



2016-2017

Handbook for Members

P.O. Box 662
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TheYSO@gmail.com

SYSO Organization

Board of Directors

President	Cynthia Westerman	Crete
Vice President	Lisa Kristina	Chicago Heights
Treasurer	Chuck Amenta	Flossmoor
Secretary	Emily Lewis Mantell	Orland Park
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	David Forsman	Crete
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Music Director	Benjamin Leonard-White	Valparaiso, IN
Executive Director	Janet Kuester	Park Forest
Parent Liaisons	Beth Nelson	Chicago
	Nadia Swearingen-Friesen	Orland Park

Mission of SYSO and IOP

- Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra has been offering a high quality extracurricular orchestral experience to Chicago/south and southwest suburban students for over 30 years.
- With drastic cuts in school music programs in recent years impacting the opportunity of local students to experience string instruments, SYSO's mission has been revised. Our mission is to provide students with the necessary skills, music education, and inspiration to play and enjoy music *and to rebuild the culture of string playing in the south/southwest suburbs.*
- Through our Incredible Opportunity Program, 4th-8th grade students are given the opportunity to play a string instrument for the same cost as playing in a public school program: the cost of instrument rental.
- Through our Suburban Youth Strings group, students are given an opportunity to play more challenging music in a small ensemble and perform in the community.
- Looking to the future, we envision our advanced ensemble going from strings only to full orchestra.

Expectations

- **Tuition**

- Tuition costs are as follows:
 - IOP - \$280 for the full year, or \$150/semester
 - SYSO - \$400 for the full year, or \$210/semester
- Materials fee: This fee includes music copies for SYSO and SYS (\$20), and books/instrument rentals for IOP (\$15).
- Financial aid is available upon request to the Orchestra Manager. All requests for financial aid are reviewed by board members appointed to the scholarship committee. Complete applications can be submitted at any time, but since funds are limited and may be depleted as the season goes on, families are encouraged to apply early in the season.

- **Scholarship Opportunities**

- SYSO offers two major scholarships that orchestra members can receive. Both are awarded at the Spring concert at the end of the season. Applications and nominations are reviewed by the Scholarship committee. Scholarships can be revoked if expectations are not met.
 - Robin Lipman Award- this award is given to a well-rounded individual to keep music as a creative and joyful part of their life. This award was inspired by the memory of Robin Lipman and her love of the students of SYSO with passion and commitment of service to the orchestra. Applicants must fill out an application from the Orchestra manager and turned in no later than April 2nd, 2017.

- **Suburban Youth Strings**

- Suburban Youth Strings (SYS) is a select group of students from SYSO who are interested in learning more challenging music. In the past, SYS has performed music of Haydn and Mozart as well as Latin and ethnic composers. The ensemble is made up of about 8 to 12 students and meets each Sunday from 3:00-4:00, which is one hour prior to the SYSO rehearsal. SYS performs their own selections and then joins the SYSO on each concert. Additionally, SYS is given other performing opportunities in the community, on occasion.
- Students interested in joining SYS would audition for Emily Mantell, director of SYS. Audition requirements: Prepare one scale of your choice. Play as many octaves as you're comfortable with. Play two contrasting selections, (slow and fast), maximum two minutes each.

- **Rehearsals and Performances**

- **Attendance** at all rehearsals and performances is expected. Our practice time is limited and must be used wisely to teach upcoming pieces and to assist in improving both group and individual ability. If you *must* miss a rehearsal, please contact the orchestra manager in advance of the absence through the absence form on the website.
 - Absences without contact will be considered “unexcused”. Two unexcused absences will result in a required playing test as a demonstration of the student’s knowledge of the music. Excessive unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the orchestra.
- **Arrival time.** All members are expected to *arrive 15 minutes before* the beginning of rehearsal. During this time, members will tune and prepare for rehearsal. Please plan accordingly.
- **Required materials.** It is important that members bring all current music and a sharp pencil to every SYSO and IOP rehearsal. Your instrument must be ready and tuned prior to the beginning of each rehearsal. Students should also bring a portable music stand to rehearsals. It is recommended that each student has a book bag in which to keep all necessary materials. A \$5 replacement fee will be charged for all lost folders.
- **Attire.** There is no dress code for rehearsals. For performances: All SYSO and IOP members must dress in black pants and a white shirt. Girls may wear a knee length skirt or longer. Boys may wear a bow tie, but this is not required. All members must wear black shoes. No white socks, please. If members have purchased a t-shirt, then this may be worn instead of the white shirt for informal concerts only, such as fundraiser events (upon decision of the Music Director). The Music Director and/or Orchestra Manager will inform students of specific events when it will be appropriate to wear the t-shirt instead of regular concert attire.

- **At-Home Practice**

- In addition to attending all rehearsals and performances, it is expected that SYSO and IOP members practice regularly. Daily practice is recommended. Practicing for 15-30 minutes 5-7 days a week is helpful and will assist in improving musical skills.

- Weekly homework assignments will be listed on the website. Please check this site regularly and be sure that all assigned pieces are practiced each week.

- **Questions or Concerns**

As questions or concerns arise this season, you are encouraged to follow these steps in finding answers:

1. Check the website. We are regularly adding information to our website and would love for this to serve as a resource for you. It is our intention to put all necessary information on this site.
2. Other questions can be sent to SYSO email (TheSYSO@gmail.com) . Please know that we will answer your question or concern in a timely manner but your patience is appreciated.

