



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

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (EYSO) Hosts *Folklorico* Online

Elgin, IL (May 6, 2020) – Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (EYSO) will host *Folklorico*, a virtual concert at www.eyso.org/concert at 7 p.m., **Sunday, May 10**, featuring all EYSO ensembles, including performances by its three full orchestras, two string orchestras, Brass Choir, and EYSO Samba Band—plus a special project shared by all of EYSO. Members of the EYSO Honors Chamber Ensembles will give pre-concert performances beginning approximately 20 minutes before the concert.

Folklorico concludes EYSO's 44th season, *MOVE*, which featured collaboration with Joffrey Ballet artist Luis Vasquez, who also performed with EYSO in March.

"The EYSO spirit of innovation, curiosity, and enthusiasm burns brightly as students, families, staff, and volunteers come together to create something truly spectacular," said Artistic Director Matthew Sheppard, "a digital concert cycle and final performance, with all the hallmarks of expert noticing we've come to appreciate in EYSO. "

EYSO planned to end its season with final performances in the Blizzard Theater of the Elgin Community College Arts Center but was forced to suspend in-person rehearsals in early March due to the COVID-19 crisis and shift to remote learning. Throughout the spring, the learning at EYSO continued in ways that allowed conductors and students to grow and make music together as the community did what was necessary to keep each other safe.

EYSO members have worked hard to make this happen in the ways most effective for them: video rehearsals, playing check-ins, email discussions, social media, and other forms of remote learning.

The shift to a digital presentation of the season finale concert came in part due to extensions of the stay-at-home and social distancing directives for our community, but also out of a realization that this approach would allow students to close out the season in the strongest way possible.

While the nature of the performance has changed, staff, coaches and students have worked enthusiastically and passionately toward this reimagined virtual performance.

"In each and every performance, you'll hear musicians playing as an orchestra—musicians who have never played this music together," said Sheppard. "Every note, rhythm, and musical nuance was learned digitally, and then practiced individually."

Visit www.eyso.org/concert to attend the concert or to find information such as donor acknowledgements and student rosters.

About EYSO

The mission of EYSO 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.

EYSO serves nearly 400 students from 70 Chicagoland communities and has a national reputation for providing students with an engaging musical experience and a comprehensive learning environment of curiosity, imagination, critical thinking, and collaboration. Students explore a thematic curriculum each season—one which helps students develop artistically and technically, and prepare them for a future of complex ideas, creative risk-taking, and leadership as global citizen. This approach has led hundreds of alumni to successful careers as professional musicians, educators, and strong leaders in every field. The 2019-20 season theme is titled *MOVE* and explores the rich traditions of Dalcroze, ballet, and folk dance. Season collaborations have included work with Joffrey Ballet artist Luis Vazquez, who also performed with EYSO in March.

To learn more about EYSO, visit <https://www.eyso.org> or call (847) 841-7700.

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