



2021-22 SEASON HANDBOOK

Revised 9/8/2021

This handbook is a living document, intended to provide quick reference for common questions and EYSO policies. The most up-to-date handbook will always be linked at eyso.org/season, along with the season calendar, so check back regularly to ensure you are reading the most recent version.

New and detailed information will be provided throughout the season via weekly emails (“eNews”) on Thursday mornings. Please add office@eyso.org and your conductors’ email addresses to your address book or safe senders list to ensure emails from EYSO are not blocked or marked as spam. **If you unsubscribe or opt-out of the EYSO eNews, you will miss out on important information.**

The policies and procedures outlined in this handbook have been updated to reflect the current COVID-19 pandemic. Pandemic-related revisions are marked with this symbol: ‡

EYSO MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra 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.

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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 Matthew Sheppard, 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 CONTACT INFORMATION

Read more about our staff, conductors, and board of directors at eyso.org/about-us.



EYSO Administrative Office & Mailing Address

(847) 841-7700 (call or text on Sundays and during the week)

60 S. Grove Ave, Suite 2

Elgin, IL 60120

office@eyso.org

EYSO Rehearsal Office

Elgin Community College Arts Center, Building H, Room H104

1700 Spartan Dr.

Elgin, IL 60123

ECC Arts Center Box Office

(847) 622-0300

Elgin Community College Arts Center, Building H, to the right of the main entrance

1700 Spartan Dr.

Elgin, IL 60123

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 Youth Symphony, Philharmonia, Sinfonia, Prelude, Primo/Primo Intermezzo, Brass Choir, Flute Choir, Percussion Ensembles, and 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

After hearing auditions in late spring, EYSO staff make placement decisions based on playing ability, age, and the current needs of each ensemble. Students are placed in the ensemble most closely matching their musical level, including such considerations as 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. 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.

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 and 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.

Member Resources (members.eyso.org)

Your Member Page contains helpful information and resources, including recent eNews, billing and absence reporting tools, and recordings and materials from your conductor. Get in the habit of checking your Member Page regularly for updates!

This is the same account you used to apply for an audition, or the same account you used last season. If you have trouble logging in, try the Forgot Password button first to have a reset link sent to your email. If that doesn't work, email office@eyso.org for help.

Use the "My Profile" section of your Member Page to update your contact information.

Weekly Conductor Emails

Each conductor sends a "mid-week email" to their ensemble to share additional resources, guidance, and practice suggestions to continue learning between rehearsals. Please read these carefully (and respond as applicable) to make sure you don't miss any important information.

Music & Music Folders

First semester music is mailed as soon as it's available, contingent upon payment of tuition or the first installment in a payment plan. 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 and all sheet music from the season will be collected at the conclusion of the May concert.

If you have a repertoire-related question, please email your conductor. If you lose your music or folder and need new copies, email Ms. Krasinski (ekrasinski@eyso.org).



School Participation

EYSO students are expected to participate in their school instrumental music ensemble(s), provided there is one. Exceptions are rare, but in such cases, students must write to the EYSO Artistic Director, office@eyso.org, and their conductor to explain why they do not plan to participate in their school music ensemble(s).

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 at eyso.org/members.



Elgin Community College

EYSO is an In-Residence Ensemble at Elgin Community College. Students who are 16 years old by the first rehearsal of the season and are members of Youth Symphony, Philharmonia, or Sinfonia may choose to receive 1.0 credit hour per semester of college credit at Elgin Community College. These students will receive a grade for their EYSO participation. There is no additional cost for receiving college credit for EYSO ensembles.

Eligible students (ages 16+ in YS, PH, or SF) will be contacted via email over the summer with instructions for registering as an ECC student. To be enrolled as a for-credit student, please reply to office@eyso.org to confirm, then complete ECC's online enrollment application according to the instructions from EYSO. Your completed ECC application must be received no later than Friday, September 3, 2021 to be enrolled for credit in the fall semester.