Fundraising Schedule

As you know, fundraising is a fundamental part of what keeps SYSO going, and continuing to give the orchestra members the best experience possible. Attendance is not mandatory at these events, but certainly highly recommended.

Barnes & Noble Halloween Benefit Concert

- When: - October 29, 2016 from 1-4pm
Where: 160 Orland Park Place Orland Park, IL 60462
- Description: - Come out and play in your Halloween costume (or SYSO shirt)! This is a fun and casual event as a good way to raise money for our orchestra. Play a solo or in a group.

SYSO Benefit Concerts at Trinity Lutheran

- When: - Saturday, November 12, 2016 and one in Spring TBA
Where: Trinity Lutheran Church, 2901 Western Ave., Park Forest, IL
- Description: - The November concert will be a harp recital given by Lisa Tannenbaum.

Scrementi's Restuarant

- When: - November 7-13 2016
Where: 3760 Chicago Rd, Steger, IL 60475
- Description: - Scrementi's will be giving a \$5 donation for every entrée that is purchased between 11/7-11/13 that will go to the orchestra.
- Please keep you itemized receipts from your meal, and turn them in at the following rehearsal.
 - Don't forget to stop by Scrementi's before heading over to the Harp recital on November 12!

Fresh Starts Restaurant

- When: - February 21-25 2017
Where: 1040 Sterling Avenue Flossmoor, Illinois 60422
- Description: - 10% of every food bill will be donated to the orchestra
- We will have handout of coupons that you can bring with you when you go to the restaurant. Otherwise we can collect your receipts.
 - Going to see the SYSO chamber group perform at the IOP concert? Why not have dinner at Fresh Starts first!

Semi-annual Bake Sale

- When: - After winter and spring concerts
- Description: - Take home bake sale provided by SYSO parent volunteers. Home baked goodies for you to take home after each SYSO concert. Please let the Orchestra Manager know if you want to bake something or help with sales.

Matching Gifts

You could double or triple your gift to SYSO if your employer participates in a matching gifts program. If you, your spouse, or your partner work for a company that matches gifts (some retired employees are eligible to have their gifts matched as well), ask your human resources or community relations officer for a matching gifts form.

Performance Schedule

For each performance, musicians should wear appropriate clothing and arrive at the time given by the music director.

Holiday Concert

When: - Sunday, December 11th
Arrival time: 1:00pm
Concert Time: 4:00pm
Where: Freedom Hall 410 Lakewood Blvd, Park Forest, IL 60466

Description: - Winter concert
- Incredible Opportunity students of the Suburban Youth Symphony make their playing debut after playing for just 12 weeks!
- Students of Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra and Suburban Youth Strings continue their orchestra experience performing many holiday tunes!

Master Class

When: - TBA
Where: - TBA
Description: - Master class for IOP students and SYSO chamber groups. Required attendance for all students.

Hearts & Roses Concert

When: - Sunday, February 19 at 2pm. Rehearsal at 1:15pm
Where: - TBA
Description: - SYSO members treat audience to chamber works (works performed by groups of 2-8 players) of composers such as Mozart, Stone, Bach, and Haydn.
- Incredible Opportunity students play together as they continue their first year of violin playing.

SYSO at IPO

When: - Saturday, February 25th. 7:15 pm – 7:45 pm
Where: - Lincoln-Way West Performing Arts Center.
21701 Gougar Rd., New Lenox
Description: - SYSO Chamber Groups will perform prior to the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra Concert. Discounted tickets will be available for children and families who wish to attend. For the evening's IPO program, see <http://ipomusic.org/index.php/id-2016-17-season.html>

Master Class

- When: - TBA
- Where: - TBA
- Description: - Master class for IOP students and SYSO chamber groups. Required attendance for all students.

Spring Concert

- When: - Sunday, April 30th 4pm. Rehearsal at 1pm
- Where: - TBA
- Description: - Soloist and repertoire to be announced.

Note: The Spring Concert also serves as a fund-raiser for SYSO and IOP. All members are required to participate in the fund-raiser by selling tickets and/or participating in our semi-annual Bake Sale.

SYSO and IOP Calendar 2016-2017

July	8	Park Forest Rotary Club Benefit for SYSO 7-8pm
	20	Preshow for IPO Ravisloe Concert
Sept	11	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	18	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	25	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
October	2	IOP Rehearsal: 3pm – 4pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4pm- 5:30pm
	9	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	16	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	23	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	29	Barnes & Noble Halloween Benefit Concert 1-4pm
November	6	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	12	SYSO Benefit Concert at Trinity Lutheran
	13	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	20	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	27	Thanksgiving Break- NO REHEARSAL
December	4	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	11	Holiday Concert 4pm
	11	Combined IOP/SYSO Party- after concert
	18	Winter Break – NO REHEARSAL
	25	Winter Break – NO REHEARSAL
January	1	Winter Break – NO REHEARSAL
	8	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	15	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	22	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	29	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
February	5	Master Class (Location TBA) 3pm-5:30pm
	12	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	19	Hearts and Roses Concert (Location TBA) 2:30pm
	25	IPO Pre-concert performance 6:30pm-7:30pm
	26	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
March	5	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	12	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	19	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	26	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
April	2	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	9	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	16	NO REHEARSAL
	23	IOP Rehearsal: 3 pm - 4 pm. SYSO Rehearsal: 4 pm - 5:30 pm.
	29	SAMBA Jazz Fest Concert -Governor's State University (Time TBA)
	30	Spring Concert 4pm