



Handbook

2018-2019

PO Box 662

Flossmoor, IL 60422

suburbanyouthsymphony.org

thesyso@gmail.com

Organization

Board of Directors

President	Lisa Kristina	Chicago Heights
Vice President	Lynn Werth	Crete
Treasurer	Cynthia Westerman	Crete
Secretary	Emily Lewis Mantell	Orland Park
Board Members	Stan Birer	Flossmoor
	Pam Cabrera	Crete
	Matt Mantell	Orland Park
	Marilynn Tannebaum	Olympia Fields
	Mort Castle	Crete
	Nadia Swearingen-Friesen	Orland Park
	Janet Kuester	Park Forest
Orchestra Manager		
Music Director	David Forsman	Crete
Executive Director		
Parent Liaison		

Mission

Our mission is to provide all 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.

Ensembles

- **Incredible Opportunity Program**
 - The Incredible Opportunity Program (IOP) provides beginning string group lessons (violin, viola, or cello) for students in grades 4-8. Students may apply to participate through an essay contest:
<http://suburbanyouthsymphony.org/incredible-opportunity/>.*

- **Suburban Youth Philharmonic**
 - The Suburban Youth Philharmonic (SYP) accepts any youth with one year of playing experience. This intermediate group is an important part of a musician's development of ensemble playing skills. No audition is required, but an audition (\$10 audition fee) is recommended to build familiarity with the audition process. Please see
<http://suburbanyouthsymphony.org/audition-information/> for more information.*

- **Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra**
 - The Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO) is the top performing group and namesake of the organization. Students who are accepted into SYSO have successfully completed a comprehensive audition. Children ages 8-17 who already play a string instrument and can read music well are welcome to audition (\$10 audition fee). Please see
<http://suburbanyouthsymphony.org/audition-information/> for more information.

- **Suburban Youth Strings**
 - Suburban Youth Strings (SYS) is a select group of students from SYSO who are interested in learning more challenging music. Selection for this group is based on audition and recommendation of the music director. This group may have additional performance opportunities besides the regular SYSO season performance. Please see
<http://suburbanyouthsymphony.org/audition-information/> for audition information (audition fee waived).

Students may have opportunity to move up to a more advanced group mid-season, based on recommendation of the music staff in consultation with parents.

Expectations

- **Tuition**
 - IOP \$280 for the full year or \$165 per semester
 - SYP/SYSO \$420 for the full year or \$235 per semester
 - First semester or full year tuition is due by August 31, 2018. Second semester payment is due by December 7, 2018.
 - **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. Applications may be submitted at any time, but since funds are limited, families are encouraged to apply early in the season.

- **Ticket Sales**
 - Each family is required to purchase \$100 in tickets. This fee is due at the third rehearsal in October. Each family will receive 5 tickets for the Holiday Concert and 5 tickets for the Spring Concert.

- **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, submit the absence form on the website:**
<http://suburbanyouthsymphony.org/absence-form/>.
 - **Absences without contact are considered unexcused. More than two unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the orchestra without refund of tuition.**

 - Rehearsal times
 - IOP - Sundays 3:00-4:00pm
 - SYP – Sundays 3:00-4:30pm
 - SYSO – Sundays 4:00-5:30pm
 - SYS – Sundays 3:00-4:00pm

 - Arrival Times
 - Rehearsals: Arrive 15 minutes before scheduled rehearsal time to tune and prepare for rehearsal.
 - Performances: Call times (arrival times) for each performance will be communicated to students and parents in this handbook and reminders will be given in rehearsals and through paper and online communication.

- Required Materials
 - All current music
 - Sharp pencil
 - Music stand
- Attire
 - There is no dress code for rehearsals.
 - Performances:
 - Black pants, black shoes, white shirt OR SYSO t-shirt and black pants
 - Students and parents will be informed of specific dress requirements for each performance.
- **Practice**
 - In addition to attending all rehearsals and performances, it is expected that all orchestra members practice regularly at home. Daily practice is recommended. Practicing for 15-30 minutes 5-7 days per week will assist in improving individual musical skills and contribute to the group's success and the positive experience for all.

Communication

- **TeamSnap**
 - This free app consolidates messaging, assignments, and the season calendar.
- **Email**
 - You may also email thesyso@gmail.com with questions.
- **Facebook**
 - The SYSO page @SuburbanYouthSymphonyOrchestra will have updates and reminders for events, plus pictures and helpful articles for students and parents.
- **Instagram**
 - Please follow and tag: @syso_ig.

