



2024-25 SEASON HANDBOOK

Revised 1/9/2025

This handbook is intended to provide quick reference for common questions and EYSO policies. New and detailed information will be provided throughout the season via weekly emails (“eNews”) on Thursday mornings.

Please add office@eyso.org and your conductors’ email addresses to your address book or safe senders list to ensure emails from EYSO are not blocked or marked as spam. **If you unsubscribe or opt-out of the EYSO eNews, you will miss out on important information.**

EYSO MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestras is to create a community of young musicians, enriching their lives and the lives of their families, schools, communities and beyond, through the study and performance of excellent music.

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THE EYSO DIFFERENCE

EYSO attracts a national reputation for providing students with both an engaging musical experience and a comprehensive learning environment of curiosity, imagination, critical thinking, and collaboration. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Matthew Sheppard, students explore a thematic curriculum each season—one which aims not only to help students develop artistically and technically, but also to prepare them for a future of complex ideas, creative risk-taking, and leadership as global citizens. It is with this thoughtful approach that participating in EYSO has led hundreds of alumni to successful careers as professional musicians, educators, and strong leaders in every field. It’s what we call “educating the whole musician”: preparing our students for a lifelong journey of inquiry, creativity, and growth.

EYSO CONTACT INFORMATION



Read more about our staff, conductors, and board of directors at eyso.org/our-team.

EYSO Rehearsal Office

(847) 841-7700 (call on Sundays and during the week—cannot receive text messages)

Elgin Community College Arts Center, Building G, Room G226/228

1700 Spartan Dr.

Elgin, IL 60123

office@eyso.org

ECC Arts Center Box Office

(847) 622-0300

Elgin Community College Arts Center, Building H, to the right of the main entrance

1700 Spartan Dr.

Elgin, IL 60123

eccartscenter.org/events/ire/

MEMBERSHIP

The Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra is open to any qualified performer, grade 4 through college-age, of an orchestral instrument who auditions and is accepted. EYSO is dedicated to educating a diverse group of musicians and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity/expression.

Membership in EYSO is for the entire season, from Fall Camp in August through the final concert in May. Musicians are expected to remain active and committed for the entire season.



Auditions

General auditions for Youth Symphony, Philharmonia, Sinfonia, Prelude, Primo/Primo Intermezzo, Brass Choir, Flute Choir, Percussion Ensembles, and Chamber Music Institute are held in May. Your intention to audition or remain in your current ensemble must be submitted to ensure your place for the following season. Returning students who wish to advance to the next level ensembles must complete their audition by the end of the scheduled audition period in order to participate the following season.

Audition fees are non-refundable. Musicians are permitted only one audition per season.

Auditions may be video recorded by EYSO for internal use only. All recordings are strictly protected.

Placement Philosophy

After hearing auditions in late spring, EYSO staff make placement decisions based on playing ability, age, and the current needs of each ensemble. Students are placed in the ensemble most closely matching their musical level, including such considerations as quality of tone production, technical facility, range on the instrument, intonation, vibrato, dynamic range, articulation, phrasing, rhythmic integrity, expressive style, and overall accuracy.

Meeting the printed requirements of an orchestra does not guarantee placement. Striving to provide the best educational experience for students, we take a holistic look at each audition and determine the most suitable placement for cultivating growth.

Seating Philosophy

The EYSO follows a general policy of rotating seating, but specific seating procedures are at the discretion of each conductor and may change throughout the season and from orchestra to orchestra.

The EYSO seating philosophy is intended to provide fair opportunities, new perspectives, and the greatest learning experience for all players. Seating is generally based on the maturity, leadership, and rehearsal habits of the player. Wind and brass seating may rotate on a piece-by-piece basis, at the discretion of the Youth Symphony, Philharmonia, Sinfonia, and Brass Choir conductors.

String seating follows a variety of formats and is never a strict strongest-to-weakest, front-to-back arrangement. Students are often paired as stand partners based on complementary strengths and weaknesses. For example, a player with strong rhythm might be paired with a player with weak rhythm but a strong sense of pitch. The emphasis is on collaboration, rather than competition.

