

st.louis YO
symphony
youth orchestra
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musician handbook

2023 / 2024

Welcome!

Congratulations on your acceptance into the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra!

Your successful audition into the SLSYO makes you part of an exceptional program that draws the most accomplished student musicians from Missouri and Illinois. This season you will rehearse with nearly 100 other talented young musicians who share your passion for music and perform at the beautiful Touhill Performing Arts Center. You will work with three inspiring and renowned conductors while gaining new insights into the exciting world of classical music. You will study and perform with the world-class musicians of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Your playing and conduct will be unwaveringly held to professional standards, while forming close friendships and making memories that will last a lifetime.

This musician handbook will outline the SLSYO policies and student expectations. Please read through this entire handbook carefully. It is essential you understand the commitment and responsibilities that come with being a member of this orchestra.

We are looking forward to a fantastic season!



Samantha Sachtleben
St. Louis Symphony
Youth Orchestra Manager

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Rehearsal Policies & Procedures

Attendance

Attendance Policy:

- Musicians are expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts.
- Each musician is granted no more than two excused absences per concert cycle—to be used only when absolutely necessary.
- Two tardies or early departures are equal to one absence.
- Musicians who miss the dress rehearsal and/or the sound check may be removed from the concert at the discretion of the Music Director and Youth Orchestra Manager. If missing either is unavoidable, you must seek approval from the Youth Orchestra Manager at least two weeks in advance.
- Musicians who miss more than six rehearsals may be dismissed from the orchestra at the discretion of the Music Director and Youth Orchestra Manager.
- Failure to meet the above policies and expectations can result in dismissal from the orchestra.

We recognize that students lead busy lives with many extra-curricular activities and commitments. However, we expect that the SLSYO be prioritized when making scheduling decisions. Membership in the SLSYO is a privilege and, above all, a commitment to artistic excellence and professional conduct. If at any point during the season you feel that you are unable to fully commit to the SLSYO, please communicate this with the Youth Orchestra Manager so that an appropriate solution may be found.

Reporting an Absence

All planned absences must be reported via an online form before the start of each concert cycle. The online form can be found at slo.org/yo-only. Absence request forms may be submitted multiple times during a concert cycle if new absences are anticipated.

Unanticipated absences that come up within one week of the next rehearsal should be reported as soon as possible to the Youth Orchestra Manager via email **and** the online absence request form. Any musician that anticipates missing more than two rehearsals per concert cycle will meet with the Music Director and Youth Orchestra Manager to discuss the situation and find a fair solution for the musician and the ensemble.

Communication

The primary method of contact from the Youth Orchestra Manager will be via a weekly email. Each week preceding a rehearsal, you will receive an email with all pertinent information for the coming rehearsal. Please refrain from using alternative communication methods, i.e. social media, texting, etc., except in the case of emergency. If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Youth Orchestra Manager.

In addition to weekly emails, students will use a communication app called BAND. This is a secure platform that will make it easy to share YO last-minute updates, as well as files, photos, rehearsal livestreams, and videos. You will receive a unique invite code to join. To learn more, please visit <https://about.band.us/>

Rehearsal Policies & Procedures

Rehearsal Procedures

Rehearsals will begin promptly at their assigned time. Musicians are expected to be warmed up and in their seats at least five minutes before the beginning of rehearsal. Musicians not in their seat ready to begin rehearsal at this time will be marked tardy. Please arrive no more than 30 minutes and no less than 15 minutes before rehearsal begins.

Musicians are expected to bring all necessary supplies and accessories to each rehearsal and concert including instrument, music, and a pencil. It is your responsibility to ensure your instrument is in good working order. The SLSYO tunes to A=442.

Seating Assignments

Woodwind, brass, and percussion seatings will rotate based on the needs of the repertoire. Seatings will be determined by the Music Director and Youth Orchestra Manager. Determinations will be based on input from SLSO coaches, demonstrated preparation for rehearsals, future and past attendance, and the demands of the repertoire.

In the string sections, titled positions will be appointed at the final auditions. Section musicians will be rotated at the beginning of each cycle. Placement within the section is not a reflection of the musician's abilities but is what is best for the individual musician as well as the orchestra. Determinations will be made with input from SLSO coaches, demonstrated preparation for rehearsals, and future and past attendance.

Seatings for all musicians are subject to change at the discretion of the Music Director and Youth Orchestra Manager.