- **Students who do not meet the above criteria** will be enrolled through ECC as non-credit students, and will not receive college credit or a grade for their participation in EYSO ensembles.
- **If you have been previously enrolled for credit**, we will continue to place you in the for-credit section of your ensemble, and no further action is required.
- **If you do not qualify to enroll for credit in the fall**, or if you qualify but choose not to enroll, no application is needed/no additional action is required.
- **If you turn 16 during the fall semester** and would like to enroll for-credit in the spring, please contact office@eyso.org for the appropriate application form.

EYSO does not retain academic records for students receiving college credit through ECC. To request a copy of your transcript, please contact the [ECC Registrar](#).

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. 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

The 2021-22 season tuition schedule is available on [EYSO.org/join-eyso](https://eyso.org/join-eyso) under “Tuition & Tuition Assistance.” For families with more than one EYSO student, a sibling discount is applied at 10% for each student after the first (applicable to the lesser tuition).

Tuition may be paid in full for the entire season, or paid in four or six installments. Please use the Billing section of your student’s [Member Page](#) to view, pay, and request payment plans for tuition invoices. Outstanding tuition and fees must be paid in full before auditions for the following season.



Tuition Assistance

While aiming to keep tuition affordable, EYSO strives to ensure that no student is turned away due to financial need; tuition assistance is available to students/families who qualify. Tuition assistance applications are available after auditions, during the online registration process. Funding is limited, so we encourage those who need assistance to complete the tuition assistance application as soon as it becomes available. Tuition assistance recipients are expected to pay part of their tuition and actively participate in the NOTES 2022 fundraising campaign (see page 22 for more information about NOTES).

If your financial circumstances change during the season and you find that you need assistance, please contact Emily Krasinski (ekrasinski@eyso.org) or Eric Larson (elarson@eyso.org).

CMI Tuition

Tuition for EYSO’s Chamber Music Institute (see page 20 for more information) is billed separately from orchestra tuition, and tuition assistance and payment plans are available for CMI tuition.

REHEARSALS

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

‡ Health & Safety Code of Conduct

The following guidelines apply to all members of the EYSO community, including students, families, staff, and volunteers, during all EYSO events, effective immediately until further notice:

- Mask wearing at all times while indoors (including wind & brass players while playing; see page 13)
- Social distancing at 3 feet during rehearsals and breaks
- 10-minute ventilation breaks every hour

Details regarding implementation of the above will be shared in advance and will be strictly enforced by EYSO staff. **By participating in EYSO, all members agree to uphold these policies at all times.** Failure to comply with staff directions will result in dismissal from rehearsal.

Rehearsal Schedule & Locations

‡ All ensembles will meet as complete units every week.

Ensemble	Times	Room Number
Philharmonia (PH)	3:30-5:30pm	H123
Sinfonia (SF)	3:15-5:15pm	H122
Prelude (PR)	4:30-6:00pm	H245
YS Percussion Ensemble	4:00-5:00pm	H208
Primo (MO)	4:00-5:00pm	H220
Primo Intermezzo (MOI)	4:00-5:30pm	H220
SF/PH Percussion Ensemble	5:35-6:35pm	H208
Brass Choir (BC)	5:35-6:35pm	H122
Flute Choir (FC)	5:35-6:35pm	H212
Youth Symphony (YS)	6:15-9:00pm	H123

Drop-off, Pick-up, & Parking

All personnel should enter and exit through the front doors of the ECC Arts Center (Building H), under the red awning.

Parking is available in lots G, H, or J. Accessible parking is available in front of the ECC Arts Center and in Lot G.

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.

Music

All musicians must bring all of their music to rehearsal each week. Use only pencil to mark music: no ink, highlighter, or colored pencil. ‡ String players will not share music stands this season and must bring their own parts each week.