Our goal at EYSO is to make the seating placement a learning experience, not a competition. Asking a conductor about an audition is encouraged, for the purpose of personal and musical growth. Questions about auditions and seating should be directed to conductors only, and should come from students themselves.

Member Resources (members.eyso.org)

Your Member Page contains helpful information and resources, including recent eNews, billing and absence reporting tools, and recordings and materials from your conductor. Get in the habit of checking your Member Page regularly for updates!

This is the same account you used to apply for an audition, or the same account you used last season. If you have trouble logging in, try the Forgot Password button first to have a reset link sent to your email. If that doesn't work, email office@eyso.org for help.

Use the "My Profile" section of your Member Page to update your contact information.

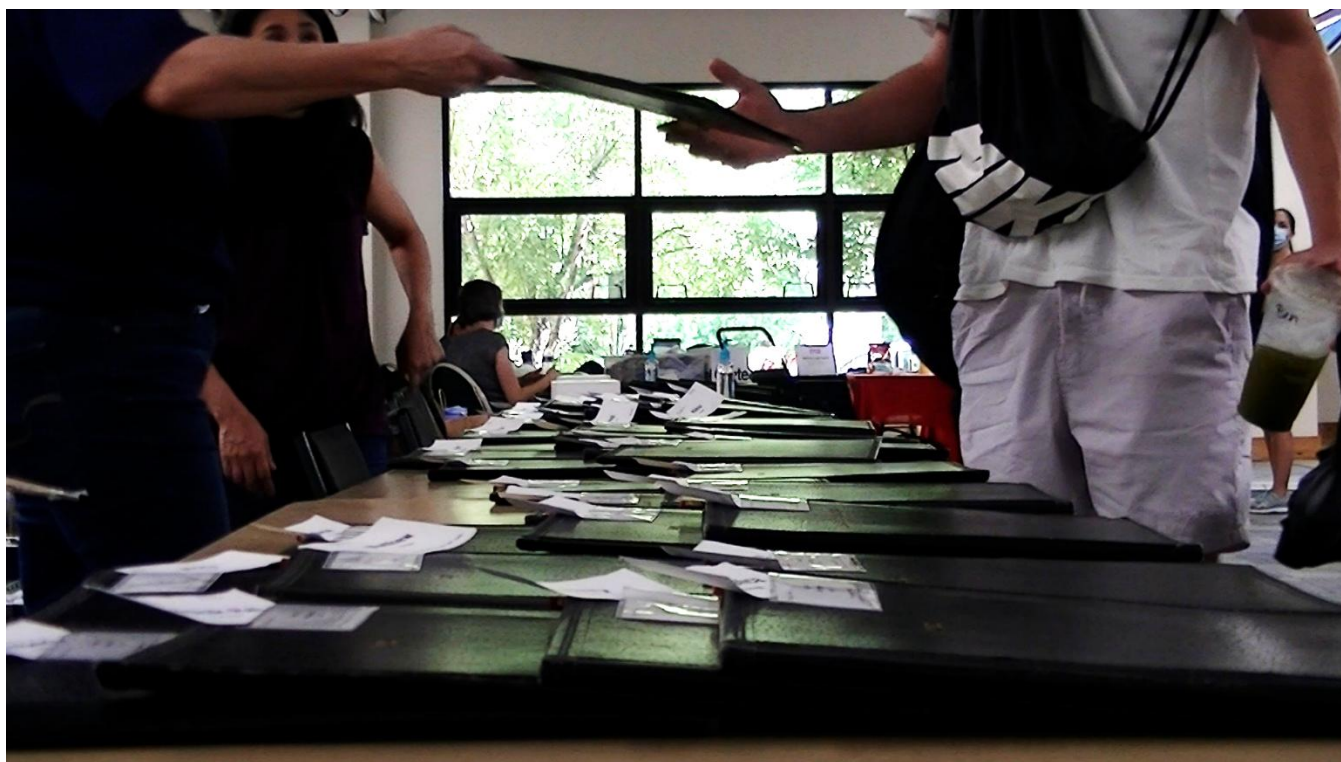
Weekly Conductor Emails

Each conductor sends a "mid-week email" to their ensemble to share additional resources, guidance, and practice suggestions to continue learning between rehearsals. Please read these carefully (and respond as applicable) to make sure you don't miss any important information.

