

EYSO
ELGIN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2019/20

SEASON HANDBOOK



This handbook is intended to provide quick reference for common questions and EYSO policies. New information will be provided throughout the season via weekly emails on Thursday morning to parents and students who provided email addresses during season registration.

Please add EYSO email addresses (office@eyso.org and conductors' email addresses) to your address book and set your email program so emails from the EYSO are not blocked or marked as spam. **If you unsubscribe or opt out of the EYSO emails you will miss out on important information.**

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EYSO CONTACT INFORMATION

Staff, Conductors and Board of Directors at eyso.org

EYSO Administrative Office & Mailing Address

(847) 841-7700

60 South Grove Avenue, Suite 2

Elgin, IL 60120

office@eyso.org

EYSO Rehearsal Office

(847) 214-7302

Elgin Community College Arts Center (Building H, room H104)

1700 Spartan Drive

Elgin, IL 60123-7193

attendance@eyso.org

ECC Arts Center Box Office

(847) 622-0300

Elgin Community College Arts Center (Building H, room H104)

1700 Spartan Drive

Elgin, IL 60123-7193

www.tickets.elgin.edu

ECC Arts Center Box Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 12-6 p.m. | Saturdays 12-5 p.m. | 90 minutes before every show.



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 the Youth Symphony, Philharmonia, Sinfonia, Prelude, Primo/Primo Intermezzo, Brass Choir, and the Chamber Music Institute are held in the spring. 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

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. EYSO's orchestras offer a progressive educational path in which each ensemble builds upon the skills learned in the last. Regardless of which ensemble students perform with, they all experience the richness of EYSO's uniquely [rich and meaningful educational approach](#).

After hearing auditions, the artistic staff methodically makes placement decisions based together on age, experience, technical proficiency, and personnel needs within each section of the orchestra. Students are ranked by audition and placed in the ensemble most closely matching their musical skills, including superiority of tone, technical ability, intonation, vibrato, dynamic contrast, range, articulation, phrasing, rhythmic integrity, expressive style and overall accuracy.

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, but 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.**

Your EYSO.org Member Page

EYSO provides each student an online member profile on EYSO.org. Please make sure that there is at least one active student and one active parent/guardian email entered on your member page (members.eyso.org). If your e-mail address changes, please log in to your member page to update your profile and, the EYSO office at office@eyso.org.

Music & Music Folders

First semester music is mailed as soon as it's available contingent upon payment of tuition, tuition deposit, or submission of the EYSO tuition assistance application. 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 will be collected on the day of the May concert.

If you have a question about your music, please email office@eyso.org.

School Participation

Although participation in school music organizations is not required, it is expected that EYSO students will participate in their school music ensembles, provided there is one. Exceptions are rare, but in such cases, students are expected to notify the EYSO Artistic Director and their conductor in writing if they do not participate in their school music ensemble(s) and the reason why.

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 on EYSO.org.

Elgin Community College

EYSO is an In-Residence Ensemble at Elgin Community College. Students who are 16 by the first rehearsal of Fall Camp may choose to receive college credit at Elgin Community College (credit students will receive a grade).

To be enrolled as a credit student, please print out your auto-filled ECC application at the end of this EYSO registration process. Once signed by both student and parent (if student is under 18), please submit to EYSO in one of the following ways: mail to EYSO's administrative office: 60 South Grove Ave, Suite 2, Elgin, IL 60120, Attn: ECC REGISTRATION, or scan and email to office@eyso.org.

In order to be enrolled in the 2019-20 season for credit, your completed ECC application must be received by EYSO no later than Monday, August 26, 2019.

Please note: if you do not qualify to enroll for credit this season, or if you qualify but choose not to, no application is needed/no additional action is required.

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 and, even 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 & Tuition Assistance

The [2019/20 season tuition schedule](#) is available on EYSO.org.

Tuition may be made in full for the entire season, or paid in four or six installments. If you need an extended payment schedule or to request tuition reduction, please complete an application for tuition assistance. All requests are considered in the order in which they are received. **Tuition assistance recipients are expected to pay part of their tuition and actively participate in the NOTES 2020 fundraising campaign.** Outstanding tuition and fees must be paid in full before auditions for the following season.

If your financial circumstances change during the season and you find that you need assistance, please contact Executive Director, Eric Larson at elarson@eyso.org.



REHEARSALS

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

Parking

On Sundays use lots G, H or J. Accessible parking is available in front of the ECC Arts Center and in lot G.

Pick up & Drop off

Students should enter and exit the ECC Arts Center from the main front entrance. 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.