Scholarship Opportunities

- **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.
- **Spring Concert**
 - All scholarships are awarded at the Spring Concert at the end of the season for the upcoming season. Scholarships can be revoked if expectations are not met.

Tuition Incentive

- Current parents are SYSO's greatest recruiters! If you refer a new student who enrolls and pays full tuition, you will receive a tuition rebate of \$50. Please contact the Orchestra Manager for more details.

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra

- **Free and Reduced Price Tickets**

- All IOP/SYP/SYSO students and their siblings may request free tickets for every Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO) concert.
- Parent tickets are available for the reduced price of \$22 each.

- **Ticket Deadlines and Procedures**

- Ticket requests and payment for adult tickets are due by the end of the Sunday rehearsal the week before the Saturday IPO concert as listed below.
- Checks for parent tickets should be made payable to SYSO.
- For more information on each IPO concert, please visit ipomusic.org.

Ticket Ordering and Payment Deadline	IPO Concert Date
Sunday, November 11, 2018	Saturday, November 17, 2018
Sunday, December 2, 2018	Saturday, December 8, 2018
Sunday, February 3, 2019	Saturday, February 9, 2019
Sunday, March 10, 2019	Saturday, March 16, 2019
Sunday, April 14, 2019*	Saturday, April 27, 2019
Sunday, May 5, 2019*	Saturday, May 18, 2019

*Deadlines are earlier due to SYSO rehearsal and concert schedule.

Fundraising

- **Barnes & Noble Halloween Benefit Concert**
 - Date and Time TBA – Play in your Halloween costume or SYSO t-shirt. Solo or groups.
- **Semi-annual Bake Sale**
 - After December and April concerts – Take home bake sale provided by parent volunteers. Please inform the Orchestra Manager if you are able to bake or assist the day of a sale.
- **Facebook**
 - Consider a Facebook fundraiser for your birthday or your student's birthday. Friends and family contribute through your Facebook page and the support raised goes to SYSO.
- **Matching Gifts**
 - You could double or triple your gift to SYSO if your employer participates in a matching gifts program. Please ask your human resources or community relations officer for a matching gifts form.

Performances

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

In addition to these three major performances, extra performance opportunities may arise through the season. Information will be made available to parents and students as these opportunities present themselves.

Holiday Concert

- Sunday, December 9, 2018
- Call time: 2:00pm
- Concert time: 4:00pm
- Location: St. Kieran Catholic Church, 724 195th St., Chicago Heights, IL 60411
- Description: IOP students make their playing debut! SYP, SYSO, and SYS students continue their orchestra experience performing many holiday tunes!

Hearts & Roses Concert

- Sunday, February 10, 2019
- Call time: 2:00pm
- Concert time: 3:00pm
- Location: TBA
- Description: Students treat the audience to chamber works (groups of 3-8 players) of composers such as Mozart, Bach, and Haydn.

Spring Concert

- Sunday, May 5, 2019
- Call time: 1:00pm
- Concert time: 4:00pm
- Location: TBA
- Description: Each ensemble performs newly learned repertoire and SYSO accompanies a guest soloist.

Calendar 2018-2019

September	9	Rehearsals
	16	Rehearsals
	23	Rehearsals
	30	Rehearsals
October	7	Rehearsals
	14	Rehearsals
	21	Rehearsals
	28	Rehearsals
November	4	Rehearsals
	11	Rehearsals
	18	Rehearsals
	25	No Rehearsals - Thanksgiving
December	2	Rehearsals
	9	Holiday Concert - Call: 2pm Concert: 4pm
	16	Rehearsals
	23	No Rehearsals - Winter Break
	30	No Rehearsals - Winter Break
January	6	Rehearsals
	13	Rehearsals
	20	Rehearsals
	27	Rehearsals
February	3	Rehearsals
	10	Hearts & Roses Concert - Call: 2pm Concert: 3pm
	17	Rehearsals
	24	Rehearsals
March	3	Rehearsals
	10	Rehearsals
	17	Rehearsals
	24	Rehearsals
	31	Rehearsals
April	7	Rehearsals
	14	Rehearsals
	21	No Rehearsals - Spring Break
	28	Rehearsals
May	5	Spring Concert - Call: 1pm Concert: 4pm