Music & Music Folders

First semester music is mailed as soon as it's available, contingent upon payment of tuition or the first installment in a payment plan. Each ensemble member is assigned a black music folder at the beginning of the season. A replacement fee of \$30 will be charged for lost or damaged music folders. Music folders and all sheet music from the season will be collected at the conclusion of the May concert.

If you have a repertoire-related question, please email your conductor. If you lose your music or folder and need new copies, email office@eyso.org.



School Participation

EYSO students are expected to participate in their school instrumental music ensemble(s), provided there is one. Exceptions are rare, but in such cases, students must write to the EYSO Artistic Director, office@eyso.org, and their conductor to explain why they do not plan to participate in their school music ensemble(s).

EYSO makes all attempts to avoid scheduling conflicts with area school events. Please discuss pending conflicts with your conductor as early as possible.

Private Lessons

Although not required for membership, private lessons are strongly encouraged. Students who study privately routinely do better on all auditions and grow faster as musicians. A list of area private instructors is available at eyso.org/members.



Elgin Community College

EYSO is an In-Residence Ensemble at Elgin Community College, and all EYSO students are required to be automatically enrolled at ECC (either for-credit or non-credit). Students who are 16 years old by the first rehearsal of the season and are members of Youth Symphony, Philharmonia, or Sinfonia may choose to receive 1.0 credit hour per semester of college credit at Elgin Community College. These students will receive a grade for their EYSO participation. There is no additional cost for receiving college credit for EYSO ensembles.

Eligible students (ages 16+ in YS, PH, or SF) will be contacted via email over the summer with instructions for registering as an ECC student. To be enrolled as a for-credit student, please reply to office@eyso.org to confirm, then complete ECC's online enrollment application according to the instructions from EYSO. Your completed ECC application must be received no later than Thursday, September 5, 2024 to be enrolled for credit in the fall semester.

- **Students who do not meet the above criteria** will be enrolled through ECC as non-credit students, and will not receive college credit or a grade for their participation in EYSO ensembles.
- **If you have been previously enrolled for credit**, we will continue to place you in the for-credit section of your ensemble, and no further action is required.
- **If you do not qualify to enroll for credit in the fall**, or if you qualify but choose not to enroll, no application is needed/no additional action is required.
- **If you turn 16 during the fall semester** and would like to enroll for-credit in the spring, please contact office@eyso.org for the appropriate application form.

EYSO does not retain academic records for students receiving college credit through ECC. To request a copy of your transcript, please contact the [ECC Registrar](#). You will need your ECC ID#, which can be found on your Member Page under "My Profile."

TUITION

EYSO tuition includes instruction, Fall Camp, all music, music folder rental, and the cost of associated ECC fees and tuition. Extended tours outside the Elgin area will be funded separately.

Please note: EYSO has made a year-long commitment to the development of each musician. If a student discontinues participation in his/her ensemble, unpaid tuition will still be due. All paid fees and tuition are non-refundable.



Tuition Schedule

The 2024-25 season tuition schedule is available on [EYSO.org/auditions](https://eyso.org/auditions). For families with more than one EYSO student, a sibling discount is automatically applied at 10% for each student after the first (applicable to the lesser tuition).

Tuition may be paid in full for the entire season, or paid in four or six installments. Please use the Billing section of your student's [Member Page](#) to view, pay, and request payment plans for tuition invoices. Outstanding tuition and fees must be paid in full before auditions for the following season.

Tuition Assistance

While aiming to keep tuition affordable, EYSO strives to ensure that no student is turned away due to financial need; tuition assistance is available to students/families who qualify. Tuition assistance applications are available after auditions, during the online registration process. Funding is limited, so we encourage those who need assistance to complete the tuition assistance application as soon as it becomes available. Tuition assistance recipients are expected to pay part of their tuition and actively participate in the NOTES 2025 fundraising campaign (see page 19 for more information about NOTES).

