



Welcome to EYSO's Open House!

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.

You are welcome to listen to as many ensembles as you would like during your visit today. EYSO staff as well as student and parent volunteers are available to provide directions and answer questions. Please contact me if you have additional audition or membership related questions. I look forward to hearing from you!

Kari Childs

Director, Member Communications & Services

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YOUTH SYMPHONY

For very advanced high school and college-age students, the Youth Symphony is the flagship orchestra of the EYSO. Its repertoire has included *Mahler: Symphony No. 1* and *Todtenfeier*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, Revueltas' *Sensemaya*, and Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Symphony No. 6* (in 2014, the premiere performance by an American youth orchestra), Philip Glass: *Symphony No. 7* (first performance by a youth orchestra), and other symphonies including *Sibelius 2*, *Shostakovich 1, 5, and 9*, *Beethoven 5 and 7*. The 2019 season focused on Bartók's magnificent *Concerto for Orchestra*.

Youth Symphony members are drawn from a wide geographic area and enjoy the thrill of collaborating with other dedicated, high-caliber musicians. Artistic Director **Randal Swiggum** has conducted around the world, including the Scottish National Youth Orchestra and all-state orchestras and choirs around the U.S. He is renowned for his leadership in the Comprehensive Musicianship movement which seeks to infuse the rehearsal with critical thinking, inquiry, and curiosity, helping shape young musicians as independent thinkers and confident interpreters.

Youth Symphony members also enjoy the ebullient leadership of Associate Conductor **Matthew Sheppard**. Mr. Sheppard is originally from Pennsylvania and is a graduate of the University of Illinois. He also conducts the University of Chicago Chamber Orchestra and the Hyde Park Youth Symphony.

The Youth Symphony was showcased on NPR's "From the Top", performed with both violin superstars Midori and Rachel Barton Pine, and was featured at the Ravinia Festival in an unprecedented four appearances. In 2012, the Youth Symphony embarked on a ten-day Civil War Tour, combining moving performances with in-depth exploration of some of the "big ideas" of this historical period—a Youth Symphony specialty.

Rehearses Sundays, 6:15-9:00pm. Performs during the 7:00pm concerts in November, March, and May, and with the Brass Choir in April.

PHILHARMONIA

Philharmonia is an advanced full orchestra for middle and high school players*, which studies and performs great masterworks of symphonic repertoire. Recent seasons have included symphonies of Dvořák, Beethoven, Shostakovich, and Haydn, and Holst's *The Planets*, Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance Marches*, Stravinsky's *Firebird*, and Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite*. Members are also eligible to participate in the Philharmonia Young Artists Concerto Competition.

Philharmonia focuses on very advanced musical and technical development, deep listening, keen ensemble skills, and a collaborative spirit. Critical thinking, curiosity, and independent problem-solving are hallmarks of the Philharmonia experience.

Conductor **Anthony Krempa** brings a wealth of experience to Philharmonia, both as a professional violinist and violist and 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 in the Oakland Youth Orchestras of Rochester, Michigan. He is currently on the orchestra staff at Adlai Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire.

***String players, 6th-12th grade. Wind, brass, & percussion students, 8th-12th grade.**

Rehearses Sundays, 3:30-5:30pm. Performs at 4:30pm concerts in November, March, and May.

SINFONIA

Sinfonia is a full symphony orchestra of strings, winds, brass, and percussion for intermediate level players, middle and high school-age*. The focus is on deep listening and critical thinking, ensemble skills, practice habits, and a collaborative approach to working with other musicians.

Sinfonia performs standard orchestral repertoire, nearly always in their original versions (rather than simplified). For many wind, brass, and percussion players, Sinfonia is their first symphonic orchestra experience playing classic orchestral masterworks. Recent seasons have seen Sinfonia tackle Dvořák's tone poem *Polednice (The Noon Witch)*, the jazzy *Seattle Slew* of William Bolcom, Smetana's *Má vlast (My Homeland)*, works of Elgar, Bernstein, Stravinsky, Britten, and Albeniz.

Sinfonia is led by conductors **Jason Flaks** and **Andrew Masters**, both of whom share a strong background as professional performers and directors of thriving school programs. Mr. Flaks is a well-known music educator and recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Music Educator Award from the Yale School of Music. He teaches in Geneva. Associate Conductor Andrew 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.

***String players, 6th-12th grade. Wind, brass & percussion students, 8th-12th grade.**

Sinfonia rehearses Sundays, 3:15-5:15pm. Performs at the 2:00pm concert in November, March, and May.

PRELUDE

Prelude Orchestra is for early-intermediate string players, grades 5 through 9. Their repertoire includes works composed specifically for strings, including Baroque concertos, contemporary pieces, settings of folk songs, and classic orchestral works arranged for young players, with the emphasis on standard symphonic works by master composers. EYSO has commissioned new music for Prelude by composers Carrie Lane Gruselle, Ethan Parcell, and others. Besides great repertoire, Prelude focuses on musical independence, refining string technique, critical thinking, developing practice habits, and deeper listening.