Folding Music Stands

For sectionals, some rehearsals, and events away from ECC (e.g. Fall Camp), musicians may need to occasionally bring their own folding music stand, clearly marked with their name. ‡ **Youth Symphony, Philharmonia, and Sinfonia string players must bring folding music stands to their regular Sunday rehearsals each week.**

All Chamber Music Institute (CMI) members are expected to bring a folding music stand to every chamber ensemble rehearsal.

Instruments, Cases, Accessories, and Insurance

‡ All belongings (including instrument cases, bags, water bottles, etc.) may be left in the hallway near the rehearsal room or kept with the student as space allows.

Please make sure all instrument cases and accessories are clearly marked with your name. 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 or metal 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/text the EYSO office number (847-841-7700).

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.

‡ Remote Learning & Virtual Rehearsals

We have a wide range of contingency plans prepared for rehearsals, designed to accommodate a number of possible scenarios that may arise as the pandemic continues to evolve. While there are several steps to be taken (e.g. modifying schedules, ensemble sizes, and rehearsal locations) before shifting to fully virtual rehearsals, EYSO is prepared to make that pivot if necessary to protect our community. **Families will be notified via email of any such change as soon as possible, and further plans will be communicated at that time.**



Other Cancellations

In case of bad weather or emergencies, rehearsals may be cancelled. 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.

‡ Instrument-Specific Guidelines

WOODWIND PLAYERS

- ‡ All players must bring and use their cloth bell covers and specialized slit masks (provided by EYSO, or you may use your own) at every EYSO rehearsal. This specialized PPE is yours to keep, handwash, and care for throughout the season.
- Please have extra reeds (at least 4 playable reeds) with you at every rehearsal and concert.
- Oboe players must have an electronic tuner for giving the orchestra tuning pitch.
- Don't forget your auxiliary instruments (e.g. piccolo, E^b clarinet, English horn, etc.).
- ‡ Please note: A clarinets and bass clarinets will not be available to be shared by multiple students/ensembles on Sundays. If you need an A clarinet, bass clarinet, English horn, or contrabassoon, please email ekrasinski@eyso.org so we can arrange for you to borrow the instrument for an entire concert cycle.

BRASS PLAYERS

- ‡ All players must bring and use their cloth bell covers and specialized slit masks (provided by EYSO, or you may use your own) at every EYSO rehearsal. This specialized PPE is yours to keep, handwash, and care for throughout the season.
- ‡ Bring a rag or spittoon to collect condensation from your instrument. Take it with you when you leave (and wash it at home each week) to help keep shared rehearsal spaces sanitary.
- All musicians must have all mutes called for in their music at every rehearsal. Let your conductor know if you need help obtaining a proper mute.

STRING PLAYERS

- ‡ Masks must be worn at all times.
- ‡ String players will not share music stands this season and must bring their own parts each week.
- ‡ **Youth Symphony, Philharmonia, and Sinfonia string players must bring folding music stands each week.**
- Please have a mute with you at your stand at every rehearsal.
- Bring accessories as needed: shoulder rest, rock stop, rosin, dust cloth, and an extra set of strings to all rehearsals and performances.

PERCUSSIONISTS

- ‡ Masks must be worn at all times.
- 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. All EYSO-owned percussion instruments must be put away in the appropriate areas before leaving. You may also be asked to move and load equipment for tours, run-out concerts, and events away from ECC.

PIANISTS & HARPISTS

- ‡ Masks must be worn at all times.
- Your conductor(s) will communicate with you regarding your rehearsal schedule. You should plan to be available for your full scheduled rehearsal(s), but may only be called for select pieces.

ATTENDANCE

The most valuable contribution musicians can make to their ensemble is their presence at rehearsal, and attendance is taken at every rehearsal and event. 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.

Tardiness

Because of limited rehearsal time, starting promptly is very important. Musicians should arrive at least 15 minutes before their rehearsal start time to check in and unpack.

‡ Absence Reporting & Contact Tracing

If you must be absent, arrive late, or leave early from any rehearsal for any reason, email your conductor and submit an absence form through your [Member Page](#) as early as possible. ‡ If your absence is related to COVID-19, please indicate that on the form; an EYSO staff member may contact you to follow up.