If your financial circumstances change during the season and you find that you need assistance, please contact Director of Membership & Operations Emily Krasinski (ekrasinski@eyso.org).

CMI Tuition

Tuition for EYSO's Chamber Music Institute (see page 17 for more information) is billed separately from orchestra tuition, and tuition assistance and payment plans are available for CMI tuition.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals take place at [Elgin Community College Arts Center \(Building H\)](#).

Regular Sunday Rehearsal Schedule & Locations

Ensemble	Times	Room Number
SF/PH Percussion Ensemble	2:00-3:00pm	H212
Sinfonia (SF)	3:15-5:15pm	H245
Philharmonia (PH)	3:30-5:30pm	H123
Primo Intermezzo (MOI)	5:00-6:30pm	H220
Primo (MO)	5:30-6:30pm	H220
Prelude (PR)	4:30-6:00pm	H122
YS Percussion Ensemble	4:00-5:00pm	H212
Brass Choir (BC)	5:35-6:35pm	H245
Flute Choir (FC)	5:35-6:35pm	H241
Youth Symphony (YS)	6:15-9:00pm	H123

The 2024-25 Season Calendar is available at [EYSO.org/auditions](https://www.eysoschools.org/auditions) and on the [Member Page](#), and includes dates and details for the entire season.

Drop-off, Pick-up, & Parking

All personnel should enter and exit through the front doors of the ECC Arts Center (Building H), under the red awning.

Parking is available in lots G, H, or J. Accessible parking is available in front of the ECC Arts Center and in Lot G.

Please note: the circle drive in front of the Arts Center must remain clear for emergency vehicles. Please park in one of the designated lots and wait until your student exits the building before pulling into the circle drive for pick-up.

Music

All musicians must bring all of their music to rehearsal each week. Use only pencil to mark music: no ink, highlighter, or colored pencil.

Folding Music Stands

For sectionals, some rehearsals, and events away from ECC (e.g. Fall Camp), musicians may need to occasionally bring their own folding music stand, clearly marked with their name.

All Chamber Music Institute (CMI) members are expected to bring a folding music stand to every chamber ensemble rehearsal.

Instruments, Cases, Accessories, and Insurance

All belongings (including instrument cases, bags, water bottles, etc.) may be left in the hallway near the rehearsal room or kept with the student as space allows.

Please make sure all instrument cases and accessories are clearly marked with your name. All EYSO students/families are responsible for their instruments. Lost, stolen, or damaged instruments (or instrument accessories) are not the responsibility of the EYSO. All members should have their instruments insured. Check with your insurance agent to see what is covered under your homeowners' insurance policy. Should any damage occur to your instrument while you are participating in an EYSO activity, please notify the staff immediately.

Food and Beverages

Do not bring food or drinks into the rehearsal room. Water in a closed plastic or metal water bottle is permitted, but no open containers or glass bottles. Please remove your empty water bottles appropriately at the end of rehearsal.

Cell Phones and Other Portable Electronic Devices

There will be no cell phone use (including texting) and no use of any portable electronic devices during rehearsals, dress rehearsals, or concerts. ONLY cell phones that are turned OFF are permitted in rehearsals. In case of an emergency, parents should call the EYSO office number (847-841-7700).

Lost and Found

EYSO cannot be held responsible for items left at ECC, or at any other concert or rehearsal site. To prevent loss, please label all personal items (music stands, cases, coats, etc.) with your name; check underneath and around your chair before leaving rehearsals. If a student has lost an item, please inquire first at the EYSO rehearsal office and/or leave a message with the staff. For items lost in the Blizzard Theatre, you may also check with the ECC Lost & Found (847-697-1000). Items are claimable upon description by the owner. It is best not to bring valuables to rehearsals, but if you do, please keep them with you at all times.

Emergency Procedures

EYSO follows all ECC guidelines for emergency procedures. Find their emergency protocols at elgin.edu/emergency-management. For all off-site events and activities, EYSO follows the guidelines of the venue in use.

