concerts, workshops, and other activities;
6. to encourage citizen support of a youth orchestra and other musical and artistic activities for youth.

In 1993, the Board of Directors established a String Orchestra to enable young musicians to build strong technique and musicianship. During 1994, the Concert Orchestra (formerly the Repertory Orchestra,) a second full orchestra, was established to give more young musicians the opportunity to play the standard orchestra literature. In 1999 the Board established a Flute Choir to provide ensemble opportunities for young flutists. The 2003-2004 season brought another ensemble to the CYSO, the Preparatory Orchestra. This ensemble is the stepping stone to the Strings Orchestra and the basics of ensemble playing are learned here. During the 2004-2005 season the CYSO added the Wind Ensemble to provide young brass and wind players an opportunity to grow and develop. The CYSO is pleased to have these ensembles: Preparatory Strings, String Orchestra, Concert and Symphony Orchestras, Junior and Senior Flute Choirs, as well as the Wind Ensemble, for talented young musicians throughout the region.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Current information regarding the orchestra may be received via phone, e-mail, CYSO's website. To contact or leave a message for any CYSO staff, use the following:

Phone: 443-758-3157

E-Mail cysorchestra@gmail.com

Web address: www.cysomusic.org

CYSO Personnel

Julien Benichou, Music Director, Symphony Orchestra Conductor
Vladimir Lande, Concert Orchestra Conductor
Robert Stojakovich, String Orchestra Conductor
William Schachter, Preparatory Strings Conductor
Gail Vehslage, Jr & Sr Flute Ensemble Conductor
Sandra Balderson, Wind Ensemble Conductor
Linda Foss, Executive Director
April Nyman, Development Coordinator

Ensemble Volunteer Staff

Rebecca Firth and Boris Kim, Symphony Orchestra Managers
Georgette Alexander-Morrison and Patricia Beers Block, Concert Orchestra Managers
Patricia Ritchie, String Orchestra Manager
Jan Snedecor and Kat Johnson, Preparatory Orchestra Managers
Laura Dozier, Wind Ensemble Manager
Pam Buckenmaier, Jr Flute Ensemble Manager
Denise Wagner and Patti Irwin, Sr. Flute Ensemble Managers

Anne Sloan, Head Librarian
Alice Uddin, Assistant Librarian
Joseph Laing, Librarian Emeritus
Chris Sargent, Newsletter Editor

Board Of Directors

Morag Dahlstrom, President
Glen Rotner, Vice President
Boris Kim, Treasurer
Jim Anderson
Ellen Howse
Bill Scott

Mary Armstrong, Vice President
Anne Sloan, Vice President
Jane Chambers, Secretary
Alta Haywood
Joy Kirchner
Betty McGinnis, *President Emeritus*

ASSURANCE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

It is the policy of the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra, Inc., to admit members on the basis of their qualification only, and with assurance of equal opportunity and treatment regardless of race, color, creed, sex, religion, national or ethnic origin, or handicap.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Membership in CYSO is open to young musicians who meet the audition requirements, and are age 8 to 21 years old.

1. An instrumentalist may be considered for membership if:
 - a. the applicant submits an audition application form and audition fee;
 - b. the applicant qualifies, on the basis of an audition, to the satisfaction of the Conductor and/or audition panel;
 - c. a vacancy exists in the orchestra.
2. A candidate becomes a member of the organization when the membership fee is paid. The non-refundable annual fee is due at the annual meeting of the organization in early September. In cases of hardship, accepted candidates may make special arrangements for payments with the Treasurer of the Board of Directors or the Executive Director. Limited scholarships are available through application to the Executive Director.
3. CYSO membership is for one year.
4. Chair assignments in CYSO ensembles will be determined by the conductor on the basis of the program, auditions, juries, and section balance. Every seat in the orchestra is of equal importance! Challenges are not a part of the seating process.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CYSO

The CYSO is administered through the Executive Director assisted by a number of active volunteers. Parents and friends of student members are urged to volunteer in order to enable the organization to serve our talented young musicians. High school aged volunteers can receive community service credit for volunteering at the CYSO.