Rehearsal Schedule & Locations*

| Sinfonia | Philharmonia | Primo/Primo Intermezzo | Youth Symphony | Prelude | Brass Choir | YS Percussion Ensemble | SF/PH Percussion Ensemble |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday 3:15-5:15pm | Sunday 3:30-5:30pm | Sunday Primo 4:00-5:00pm Primo Intermezzo 4:00-5:30pm | Sunday 6:15-9:00pm | Sunday 4:30-6:00pm | Sunday 5:35-6:35pm | Sunday 4:30-5:15pm | Sunday 5:30-6:15pm |
| Room H122 | Room H123 | Room H220 | Room H123 | Room H245 | Room H122 | Spartan Terrace | Spartan Terrace |

**Rehearsal schedule and location are subject to change by conductor*

In case of bad weather, or emergencies, rehearsals may be canceled. Closing information will be communicated via email, as well as on all EYSO social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram). Every attempt will be made to contact all students in the event of a cancellation.

Music

Musicians must have all their music at every rehearsal. Use only pencil to mark music: no ink or colored pencil. String players who are sharing music should be sure to mark both copies of their music with changed bowings, fingerings, etc. for at-home practice. The expectation is that students arrive prepared for rehearsal.

Folding Music Stands

For sectionals, some rehearsals, and events away from ECC, 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

Please make sure all instrument cases and accessories are clearly marked with your name, as students may be asked to store cases in a nearby room during rehearsals. 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 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 ECC rehearsal office number (847-214-7302) and leave a message.

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.

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 orchestra tuning pitch, and all musicians should have an electronic tuner.
- Don't forget your auxiliary instruments (e.g. piccolo, Eb clarinet, English Horn, etc.).
- Borrowing an instrument from EYSO requires a student to sign it out. Visit the rehearsal office to do so before taking an instrument off campus. Wind players must provide their own mouthpiece and reeds.

BRASS PLAYERS

- All musicians must have all mutes called for in their music at every rehearsal.

STRING PLAYERS

- Please have a mute with you at your stand at every rehearsal.
- Bring accessories as needed: shoulder rest, 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 before rehearsal begins. All EYSO-owned percussion instruments must be put away appropriately in the designated areas before leaving. You may also be asked to move and load equipment for tours, run-out concerts, and events away from ECC.

ATTENDANCE

The most valuable contribution musicians can make to their ensemble is their presence at rehearsal. 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.

Absences

An absence will not be marked excused or unexcused, but simply as an absence. This includes any absence, such as illness, school or other music activities, SAT/ACT tests, family vacations, homework and tests, college visits, religious holidays, etc.

Musicians in all ensembles are allowed no more than five absences over the course of the season, regardless of reason. Two absences are permitted during the first semester, and three during second semester, with no more than one of those absences occurring between the March and May concerts.

Two (2) during Fall Semester 2019—Fall Camp through the November concert.

Three (3) during Spring Semester 2019—Sunday, January through May.

Attendance Reporting

Please note: Attendance is taken at every rehearsal or event. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled rehearsal to pick up materials, memos, any new music, and prepare for rehearsal. All musicians should be warmed up, seated, and ready to tune at the starting time.

To report an absence:

1. Communicate with your conductor about any expected absence as soon as you are aware of your conflict.
2. Log on to your EYSO.org member page (members.eyso.org) and click on the attendance tab to report an absence.

Excessive Absences

Excessive absences will be addressed on a case by case basis. If a musician goes over the allowed absences, a meeting may be scheduled to discuss continued participation in the EYSO.

Tardiness

Because of limited rehearsal time, starting promptly is very important. Musicians should arrive at least 15 minutes early to receive new music and/or memos, check new seating, and warm up.

Come Anyway

If a musician is physically unable to play his/her instrument, s/he should still attend rehearsal, sit in his/her section, and take notes on the directions being given.

Fall Camp Attendance

Attendance at Fall Camp is required, since the work of several regular rehearsals is accomplished in a very concentrated time period.

DRESS REHEARSALS

Dress rehearsals are required.

To be eligible to play the concert, a student must attend the full dress rehearsal. There are only two exceptions, in the case of these conflicts:

- 1) A required school music event, which counts towards a student's music program grade.
- 2) An event of singular significance that cannot be repeated or rescheduled, such as a high-profile sport or academic tournament (regional or state) where the student is competing, a family member wedding, etc. This does not include events offered on multiple dates or those that can be rescheduled. Petitions for these absences will be denied.

To be considered for an exemption from the dress rehearsal policy, the student must:

- Complete a dress rehearsal absence petition by the date(s) listed below.
- Complete an online attendance notification (available via member pages under "the attendance tab" when you report and absence that falls on a dress rehearsal date)
- Communicate in a separate email to their conductor their request to miss the dress rehearsal.

IMPORTANT: this petition must be submitted no later than 30 days before the dress rehearsal.

The purpose of this 30-day deadline is to:

- 1) Encourage students to communicate their scheduling conflicts as early as possible.
- 2) Allow enough time for conductors to reassign solo parts (wind, brass, and percussion) and redo string seating as necessary.