‡ COVID-19, Self-Monitoring, and Attendance

To keep our community safe, it is essential that all students, staff, and volunteers self-monitor and stay home at any signs of illness. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 and have not been cleared to discontinue isolation, or if you have any of the following symptoms, DO NOT COME TO REHEARSAL:

- Chills and/or fever of 100.4°F or above
- New or unusual cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Muscle or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell

If the above symptoms are observed upon arrival at ECC or any EYSO event, you will not be permitted to attend rehearsal and will be asked to return home for the safety of our shared community.

We know rehearsals are important, but health and safety are more important. Therefore, absences due to COVID-19 symptoms and associated precautions will be recorded separately from other absences and will not count against a student's attendance record.

If you test positive for COVID-19 or start to show symptoms within two days after coming to rehearsal, you must notify EYSO immediately by emailing office@eyso.org or calling (847)-841-7700. EYSO will confidentially evaluate any such reports according to the [CDC guidelines for contact tracing](#), and will contact families of students believed to have been in "close contact" with any student identified as a "probable or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient" within the timeline indicated by the CDC, while preserving the student's anonymity to the highest degree possible.

Allowed 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 (5) absences over the course of the season, regardless of reason.**

Concert Cycle	Rehearsal Dates	Absences Permitted
November 2021	Fall Camp – November 7	1-2
March 2022	January 9 – March 6	1-2
May 2022	March 20 – May 1	1

‡ Excessive Absences

“Excessive absence” is defined as missing two weeks of rehearsal in a row, or three or more rehearsals in a single concert cycle. **Excessive absences may preclude a student from performing in the concert.** Recognizing the importance of staying home at any signs of illness, these will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Fall Camp Attendance

Attendance at Fall Camp is required, since the work of several regular rehearsals is accomplished in a very concentrated time period. (See page 21 for more about Fall Camp.)



DRESS REHEARSALS

Dress rehearsals allow musicians to finalize musical details and work out performance logistics on stage in the Blizzard Theatre or off-site concert venue. Casual clothing should be worn, not concert dress, unless otherwise announced.

Dress rehearsals are typically scheduled for the Friday or Saturday before each concert, and dates and times are listed on the Season Calendar and shared in weekly eNews and conductor emails. **Dress rehearsals are required.**

Dress Rehearsal Attendance

To be eligible to play the concert, a student must attend their ensemble's entire dress rehearsal.

Exemption from this attendance requirement may be granted on rare occasions for a required school music performance, serious illness/injury, a family wedding, or a funeral/death in the family.

To be granted an exemption in order to miss the dress rehearsal and still play the concert, the student must email their conductor and cc office@eyso.org at least two weeks (14 days) before the concert to explain their conflict. This gives the dress rehearsal attendance committee time to:

- carefully review each request;
- communicate further with the student, parent, and school music director as needed; and
- implement seating changes and/or performance readiness juries as appropriate.

Exemption requests received after the deadline are not guaranteed consideration by the dress rehearsal attendance committee. **If a student misses a dress rehearsal without prior committee approval, they will not be permitted to perform in the concert.**



2021-22 SEASON CONCERTS

Negative Spaces | November 14, 2021

For every action... | March 13, 2022

Through the Looking Glass | May 8, 2022

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

- Prelude, Sinfonia, Flute Choir, and SF Percussion Ensemble perform at the 2:00pm concert
- Brass Choir, Philharmonia, and PH Percussion Ensemble perform at the 4:30pm concert
- Youth Symphony and YS Percussion Ensemble perform at the 7:00pm concert
- Primo & Primo Intermezzo attend the 4:30pm concert in November, perform side-by-side with Youth Symphony at the 7:00pm concert in March, and perform at the 2:00pm concert in May

Primo Informance | October 24, 2021

Primo & Primo Intermezzo present an INFOrmal, INFOrmational perFORMANCE to conclude their first semester together. Exact location and time will be announced as the date approaches. All are invited to this fun and free event!