The Board of Directors is a working Board and divided into numerous committees such as publicity, development, special events, and student affairs to name a few. Volunteers are encouraged to participate on a committee or work directly with an ensemble. The ensembles have needs for personnel managers, librarians, and concert and event assistants.

The Friends of the CYSO is a support group for the orchestra. Friends support the orchestra in social activities for orchestra members, receptions, typing, word processing,

coordinating mailings, sales of various items for the orchestra, researching educational opportunities for the orchestra members, and a large number of other activities. The CYSO accepts many in-kind services. If you or your company can provide a service to the orchestra, it would be greatly appreciated.

To volunteer or if you have questions, please call or e-mail us at (443) 758-3157 or via email at cysorchestra@gmail.com.

STUDENT MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Conduct

In the spirit of good music making, CYSO expects participants to act responsibly at all times. Should a problem arise, the Conductor, Music Director, Personnel Manager, and/or Executive Director will try to resolve the conflict. In the event that a conflict cannot be resolved for the good of the orchestra and the person(s) involved, the Music Director and/or Executive Director may recommend dismissal to the Board of Directors. Student contracts are signed at the beginning of the season and are in effect for the full year, including tours, concerts, etc. Please remember that we are guest in the facility we use for rehearsals and we should show respect for both the building and our host.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals, and attendance records are kept. In cases of unavoidable absence such as illness or other emergencies, please notify your Personnel Manager as far in advance as possible. Last-minute notice should be made to the Personnel Manager or the CYSO telephone message service, 443-758-3157.

CYSO expects all musicians to participate in school music programs, and when there is a schedule conflict between a school music commitment and the CYSO, the school commitment takes precedence. This policy pertains only to school musical activities and does not include sports, extracurricular activities or non-school organizations. In the event of an absence, the CYSO requires written notification to the Personnel Manager from the musician as soon as possible (preferably at the beginning of the year or semester). CYSO experience has demonstrated that more than two absences from rehearsal within a semester, whatever the reason, are likely to have a negative impact on both the musician and the ensemble. Consequently, your Personnel Manager, Conductor and the Executive Director will review attendance with any member whose attendance falls below this standard. Actions and remedies may include special juries, reseating, or in extreme cases dismissal from the CYSO. Any absence from the two rehearsals preceding a performance and/or the performance has grave impact on the orchestra as a whole. **Absences for any reason other than those previously stated are unacceptable.**

Punctuality

To respect the orchestra and to make maximum use of available rehearsal time, students must be seated and prepared to tune 10 minutes prior to the scheduled rehearsal time. At the scheduled starting time, the conductor will begin. Tardiness must be explained to the Personnel Manager. Three episodes of tardiness will count as one unexcused absence. Multiple episodes will be handled the same as unexcused absences.

Music Folders, Music, Music Deposit

All members are required to have a black music folder from CYSO. The folders are available for a minimal fee and members can use the folder over many years. Orchestra members are responsible for all music issued to them. Music must be returned in **good condition** after each concert or at the end of the season. **Music may be marked in soft pencil only.**

Members will be charged for replacement of lost or defaced parts. A deposit of \$50.00 is collected to cover the cost of music lost or damaged while signed out to the student. This deposit will be kept until the student returns all music in good condition at the time he or she leaves CYSO. Charges for music will be made first against the deposit; if losses are larger than \$50.00 the balance will be billed directly to the CYSO musician.

Preparation

Orchestra members are expected to **master** the music **prior** to rehearsals. An assignment book for the orchestra is required. The conductor will inform the orchestra each week of music to be rehearsed the following week. The conductor will be available before and after rehearsals, or by appointment, if an orchestra member needs help. Members are expected to seek help from their private teachers whenever needed. Musical competence must be maintained as determined by the conductor. Chair assignments may be changed at the discretion of the conductor. There are no challenges.

