



Honors Chamber Ensemble Application

2019-20 Season

EYSO Honors Chamber Ensembles (HCE) offer unparalleled opportunities for advanced wind, string and brass players to play chamber music at the highest level and work with some of the finest artist teachers and chamber music coaches in the Midwest. As premier honors ensembles of the EYSO, HCE groups maintain an active and high-profile performance schedule.

Only members of Youth Symphony (including those accepted during auditions for 2019-20 season) are eligible to apply. Participants are selected by a competitive audition process on June 11 & 13, 2019. The playing portion of the audition follows the same format as the regular [Youth Symphony Audition](#), and in addition, a brief interview will be conducted. Students must re-audition each year for placement.

HCE groups meet up to several times a week (starting in August 2019 and ending in June 2020) for rehearsals, coachings, and performances, sometimes traveling to Chicago, DeKalb, Madison, Champaign-Urbana, or the greater Chicago area. On occasion, these opportunities may occur during school hours. Students will be expected to make scheduling for this ensemble a priority. The four HCE groups are listed below.

EARL CLEMENS WIND QUINTET (CQ) *Established in 2016, the Earl Clemens Wind Quintet is named after Earl L. Clemens, oboist and professor of music education at Northern Illinois University for 36 years. Coached by acclaimed Orion Ensemble clarinetist Kathryn Pirtle, CQ explores pillars of the woodwind quintet repertoire. Past guest artists and coaches have included Jennifer Gunn (Chicago Symphony), Drew Pattison (Oberlin Conservatory), Ricardo Castañeda (Chicago Sinfonietta, Northern Illinois University) and Fritz Foss (Lyric Opera, Chicago Philharmonic). CQ is offered tuition free* thanks to the generous sponsorship of Drs. Jeffrey and Leslie Hecht.*

MAUD POWELL STRING QUARTET (MPSQ) *Named for Maud Powell, America's first international violin superstar, this string quartet is coached by Gina DiBello, violinist in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The quartet has worked with guest artists and coaches such as Midori, Rachel Barton Pine, Jaime Laredo and has explored the classic works of Mozart, Brahms, Ravel and String Quartet No. 3 by renowned composer Daniel Brewbaker, which was written for and premiered by MPSQ. MPSQ is offered tuition free* each year since it was founded in 2007 through the generosity of EYSO patrons Ed and Joyce McFarland Dlugopolski.*

HANSON STRING QUARTET (HSQ) *This second honors quartet is named for the EYSO's founding conductor Robert Hanson. The quartet is coached by cellist Timothy Archbold, who has performed with orchestras and string quartets throughout the world. Recent repertoire includes quartets by Shostakovich, Grieg, Glass and Haydn. HSQ is offered tuition free* to its members.*

STERLING BRASS QUINTET (SBQ) *Coached by Matthew and Kari Lee of the acclaimed Millar Brass Ensemble, the quintet focuses on performance techniques unique to brass playing, and an eclectic mix of repertoire from the Renaissance to the 21st century. Its guest coaches have included former CSO trumpeter Will Scarlett, Stephen Burns of Fulcrum Point, and tuba virtuosi Rex Martin. SBQ is offered tuition free* with the generosity of EYSO patron and SBQ namesake, Sterling (Stu) Ainsworth.*

**Scholarship applies to HCE tuition only, not Youth Symphony orchestra tuition.*

To apply:

1. Complete the [Member Application](#). When prompted during the application process, indicate you are auditioning for **CMI Only**, type HCE in the "scheduling conflict" box and pay the appropriate audition fee (\$35 for members/\$45 for non-members). If you already filled out the Member Application for a 2019-20 Youth Symphony audition, it does not need to be completed again.
2. Complete [Honors Chamber Ensemble Application](#) by Monday, June 10 at 5pm. You will be contacted via email with your audition date/time.