Rehearsal Cancellations

In case of inclement weather or emergencies, in-person rehearsals may be cancelled. Decisions to cancel rehearsal will take into consideration weather forecasts and reports, road conditions (as reported on the IDOT website), and other local cancellations, including ECC campus closures. Closing information will be communicated via email and posted on EYSO Facebook and Instagram accounts as soon as possible, no later than noon on a regular rehearsal Sunday. Efforts will be made to engage students in other teaching and learning opportunities in the event of a snow day or other facility closure.

Instrument-Specific Guidelines

WOODWIND PLAYERS

- Please have extra reeds (at least 4 playable reeds) with you at every rehearsal and concert.
- Oboe players must have an electronic tuner for giving the orchestra tuning pitch.
- Don't forget your auxiliary instruments (e.g. piccolo, E \flat clarinet, English horn, etc.).
- If you need to loan an alto flute, bass flute, A clarinet, bass clarinet, English horn, or contrabassoon from EYSO, please complete [this form](#) so we can arrange for you to borrow the instrument for an entire concert cycle.

BRASS PLAYERS

- All musicians must have all mutes called for in their music at every rehearsal. Let your conductor know if you need help obtaining a proper mute.



STRING PLAYERS

- Please have a mute with you at your stand at every rehearsal.
- Bring accessories as needed: shoulder rest, rock stop, rosin, dust cloth, and an extra set of strings to all rehearsals and performances.

PERCUSSIONISTS

- Please provide your own sticks, timpani pitch pipe, and mallet bag.
- You will be expected to move your own equipment and facilitate your own setup. All EYSO-owned percussion instruments must be put away in the appropriate areas before leaving. You may also be asked to move and load equipment for tours, run-out concerts, and events away from ECC.

PIANISTS & HARPISTS

- Your conductor(s) will communicate with you regarding your rehearsal schedule. You should plan to be available for your full scheduled rehearsal(s), but may only be called for select pieces.

ATTENDANCE

The most valuable contribution musicians can make to their ensemble is their presence at rehearsal, and attendance is taken at every rehearsal and event. Membership in the EYSO is a commitment to faithful, consistent, and punctual attendance. It is expected that rehearsals will be a high priority in each musician's life since each musician is holding a valuable place in their ensemble.

Tardiness

Because of limited rehearsal time, starting promptly is very important. Musicians should arrive at least 15 minutes before their rehearsal start time to check in and unpack. Late arrival to rehearsal (arriving to the rehearsal room after the orchestra has tuned) is considered as missing half a rehearsal.

Come Anyway

In instances when musicians are physically unable to play their instruments, they should still attend rehearsal, sit with their colleagues, and actively participate in rehearsal.

Absences

All musicians are expected to prioritize Sunday rehearsals. Membership in EYSO requires commitment to faithful, consistent, and punctual attendance, and that absences should be taken only when unavoidable. **Musicians who miss more than two rehearsals (including any dress rehearsal or Fall Camp absences) in a concert cycle will not be permitted to play in the performance.** Late arrivals to or early departures from rehearsal are considered as missing half a rehearsal.

Fall Camp Attendance

Attendance at Fall Camp is required, since the work of several regular rehearsals is accomplished in a very concentrated time period. (See page 18 for more about Fall Camp.)

Arriving late to Fall Camp counts as missing half a rehearsal. Missing one day of Fall Camp counts as one absence. Missing two days (applies to PH or YS only) counts as two absences. Absences from Fall Camp are considered part of the November concert cycle.

Attendance Communication

All planned absences (including dress rehearsals—see page 14) must be communicated at the beginning of each concert cycle. Review the EYSO calendar carefully along with all your other commitments, then use the "Report an Absence" form on your Member Page to report any anticipated absences, late arrivals, or early departures by the deadline:

- For the November concert, report by September 6, 2024.
- For the March concert, report by January 3, 2025.
- For the May concert, report by March 14, 2025.

For last-minute emergencies or conflicts that arise after the reporting deadline, musicians must call the EYSO office at 847-841-7700 to explain (leave a voicemail if need be).



DRESS REHEARSALS

Dress rehearsals allow musicians to finalize musical details and work out performance logistics on stage in the Blizzard Theatre or off-site concert venue. Casual clothing should be worn, not concert dress, unless otherwise announced.

