

# EYSO

ELGIN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

---

2008 Conductor of the Year ■ 2000 / 2007 Youth Orchestra of the Year ■ 2005 / 2015 Programming of the Year ■ 2001 Elgin Image Award

## OPEN HOUSE GUIDE

Since 1976, the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra has been challenging and inspiring an ever-widening circle of young musicians with rich and deep musical experiences. Today, EYSO serves nearly 400 students from 70 communities.

To make the most of your visit during Open House, please read the ensemble descriptions and rehearsal times below and **plan to visit at least two** that you think might be the appropriate level for your student. Of course you are welcome to visit as many ensembles as you would like! When you arrive, please stop at our Open House Welcome Table to receive more information about EYSO. Staff and volunteers will be available to provide directions and answer questions.

**All EYSO rehearsals take place at the Elgin Community College Arts Center: 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, IL.**

### YOUTH SYMPHONY

*Rehearses Sundays, 6:15-9pm.*

*Performs during the 4:30pm, and 7:30pm concerts in November, March, and May, and during the 7pm concert in April.*

A symphonic orchestra for very advanced high school and college-age students, the Youth Symphony studies advanced orchestral repertoire including Mahler's *Symphony No. 1*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, Revueltas' *Sensemaya*, and Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Symphony No. 6* (the premiere by an American youth orchestra in 2014), among others. Its members are drawn from a wide geographic area and enjoy the enrichment and challenge of performing with other dedicated, high-caliber musicians under Artistic Director Randal Swiggum and Assistant Conductor, Matthew Sheppard. The Youth Symphony was showcased on NPR's *From the Top*, performed with international violinist Rachel Barton Pine, collaborated with GRAMMY Award-winning chamber ensemble Eighth Blackbird, and was featured at the Ravinia Festival in an unprecedented four appearances.

### PHILHARMONIA

*Rehearses Sundays, 3:30-5:30pm.*

*Performs during the 2pm and 4:30pm concerts in November, March, and May.*

Philharmonia is a symphonic orchestra for advanced students in middle school and high school, performing repertoire such as Brahms' *Academic Festival Overture*, Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* and several suites from Grieg's *Peer Gynt*. Conductor Anthony Krempa brings a wealth of experience to Philharmonia, both as a professional violinist and violist, and as a seasoned educator. For the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, he served as conductor of both its Civic Youth Ensembles and its summer music festival, AVANTI, for high school age musicians performing alongside DSO professionals. He also served for thirteen years as conductor of the Oakland Youth Orchestras of Rochester, Michigan.

## **SINFONIA**

*Rehearses Sundays, 3:15-5:15pm.*

*Performs during the 2pm concerts in November, March, and May.*

Sinfonia, an intermediate symphony orchestra for middle and high school-age musicians, performs classic orchestral repertoire, both original compositions and arrangements. For many wind, brass, and percussion players, Sinfonia is their first orchestral experience, and for string players their first experience with standard orchestra repertoire. Recent repertoire includes Harty's *An Irish Symphony* and Sibelius' *Finlandia* as well as Dvořák's tone poem *Polednice* (The Noon Witch) in its original composition. Sinfonia is led by conductor Jason Flaks, recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Music Educator Award from the Yale School of Music, and associate conductor Andy Masters, each of whom brings experience as both professional performers and directors of thriving school music programs.

## **PRELUDE**

*Rehearses Sundays, 4:30-6pm.*

*Performs during the 2pm concert in November, March, and May.*

Conducted by Andy Masters, the Prelude Orchestra is for early intermediate string players in grades 5 through 9. Players refine their string techniques while developing musicianship, good practicing habits, and critical listening skills. Mr. Masters studied at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music with a double concentration in both violin and trumpet, and received his Masters Degree in music education from Northwestern University. He is a strings specialist in St. Charles District 303.

## **PRIMO & PRIMO INTERMEZZO**

*Primo rehearses Sundays, 4-5pm. Primo Intermezzo rehearses an additional 30 minutes, 5-5:30pm.*

*Primo and Intermezzo host an Informance in late October and attend the 2pm concert in November.*

*Primo Intermezzo students perform at the 4:30pm concert in March with the rest of Primo attending the concert, and all of Primo combines with the Youth Symphony string section to perform at the 7:30pm concert in May.*

Our entry-level orchestra for string players in grades 4 through 8, Primo is for many young musicians their first experience in orchestral playing. In Primo, the focus is on accessible repertoire, sight-reading and instrumental techniques, scales, and the development of successful auditioning skills. Daryl Silberman, a former member of the Salem (OR) Chamber Orchestra and freelance violinist and violist, conducts Primo. Daryl is also a recognized specialist in contemporary and jazz styles. She currently teaches at Waubonsie Valley High School (District 204) in Aurora.

Primo Intermezzo is a group of more advanced Primo members who participate in this small ensemble by invitation. It is also conducted by Daryl Silberman. Primo Intermezzo students will rehearse with the rest of Primo (violins, violas, cellos and basses), and then will stay an additional half hour to rehearse Intermezzo repertoire (more advanced violin repertoire—including 2-, 3-, or 4-part violin ensemble pieces).

## **BRASS CHOIR**

*Rehearses Sundays, 5:35-6:35pm.*

*Performs during the 4:30pm concerts in November, March, and May, and during the 7:00pm concert in April.*

Brass Choir provides a unique chamber music experience for brass players within EYSO under the direction of Jason Flaks. All Youth Symphony and Philharmonia brass players perform in the Brass Choir, with select Sinfonia members by invitation. The Brass Choir performs on all three EYSO concert dates and presents a special concert and public masterclass featuring a guest artist or chamber ensemble. In recent years featured artists included trumpeter Brandon Ridenour, Stephen Burns and Fulcrum Point New Music Project, the Wisconsin Brass Quintet, and the GRAMMY Award-winning contemporary music sextet Eighth Blackbird. In April 2017 the Brass Choir concert will share the stage with internationally renowned blues artist Corky Siegel.

**SINFONIA/PHILHARMONIA PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE &  
YOUTH SYMPHONY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

*Sinfonia/Philharmonia Percussion Ensemble rehearses Sundays 5:30-6:30pm as an ensemble and with their respective orchestras. They perform during the 4:30pm concerts in November, March, and May.*

*Youth Symphony Percussion Ensemble rehearses Sundays from 4:30-5:15. They perform during the 7:30 concerts in November, March, and May.*

All EYSO percussion students are members of a Percussion Ensemble and are coached in percussion techniques, both in orchestra and in small ensemble rehearsals, where they explore challenging contemporary repertoire for percussionists. The ensembles are directed by conductor and composer Joe Beribak, an EYSO alumnus and graduate of the Colburn School in Los Angeles.

[Join EYSO!](#)