Livestreaming & Concert Tickets

2021-22 season concerts will be performed in the Blizzard Theatre for a live audience. Detailed ticketing procedures, livestreaming opportunities, and live audience guidelines will be announced as the first concert approaches.

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.

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.



The following attire guidelines apply to all EYSO performances, including CMI.

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, with jacket; white shirt; black bow tie; solid black socks with black, closed toe dress shoes. Optional: black cummerbund

These attire items are NOT allowed:

- Bare midriff
- Bare shoulders
- Bare legs
- Deep necklines
- Capri pants, leggings, black jeans
- Colored ties
- White, colored, or patterned socks
- Jackets with tails
- Boots, sneakers, sandals, open-toed shoes
- Short-sleeved or sleeveless shirts
- Patterns or lace
- Sequins, bright/shiny embellishments
- Cologne or perfume

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 to wear something else.

VIDEO & 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 and parents to interact with EYSO on social media platforms such as [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). 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, Sinfonia, Philharmonia and Youth Symphony 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 Roslyn Green (rgreen@eyso.org).

Application & Auditions

Participation in CMI requires an additional year-long commitment from EYSO students. A separate tuition for CMI is required, and tuition assistance is available. Every audition for an EYSO orchestra also doubles as an audition for CMI. Students 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.



Performances

CMI groups perform in one concert each semester, and may be invited to play at Open House or other community events. More information about CMI dress rehearsals and concerts will be communicated at least one month in advance.

2021-22 CMI Concert Dates

- November 7, 2021
- April 10, 2022

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 can be found [here](#).

Summer Chamber Music Camp

Open to EYSO string players as well as those not involved in EYSO orchestras, this week-long summer program (typically the last week of July) divides students into trios, quartets and quintets based on their age and ability. Each group works with a regular coach and spends 3-4 hours together each day. The camp also includes masterclasses, classes in composition, Alexander Technique, and listening workshops: a total of more than 35 hours of instruction, concluding in an evening of free performances open to the public. Visit eyso.org/summer to learn more.

OTHER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Fall Camp

Youth Symphony and Philharmonia participate in a two-day camp, while Sinfonia and Prelude participate in a one-day retreat at [Riverwoods](#) every August. Fall Camp is an important, exciting, and concentrated experience of rehearsals, team-building activities, and plain old fun. These activities provide the best opportunity all season for learning lots of repertoire, while also making friends and creating community within the ensemble. For these reasons, attendance is required.

Primo & Primo Intermezzo have their own retreat day, Primo Day, in September at ECC.

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.

Competition winners from the previous year are not eligible to participate, even if they advanced to the next level of ensemble.



Open House Events

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.

2021-22 Open House Dates

- February 20, 2022 @ 3:30-7:00pm
- April 10, 2022 @ 3:30-7:00pm

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

More than 60% of the cost to deliver the EYSO experience to each student is underwritten by public and private foundations, businesses, and individual giving. We depend on select fundraising projects to raise these funds.

EYSO member fundraising projects help each member:

1. Raise funds to keep tuition as low as possible;
2. Build awareness in their own community about their EYSO participation, a positive and enriching activity; and
3. Build lifelong skills in volunteering and charitable giving.

NOTES

Our main family fundraiser is the annual NOTES Campaign, which runs for 10 weeks beginning in January. NOTES is 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 \$175 in the EYSO NOTES campaign.

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 to the extent allowed by law.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY & HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

As agreed during the EYSO Audition Application and registration process, neither the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, Inc., its staff or directors, nor Elgin Community College will be held responsible for any liabilities including injury, illness, or accident suffered or incurred during participation in the activities of the EYSO.

By signing below (or by logging into my [Member Page](#) to e-sign), I verify that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the policies and guidelines stated in this Season Handbook. **I acknowledge that these policies and guidelines are subject to change, and by continuing to participate in EYSO activities, I continue to agree to the most up-to-date version of this Season Handbook.**

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date