



SLSO PEER TO PEER **STUDENT GUIDE**

BACKGROUND

The SLSO recognizes that quality music instruction can be cost-prohibitive for many families, disproportionately so for families in our communities of color. With this recognition, **SLSO Peer to Peer** was developed as a collaboration between SLSO IN UNISON and the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra to empower and inspire young musicians who may not have access to instrument instruction outside of their school music program. The mentorship-based model was fortified in 2019 when the SLSO teamed up with Gateway Music Outreach (GMO) to increase program structures and opportunities and further surround young musicians with access to ensemble resources beyond the school setting.

During the global pandemic, the SLSO was able to expand Peer to Peer and significantly increase the number of students enrolled in the program. Session frequency increased and a more structured plan was implemented. The Zoom digital platform was leveraged for Peer to Peer sessions and this platform removed potential barriers to transportation from the program. Roles for each participant in Peer to Peer – GMO student, YO counterpart, and SLSO coach – were further defined under this expanded model and refinement continues based on the experience and feedback of all who are involved with the program.

We are delighted to welcome you to the Peer to Peer family! Our hope is that together, participating GMO and YO students will grow in their musicianship and build rapport based on shared experience that extends beyond the music.

Please read through this brief guide carefully. It is essential that you understand the commitment and responsibilities that come with being a participant in this unique program.

Your GMO and SLSO Peer to Peer Team

P2P DEFINITIONS:

- Peerto Peer **DUO**: GMO student + YO counterpart
- Peerto Peer **TRIO**: GMO student + YO counterpart + SLSO coach
- **PEER MENTORSHIP**: the process by which experiences, perspectives, and ideas are shared from one peer to another with common interests and goals in mind

P2P MANTRAS:

- Why do we practice? To make something easier!
- When do we practice? Only on the days we breathe.
- How do we practice? With intention and self-forgiveness.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & ACTIVITIES

1. Weekly Peer to Peer Sessions

Weekly sessions held on Monday evenings are the core program activity of Peer to Peer. Sessions will be held via Zoom unless noted otherwise.

Trio sessions with your SLSO coach will take place every other week. Between sessions with your SLSO coach, Duos will work together on the tailored Practice Plan prescribed by your SLSO coach. Duo meetings are a great time for GMO students to talk about what is going well in their daily practice and what is challenging. YO counterparts can help with challenges!

Format of Trio Sessions with your SLSO coach:

- Duos should arrive 15 minutes prior to meeting with their SLSO coach to check in with each other, tune instruments, and prepare to talk about wins and challenges in practice when your SLSO coach arrives.
- Enjoy the session with your SLSO coach! Your session length with your SLSO coach will run a maximum of 60 minutes, and your start and end time will be assigned by the Peer to Peer Program Leader before your first session. In some cases, coaching with your SLSO coach may not be at a consistent time from one session to the next.
- During the last five minutes of each session with your SLSO coach, you will work together to complete the **Practice Plan** which will direct your practice and goals between now and your next session with your SLSO coach.

Format of Duo Sessions:

- Plan to meet for a maximum of 60 minutes at the same time you are assigned to meet with your SLSO coach during Trio sessions.
- Review the Practice Plan together and identify areas where the most practice progress was made and celebrate that!
- Also identify areas that were challenging in your practice and get ideas from your YO counterpart about how you might tackle the challenge before the next meeting with your SLSO coach.

2. Concert Attendance

Attending concerts is important to help you stay inspired to keep investing time in learning new skills on your instrument. We're fortunate in St. Louis to have a professional orchestra of the caliber of the SLSO and we want you to hear them play! It's a deeper experience to hear the SLSO when a musician who you know as your SLSO coach is on the stage performing with all of their accomplished colleagues. Be curious! Duos are encouraged to do some homework before attending SLSO concerts to learn about the music being performed and the composers who created the music. And never be afraid to ask your SLSO coach about anything you see or hear during the concerts you attend – your coach will appreciate your questions and will be happy to answer.

The SLSO will also host Peer to Peer Duos and their families for a private reception in the Met Bar at Powell Hall following each of the three St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra concerts.

See the calendar for all concert offerings. Each Peer to Peer student will receive 2-4 tickets per concert depending on availability.

3. End of Year Recital

You will learn a lot this year and your skills and confidence with your instrument will grow between now and the end of the school year. We want to give you an opportunity to show that off!

In early May, GMO students will have the opportunity to perform for a panel of GMO and SLSO judges in a recital. Each Trio should think about the GMO student would like to perform at the end of the year and spend the last couple of months of Peer to Peer preparing for the performance.

