



Honors Chamber Ensemble Application 2020-21 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.

Members of Youth Symphony (including those accepted during auditions for 2020-21 season) are eligible to apply via [this form](#). Participants are selected by a competitive audition process. The playing portion of the audition follows the same format as the regular [Youth Symphony Audition](#), with an additional interview. Students must re-audition each year for placement. Due to social distancing restrictions, this year's playing auditions must be submitted as a video recording, and the interview portion will be conducted via live video chat on June 5, 9 or 18.

HCE groups meet multiple times a week (starting in August and ending in June) 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 Timothy Archbold, who has performed with orchestras and string quartets throughout the world. The quartet has worked with guest artists and coaches such as Midori, Rachel Barton Pine, Jaime Laredo while exploring the works of Mozart, Brahms, Ravel, and contemporary compositions such as String Quartet No. 3 by renowned composer Daniel Brewbaker, 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 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, with 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 virtuoso Rex Martin. SBQ is offered tuition free* through the generosity of the family of the late EYSO patron and SBQ namesake, Sterling (Stu) Ainsworth.*

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

To apply:

1. **If you are not a current Youth Symphony member**, complete the [Audition Application](#), including the video audition, by May 27. If you already filled out the Member Application for a 2020-21 Youth Symphony audition, it does not need to be completed again.
2. **If you are a current Youth Symphony member**, please submit a video audition by the June 4 deadline, following the [Youth Symphony Audition](#) requirements. This can be uploaded through the "Video Audition" link on your member page ([members.eyso.org](#)). Video uploader will open May 11.
3. **All applicants** must complete the [Honors Chamber Ensemble Application](#) by Thursday, **June 4 at 5pm**. You will be contacted via email with your interview date/time.