Petition Deadlines for 2019-20

- October 17 (for November concert)
- February 8 (for March concert)
- April 10 (for May concert)

Dress rehearsals allow musicians to practice at the concert site, the Blizzard Theatre in the ECC Arts Center, where they can finalize music details and work out logistics. Attendance is required for the entire rehearsal. Dress rehearsals are typically scheduled for the Friday or Saturday before each concert. Casual clothing should be worn, not concert dress, unless otherwise announced.

Dress rehearsal dates and times will be announced in advance. Students must check in 15 minutes prior to the start of the dress rehearsals. Watch weekly memos/emails and the online season calendar for updates.

All students and their parents are encouraged to stay and listen to the dress rehearsals of other ensembles. Please be seated quietly in the Blizzard Theatre. Unless otherwise directed, photography (no flash) and video recording is allowed during the dress rehearsal from the main floor, but it must not be a distraction to the students on stage. Guests of EYSO families are welcome to attend.

CONCERT DATES

The 2019-20 [season calendar](#) is available on EYSO.org.

2019-20 Concert Dates

November 17, 2019

March 8, 2020

May 10, 2020

All concerts are at 2:00, 4:30, and 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.

November, March* & May**

2:00pm concerts: Prelude, Sinfonia, Sinfonia/Philharmonia Percussion Ensemble.

4:30pm concerts: Brass Choir, Philharmonia, (*March only, Primo)

7:00pm concerts: Youth Symphony, Youth Symphony Percussion Ensemble. (**May only, Primo & Primo Intermezzo perform with Youth Symphony.)

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.

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 not to wear it.

Option 1, All Black:

Floor or ankle length black dress pants, skirt or dress; black blouse or dress shirt with long or three-quarter length sleeves; solid black socks, tights or hose with black, closed toe dress shoes.

Option 2, Black with White:

Black tuxedo or black suit, white shirt, black bow tie, solid black socks with black, closed toe dress shoes.

Optional: black cummerbund

The following items are NOT allowed:

- bare midriffs
- bare shoulders
- deep necklines
- Capri pants, leggings, or black jeans
- colored ties
- white or patterned socks
- jackets with tails
- boots, sneakers, sandals
- short sleeved or sleeveless shirts
- patterns or lace
- sequins or bright/shiny embellishments
- cologne or perfume

CONCERT TICKETS

EYSO concert tickets are for sale directly from the ECC Arts Center box office. You may purchase tickets [online](#), in person (Monday-Thursday, 12:00-6:00pm, Saturday 12:00-5:00pm) or by phone: 847-622-0300.

Please note, the 2:00pm and 4:30pm concerts often sell out.

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.**

VIDEO AND 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 to do so on EYSO's social media platforms. 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.

CHAMBER MUSIC INSTITUTE

EYSO members in Prelude and above have the opportunity to join chamber music ensembles in EYSO's Chamber Music Institute (CMI). Each CMI ensemble meets every Sunday 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 CMI Director Theresa Goh: tgoh@eyso.org.

APPLICATION AND AUDITIONS

Participation in the CMI requires an additional year-long commitment from EYSO students. A separate tuition for CMI is required for participation. Every audition for an EYSO orchestra also doubles as an audition for CMI. However, candidates 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.

HONORS CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

The CMI offers four exceptional chamber music opportunities for students who are members of the 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 may be found [here](#).



Fall Camp

The Youth Symphony and Philharmonia participate in an overnight camp while Sinfonia, and Prelude participate in a daytime retreat in August. Fall Camp is an important, exciting, and concentrated experience of rehearsals, team-building activities, and plain old fun. Primo and Primo Intermezzo will have their own retreat day. These activities provide opportunity for learning lots of repertoire, and is also the best time to build friendships 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 the EYSO. 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. Previous season winners are not eligible to participate even if they advanced to the next level of ensemble.**

Open House Events

February 23, 2020 & April 19, 2020, 3:30-7:00pm

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 Events are free and open to the public. It is an opportunity to observe rehearsals, meet current students, faculty and staff, and ask questions about EYSO. Visit EYSO.org to view ensemble & rehearsal information to help you plan your visit.

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

Tuition covers less than 40% of the EYSO operating expenses and, as a not-for-profit, we depend on select fundraising projects to help with our budget.

EYSO member fundraising projects serve three goals:

- 1) To raise funds to keep tuition as low as possible.
- 2) To help each member build awareness in their own community about their EYSO participation, a positive and enriching activity.
- 3) To help each member build lifelong skills in volunteering and charitable giving.

NOTES

Our main family fundraiser is the annual NOTES campaign (beginning in January), 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 \$150 in the EYSO NOTES campaign this season.

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.

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 Matt Shepard, 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