RESPONSIBILITIES

GMO Musicians:

- Attend all scheduled Peer to Peer sessions
- Practice daily according to the Practice Plan and be intentional in following the course of study given by your SLSO musician coach, YO counterpart, and Mr. McKay of GMO
- Arrive **five (5) minutes early** to all scheduled Zoom sessions warmed up and with your instrument ready
- Arrive **15 minutes early** to any scheduled in-person sessions so that you may set up and warm up
- Have copies of music and any other assigned materials ready and in hand for all sessions
- Complete periodic surveys as requested
- Communicate how things are going in weekly sessions to your YO counterpart and SLSO coach
- Attend YO and SLSO concerts and activities
- Follow up immediately with the Peer to Peer Program Leader if concerns arise
- Hold your YO counterpart accountable for session preparation and attendance

YO Counterparts:

- Attend all scheduled Peer to Peer sessions
- Send reminder via the *BAND* app to your GMO student the day before session or concert
- Arrive **five (5) minutes early** to all scheduled Zoom sessions with instrument ready
- Arrive **15 minutes early** to any scheduled in-person sessions so that you may set up and warm up
- Understand from your SLSO coach any needed music, scales, etudes, and further practice material for GMO student; convey needs in a timely manner via email to Peer to Peer Program Leader (ex. scales book, sheet music, etc.)
- Help your SLSO coach monitor the time during sessions
- During last five minutes of sessions with SLSO coach, agree on and complete a new Practice Plan and submit via Wufoo
- During sessions without your SLSO coach, review the Practice Plan and reinforce your SLSO coach's ideas and suggestions
- In Trio sessions, communicate to your SLSO coach how things went in your last Duo session
- Complete periodic surveys as requested
- Attend SLSO concerts and meet with Peer to Peer students in the Met Bar after YO concerts
- Follow up immediately with the Peer to Peer Program Leader if concerns arise
- Hold your GMO student accountable for session preparation and attendance
- Always have music you are working on in Trio sessions, either to demonstrate as requested by your SLSO coach, or to work on with your SLSO coach if your GMO student must miss the session at the last minute

SLSO Coaches:

- Attend all scheduled Peer to Peer sessions
- Assess your GMO student's skills early on, set a focus goal or goals for the first semester, share a general plan of how to get there with your student and YO counterpart

- Identify materials you would like your GMO student(s) to have (e.g. scales book, etude(s), sheet music, etc.) and share that with your YO counterpart(s) – please be specific so we can order the correct materials
- Toward the end of the first semester, begin to formulate recommendations for a tentative Juries plan to share with Duo so they can pass along to their second semester SLSO coach (as applicable)
 - Scale(s)
 - Excerpt(s) as applicable
 - Solo piece or etude
- As available/possible, greet Duos briefly in the Powell Hall foyer after SLSO concerts they will attend

KEY TAKEAWAYS

GMO Musicians:

Gain confidence with your instrument over the course of the school year. Look back and think “wow, I did that.”

YO Counterparts:

Gain knowledge and insight into effective teaching strategies which can be leveraged in music and beyond.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Commitment

We acknowledge that YO and GMO students have chosen to participate in Peer to Peer. Thank you and we look forward to this year’s journey! We expect that participants in this program recognize the unique resources and opportunities that are offered to them as participants. If at any point during the program you feel that you can no longer participate, please contact the Peer to Peer Program Leader.

Conduct

YO and GMO students are ambassadors for the SLSO and are thus expected to always conduct themselves in a professional manner. The SLSO expects GMO students and YO counterparts to refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Any participant found in violation will be immediately removed from the program.

Communication

Communication will come primarily from the Peer to Peer Program Leader via email. In case of emergency, you may call or text the IN UNISON Arts Administration Fellow — i.e. illness, etc. Questions or concerns regarding scheduling should be directed to the Program Leader as well.

Attendance

Every effort should be made to be in attendance and engaged during every session to fully benefit from the Peer to Peer program. If something comes up, please communicate with the Peer to Peer Program Leader as soon as you know of the conflict. We will consider rescheduling missed sessions on a case-by-case basis.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- A screen large enough to see and interact with each other
- Desktop or laptop computer, iPad or tablet can also work (phones are not ideal)
- Microphone, webcam (built-in or external)
- Stable internet connection
- Work in a quiet, well lit, and uninterrupted space
- Music stand – can be provided by the SLSO

Additional equipment suggestions (not required):

- Ethernet connection (versus Wi-Fi)
- External microphone
- Headphones or ear buds

RESOURCES

<https://www.slsso.org/p2p-resources>: provides non-navigable access to:

- Links to Practice Plans
- Calendars

CONTACT INFORMATION

Joseph Hendricks

Peer to Peer Program Leader

josephh@slso.org

Office: 314-286-4460

Cell: 618-207-8982

James McKay

Director of Music – Gateway Music Outreach

james@gatewaymusicoutreach.com

314-643-6024

Jessica Little

Program Coordinator — Gateway Music Outreach

jessica@gatewaymusicoutreach.com

608-518-8580

Maureen Byrne

Associate VP, Education & Community Partnerships

maureenb@slso.org

314-286-4434

Samantha Sachtleben

Youth Orchestra Manager

samanthas@slso.org

314-286-4119