Dress rehearsals are typically scheduled for the Friday or Saturday before each concert, and dates are listed on the Season Calendar. Exact times are determined approximately 6 weeks before each concert and are shared in weekly eNews and conductor emails. **Dress rehearsals are required.**

Dress Rehearsal Attendance

To be eligible to play the concert, a musician must attend their ensemble's entire dress rehearsal. The only exceptions are for school music performances, serious illness/injury, a family wedding, a funeral/death in the family, or religious observances.

Anticipated dress rehearsal absences must be communicated at the beginning of the concert cycle along with regular rehearsal absences (see page 13). Musicians who miss the dress rehearsal for an excused reason may be asked to submit additional playing check-ins to ensure performance readiness, and/or seating may be adjusted at the discretion of the conductor.



2024-25 SEASON CONCERTS

Canvas | November 10, 2024

Palette | March 9, 2025

Image | May 11, 2025

All concerts are at 1:30, 4:30, and 7:00pm at ECC's Blizzard Theatre unless otherwise noted:

- Prelude, Sinfonia, and SF/PH Percussion Ensemble perform at the 1:30pm concerts in November, March, and May
- Brass Choir, Flute Choir, and Philharmonia perform at the 4:30pm concerts in November, March, and May
- Youth Symphony and YS Percussion Ensemble perform at the 7:00pm concerts in November, March, and May
- Primo & Primo Intermezzo attend the 4:30pm concert in November, perform side-by-side with Youth Symphony at the 7:00pm concert in March, and perform at the 1:30pm concert in May

GSYO Side-by-Side | April 12, 2025

Philharmonia students will rehearse and perform a joint concert with the Golden State Youth Orchestra's Camilla Kolchinsky Orchestra (Palo Alto, CA) at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, IL. Exact times and ticketing details will be announced as the date approaches.



Primo Informance | October 27, 2024

Primo & Primo Intermezzo present an INFOrmal, INFOrmational perFORMANCE to conclude their first semester together. Exact location and time will be announced as the date approaches. All are invited to this fun and free event!

Chamber Music Institute Concerts | November 3, 2024 & March 30, 2025

These free, non-ticketed concerts take place in Spartan Auditorium at ECC. Exact concert times will be shared as the dates approach.

Concert Tickets

EYSO families are expected to purchase tickets to their students' orchestra performances.

In-person tickets are sold by the [ECC Arts Center Box Office](#) and are listed online by concert title (see above). A "season ticket" discount of 10% is automatically applied when you purchase tickets to all three concert dates, online or over the phone.

Livestream tickets are priced comparably to in-person tickets and will be available to purchase at [EYSO.org/concert](https://eyso.org/concert).

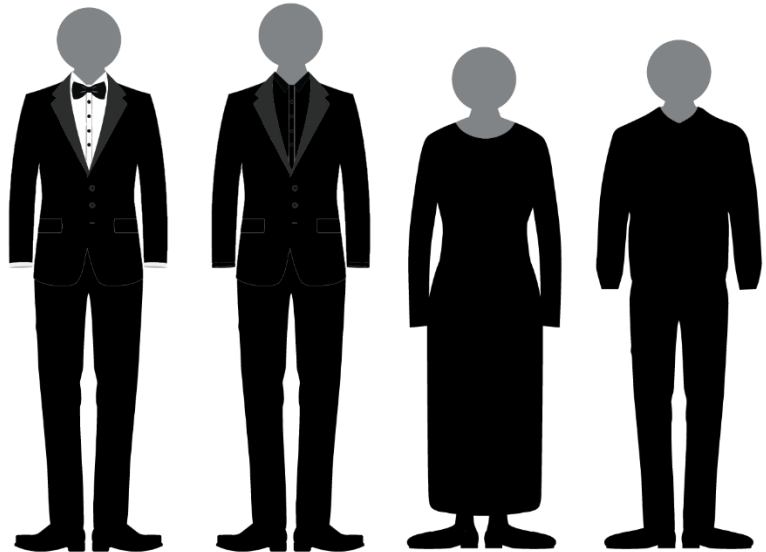
If you have student(s) playing in more than one concert on any EYSO concert day, purchase tickets to the earliest concert and you will be given the same number of complimentary tickets for the second concert. Please communicate this information to the box office when you reserve your seats, or email tickets@eyso.org regarding livestream tickets.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Students present a professional and uniform appearance at concerts appropriate to the occasion. Attire requirements are designed to minimize attention on individuals and encourage audiences to focus on the music performed, not wardrobe choices. The following attire guidelines apply to all EYSO performances, including CMI.