In 2019-20, Prelude will have a new conductor! **Daryl Silberman**, our longtime (and beloved) Primo conductor will assume that role. Ms. Silberman, a freelance violinist and violist and former member of the Salem (OR) Chamber Orchestra, is also a recognized specialist in contemporary and jazz styles. She currently teaches at Waubonsie Valley High School (District 204) in Aurora.

Prelude rehearses Sundays 4:30—6:00pm. Performs at the 2:00pm concert in November, March, and May.

PRIMO & PRIMO INTERMEZZO

Our entry-level string ensembles 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, string technique, scales, and successful auditioning skills. Primo Intermezzo is a small group of more advanced Primo members selected by invitation. Primo Intermezzo students rehearse with the rest of Primo (violins, violas, cellos and basses) then stay an additional half hour to rehearse Intermezzo repertoire.

Rehearses Sundays: 4:00-5:00pm (Primo), 4:00-5:30pm (Primo Intermezzo)

Primo and Primo Intermezzo students host an “Informance” at 5:00pm on the last Sunday in October. This event is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required.

Primo and Primo Intermezzo students attend the 4:30pm November EYSO concert, perform in and attend the 2:00pm March concert, and perform with the Youth Symphony during the 7:00pm May concert

BRASS CHOIR

Under the director of **Jason Flaks**, the Brass Choir is one of EYSO's proudest offerings, providing a unique chamber music experience for all EYSO brass players in Youth Symphony and Philharmonia, with additional select Sinfonia members by invitation.

The Brass Choir performs in all three EYSO season concerts as well as a special spring concert featuring a guest artist or chamber ensemble. The spring performance day also includes a public masterclass and collaborative performances with guest artists such as trumpeter Brandon Ridenour, Stephen Burns and Fulcrum Point New Music Project, GRAMMY Award-winning Eighth Blackbird and most recently, The Millar Brass Ensemble.

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

Performs during the 4:30pm concert in November, March, and May, and a special concert in April.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES

The EYSO offers a strong experience for percussionists, whether they are interested in orchestral playing or the variety of colorful and challenging music for smaller percussion ensemble. For most EYSO percussionists, this is their first experience in a large symphony orchestra.

Percussionists are coached by **Zachary Bowers** whose professional experience includes performing with the Nashville Symphony in Carnegie Hall. Originally from Florida, Mr. Bowers has percussion degrees from Vanderbilt University and the University of Illinois.

Besides intensive coaching in the orchestra rehearsal, all EYSO percussionists are members of one of several Percussion Ensembles. In the Percussion Ensembles, students learn to refine their percussion technique, and explore challenging contemporary repertoire for percussion.

Sinfonia/Philharmonia Percussion Ensemble rehearses Sundays, 5:30-6:30pm.

Performs during the 2:00pm concert in November, March, and May.

Youth Symphony Percussion Ensemble rehearses Sundays, 4:30-5:15pm. Performs during the 7:00pm concert in November, March, and May, and in April, along with the Youth Symphony and Brass Choir.

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

***Detailed EYSO Conductors' bios are available on [EYSO.org/about-us/conductors/](https://eyso.org/about-us/conductors/)**

AUDITION INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS 2019-20 SEASON

What to Prepare

1. Solo Repertoire

Primo through Philharmonia STRINGS candidates, prepare one piece of solo repertoire (this should be your most well prepared and polished piece to date) and the Required Excerpts, available on EYSO.org as of February 1.

Youth Symphony STRINGS, WIND & BRASS and Sinfonia, Philharmonia WIND & BRASS candidates prepare two contrasting selections totaling 2-3 minutes: one should be faster and more technical in nature to demonstrate your facility on the instrument and the other should be slower and more lyrical to illustrate your musicality and expressivity.

All candidates: your selections may include solo literature, etudes, or appropriate orchestral excerpts (if the two selections are from the same concerto, two different movements are suggested). Please choose selections carefully with guidance from your private instructor, to show the full range of your ability. Selections beyond or beneath your skill level will not enhance your audition results. Selections do not need to be memorized. No accompanist is required. Please bring (2) photocopies of each piece for the adjudicators' reference.

2. Scales

Every audition will include a demonstration of your knowledge of scales.

3. Sight reading

Every audition will include several appropriate-level sight-reading examples.

For detailed ensemble requirements please visit:
EYSO.org/Join-EYSO.

Application

EYSO audition applications and scheduling are online at EYSO.org. Applications are accepted as of February 1. After submitting an online application to audition, you will be able to select a specific audition time. There is a \$35 audition fee for current EYSO members and a \$45 audition fee for non-EYSO members. All audition fees are non-refundable.

Student Placement Philosophy

Student placement in EYSO is based on both playing ability and age. Students are ranked by audition and placed in the orchestra most closely matching their musical level, including 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.



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 Randal Swiggum, 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.ORG



tickets: 847.622.0300 or <http://tickets.elgin.edu>

THE ELGIN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IS AN IN-RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE AT THE ECC ARTS CENTER