Juries

Each semester the conductor, or jurists, will meet with each orchestra member at a designated time for a five to ten minute period to perform a music passage specified in advance by the conductor. The conductor may change the seating order of the ensemble based on jury outcomes. Any member not performing at the appropriate level may be required to return for a second jury, lose their seat, or re-audition for the ensemble at a future date.

Announcements

Weekly announcements and updates appear in the CYSO Newsletter, which will be emailed by the ensemble manager. Members of the orchestra are responsible for all information in the Newsletter. Additionally, verbal announcements may be made at the beginning of rehearsal or immediately after the break. These announcements are

considered to be important notifications, and orchestra members are responsible for information contained in these announcements as well, whether or not the student actually attended the rehearsal.

Equipment

Participants are responsible for their own equipment and instruments, excepting percussionists, who are responsible for their sticks and mallets and equipment set-up. All members are required to bring a music stand with them to all rehearsals. Parents are encouraged to have insurance for valuable instruments, as the CYSO cannot assume responsibility for damage or loss.

Rehearsal and Performance Facilities

Indian Creek Upper School has graciously donated the use of their building to the CYSO. This is a very large in-kind donation! It is imperative that we treat the building and all of its facilities with the utmost respect. Similarly, space rented for performances must also be respected.

School Activities

Continued participation in the member's school orchestra or band activities is an important responsibility. If a student is a member of a school instrumental ensemble he/she must remain a member of that program for the full academic year in order to qualify for CYSO membership. All members are expected to be in their school music program.

Concert Attire

Concert performance attire for all ensembles is as follows:

Ladies; Formal black long sleeved or three-quarter length sleeved top and ankle length skirt, dress, or dressy pants. Black stockings and black shoes.

Gentlemen; Black tuxedo or black suit with white shirt and black bow tie. Black socks and black shoes.

How To Get The Most From Your CYSO Experience

Come to rehearsals prepared physically and mentally.

You will gain the most from CYSO if prior to rehearsals you:

1. Get enough rest
2. Eat properly
3. Study your parts with your teacher
4. Practice music between rehearsals

Use practice time efficiently.

Maximize the effect of your practice with good habits:

1. Schedule a time during the day that is compatible with your homework and extra curricular activities
2. Work with your teacher to highlight practice areas
3. Be consistent and efficient in your practice time. Be focused
4. Set goals and keep notes on your progress
5. Use a metronome

Be open to the music at rehearsal.

Come to rehearsal to ‘experience’ the music not just play the notes;

1. Listen to how your part relates and fits to the other sections
2. Play as a member of your section and a member of the whole ensemble
3. Learn what the music is about and what the composer is saying
4. Think about how the music make you feel and why

Do you use these important techniques?

These techniques are just as important to a beginner as they are to a professional;

1. **Breathe**, especially before each phrase and allow the music to flow from you
2. **Sing** the music to hear exactly how it sounds, before playing it. With your instrument duplicate what you hear in your mind.
3. **Subdivide** the beats and keep the beat even and accurate
4. **Watch** the conductor, your section leader and concertmaster. Be aware of cues that give you dynamics, vibrato, bow speed and placement. Cues are essential to each entrance, tempo change, accents, and cutoff!
5. **Listen** to where you are in the ensemble. Balance your part in the ensemble and your intonation
6. **Sustain** your sound in intensity, intonation, and quality. This is a skill that takes work to develop, but one that distinguishes great players. No other player or section can carry your part. You must commit to follow through.
7. **Feel** the music. The ultimate goal of music is the expression of the music through you and your instrument. Tell the story of the music, your feelings about the music, and share that feeling with your audience

CALENDAR

CYSO’s 2007-2008 calendar is available under the Members section of the CYSO web site (www.cysomusic.org). Aside from observing our weekly rehearsals, please make a note of all concert dates and rehearsal cancellations.

Inclement Weather

To learn whether or not CYSO will hold rehearsals or concerts during inclement weather, please call 443-758-3157. CYSO will not be following the Anne Arundel County school system’s closures this year; however, information and updates will be left on the office voicemail, or sent by email through your ensemble managers.