Acceptable Attire

- Black or white dress shirt with $\frac{3}{4}$ or full length sleeves. Black sweater or tuxedo jacket must be worn over white shirt.
- Black floor length bottoms (pants, skirt, or dress).
- Black closed toe dress shoes. Heels are okay.
- Black socks/tights/hose.
- Black bow tie with white shirts only. Cummerbund optional.



Unacceptable Attire



No short sleeve shirts, sleeveless shirts, or shirts with deep neckline (in front or back).



No athletic pants, shorts, or jeans.



No athletic shoes, open toe, or sandals. No embellishments on shoes.



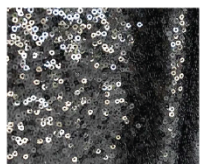
No visible ankles/midriffs.



No tuxedo jackets with tails.



No hats.



No colors, shiny embellishments, patterns or lace.



No white shirt without black sweater or suit/tuxedo jacket.



No cologne, body spray, or perfume.



No colored or patterned ties.

If you are not properly dressed for your concert, you will be asked to change and may be given apparel from the EYSO office to wear. If you have doubts about whether a piece of clothing is appropriate, the best choice is to wear something else.

CHAMBER MUSIC INSTITUTE

EYSO members in Prelude, Sinfonia, Philharmonia and Youth Symphony have the opportunity to join chamber music ensembles in EYSO's [Chamber Music Institute](#) (CMI). Each CMI ensemble meets weekly on Sundays and has a regular coach who is an experienced educator and skilled performer in the Chicago region. Each semester ends with a series of free chamber music concerts, and CMI ensembles may be invited to perform at additional community concerts throughout the area.

Questions about the program should be directed to Artistic Director Matthew Sheppard (msheppard@eyso.org).

Application & Auditions

Participation in CMI requires an additional year-long commitment from EYSO students. A separate tuition for CMI is required, and tuition assistance is available. Every audition for an EYSO orchestra also doubles as an audition for CMI. Students who wish to participate only in CMI must audition like any other EYSO student and complete the online EYSO audition application to be assigned to a CMI group.

Performances

CMI groups perform in one concert each semester, and may be invited to play at Open House or other community events. More information about CMI dress rehearsals and concerts will be communicated at least one month in advance.

2024-25 CMI Concert Dates

- November 3, 2024
- March 30, 2025

Honors Chamber Ensembles

EYSO offers four exceptional chamber music opportunities for students who are members of Youth Symphony: the Maud Powell String Quartet, the Hanson String Quartet, the Sterling Brass Quintet, and the Earl Clemens Wind Quintet. More information and applications can be found [here](#).



Summer Chamber Music Camp

Open to EYSO string players as well as those not involved in EYSO orchestras, this week-long summer program (typically the last week of July) divides students into trios, quartets, and quintets based on their age and ability. Each group works with a regular coach and spends 3-4 hours together each day. The camp also includes masterclasses, classes in composition, Alexander Technique, and listening workshops: a total of more than 35 hours of instruction, concluding in an evening of free performances open to the public. Visit [EYSO.org/summer](https://eyso.org/summer) to learn more.

OTHER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Fall Camp

Youth Symphony and Philharmonia participate in a two-day camp, while Sinfonia, Prelude, and Primo participate in a one-day retreat at [Riverwoods](#) every August. Fall Camp is an important, exciting, and concentrated experience of rehearsals, team-building activities, and plain old fun. These activities provide the best opportunity all season for learning lots of repertoire, while also making friends and creating community within the ensemble. **For these reasons, attendance is required.**



Concerto Competition

EYSO's Young Artists Concerto Competition provides an opportunity for soloists to perform a movement of a standard concerto with their respective ensemble. The competition is open to all members of the EYSO Youth Symphony and Philharmonia who must audition on the same instrument they play in their EYSO orchestra. The competition is scheduled in October each season, and winners perform with their orchestras in the spring.



Performances are judged by an independent panel of professional musicians from outside of the EYSO organization.

Competition winners from the previous year are not eligible to participate, even if they advanced to the next level of ensemble.

Composition Contest

New this season, EYSO's Composition Contest offers students the opportunity to compose a piece for either string quartet or brass quintet, with the winning work(s) to be performed on the Spring CMI concert. The contest is open to all EYSO students, and submissions are due December 1.

Open House | February 16, 2025

Most new EYSO students are referred to the organization by current members, parents, teachers and private instructors who know EYSO well. It is often a personal recommendation that brings interested musicians to the organization.

Open House is free and open to the public. It is an opportunity to observe rehearsals, meet current students, faculty and staff, and ask questions about EYSO.

SUPPORT EYSO

Volunteering

EYSO depends on the donation of time and other tangible support from parents. Each family is asked to volunteer in a variety of activities: committee tasks, chaperoning events, performing clerical or specialized professional tasks, etc. Please watch for emails throughout the season to sign up online.

Fundraising

More than 60% of the cost to deliver the EYSO experience to each student is underwritten by public and private foundations, businesses, and individual giving. We depend on select fundraising projects to raise these funds.

EYSO member fundraising projects help each member:

1. Raise funds to keep tuition as low as possible;
2. Build awareness in their own community about their EYSO participation, a positive and enriching activity; and
3. Build lifelong skills in volunteering and charitable giving.

NOTES

Our main family fundraiser is the annual NOTES Campaign, which runs for 9 weeks beginning in January. NOTES is an opportunity for each member to raise awareness of the EYSO with their friends and family, as well as raise funds for the operating budget. We ask that each student commits to the goal of raising at least \$175 in the EYSO NOTES campaign.

Matching Gifts

Many corporations offer matching gifts when their employees make charitable contributions or volunteer their time. Please consider matching gifts as a way to double your contribution.

Tax Deductions

EYSO is a registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, and all charitable contributions to EYSO are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



VIDEO & AUDIO RECORDINGS

Ownership of Rights

As stipulated by the current U.S. copyright laws, the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra owns all rights to audio and video recordings of EYSO's ensembles. This includes (but is not limited to) all audio and/or video in any form, including audio or video posted on public websites and social media (i.e. YouTube, Facebook, and other similar file sharing services). Audio or video of EYSO posted without the express written permission of the organization will be immediately removed per article "VIII. Ownership Rights" in the Participation Terms and Agreement. EYSO also reserves the right to request the removal of any EYSO-related media posted on the web at any time (including any "fair use" claims).



Photographs and Social Media

It is permissible to display personal EYSO-related photographs on the internet, and we encourage students and parents to interact with EYSO on social media platforms such as [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). However, photographs that the organization deems inappropriate (or that reflect poorly on the organization) will be immediately subject to removal at the discretion of EYSO.

Copyright Law

Duplicating the intellectual property of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra in any form with the intent to share or sell without the express written permission of the organization is illegal under U.S. copyright law. This includes (but it not limited to) the official live concert recordings (which are made available exclusively to the EYSO students), images or other proprietary material found on the EYSO website, and authorized (or unauthorized) EYSO-related media already posted on the web.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY & HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

As agreed during the EYSO Audition Application and registration process, neither the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, Inc., its staff or directors, nor Elgin Community College will be held responsible for any liabilities including injury, illness, or accident suffered or incurred during participation in the activities of the EYSO.

By signing below (or by logging into my [Member Page](#) to e-sign), I verify that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the policies and guidelines stated in this Season Handbook. **I acknowledge that these policies and guidelines are subject to change, and by continuing to participate in EYSO activities, I continue to agree to the most up-to-date version of this Season Handbook.**

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date