Instrument Rental

Select musicians may rent available instruments free of charge on an as needed basis (piccolo, bass clarinet, English horn, etc.). Instruments are to be returned in good condition. All instrument maintenance and repairs will be handled by the Youth Orchestra Manager. If the instrument is damaged or needs maintenance, the Youth Orchestra Manager should be notified immediately. Musicians will only be charged for repairs if it is due to the musician's carelessness.

Sheet Music

All sheet music for SLSYO performances will be provided free of charge. Sheet music should be returned in good condition at the end of each concert, or a \$5.00 fee may be charged for each missing or damaged part at the discretion of the Youth Orchestra Manager.

At-Home Practice

Musicians are expected to prepare their music in advance of every rehearsal and to bring their music to their private instructors. Musicians who do not adequately prepare for rehearsal will be asked to discuss their at-home preparation with the Music Director and Youth Orchestra Manager to find an appropriate solution.

Performance Related Policies

Annual Concerto Competition

The SLSYO Concerto Competition affords the opportunity to perform a full concerto with orchestra. The winner will perform their concerto in the Cycle III concert.

There is *no* preliminary round this year. All applicants will have an opportunity to participate in the live audition.

The Concerto Competition will be live on stage at the Community Music School at Webster University on **Friday, October 27**. Exact times will be assigned.

Please visit [slso.org/yo-only](https://www.slsyo.org/yo-only) for additional information regarding eligibility and requirements or to apply. Applications are due on **September 30, 2023**.

Performance Dress Code

The concert dress code for YO performances is a uniform, professional / business casual look that does not distract from the music.

Guidelines to follow include:

- All black attire
- Full coverage of torso
- Generous coverage of limbs (minimum 3/4 sleeve, knees covered when seated)
- Black shoes and socks/hosiery
- Ties should be black
- Jackets are optional

Garments to be avoided:

- Tee-shirts
- Shorts
- Denim and garments with cargo pockets
- Sweat and yoga pants
- Informal footwear such as boots, tennis shoes, Converse, flip flops, etc.
- Low-cut, tank, short-sleeve/sleeveless, or open-back tops and crop tops

SLSYO Concert Tickets

All YO Concerts will be held at the Touhill Performing Arts Center this season. The same ticketing model will apply to this new venue:

- Orchestra level seats for all YO concerts are free *
- Balcony seats will be available for \$10*.
- All seating is general admission; seats are not assigned. Please arrive early to select your spot.

* A \$1 additional service charge applies to all tickets.

Tickets to all live SLSYO concerts are available through the SLSO Box Office. To reserve your tickets, go online to: <https://www.slsyo.org/yo-concerts/> or call the box office at (314) 534-1700.

Tuition & Financial Aid

Tuition

Annual tuition for the SLSYO is \$600. SLSYO families will receive an invoice and are asked to complete an online tuition form. This form details several payment options and must be completed and returned by **September 23, 2023**. Tuition must be paid in full by **February 3, 2024**. If payment is not paid in full by that date, musicians cannot participate in the third concert cycle. If you have concerns about your ability to pay tuition or if your financial situation changes during the season, please speak confidentially with the Youth Orchestra Manager.

Please note that all tuition payments are non-refundable.

Although base tuition is \$600, the full and actual cost of attendance for each student is \$1,700. The SLSO generously supports our programs and scholarships are available to ensure that the SLSYO is accessible to all who are qualified. If you would like to make a tax-deductible charitable contribution to help support the SLSYO's operating expenses, you can find more information on the tuition form. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Need-Based Assistance

It is a priority for the SLSYO that no qualified musician be turned away based on an inability to pay. Musicians with a demonstrated need for financial assistance may be eligible for a partial or full scholarship on a case-by-case basis. Requests for financial assistance must be submitted to via an online form available at slo.org/yo-only by **September 23, 2023**.

Merit-Based Scholarship

Partial or full scholarships are available for musicians who demonstrate a high caliber of playing and professionalism. Recordings submitted in the scholarship application will be reviewed by the Music Director and the Youth Orchestra Manager. The application for merit-based scholarships will be made available via an online form at slo.org/yo-only and must be submitted by **September 23, 2023**.

Student Conduct & Expectations

Conduct

The SLSYO strictly prohibits the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs by any musician. Musicians are ambassadors for the SLSO and are always expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Any musician found in violation will be immediately removed from the orchestra.

Social Media

Below is the Social Media Policy used by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra for its musicians and staff. The policy outlines the rules employees must follow on social media networks but also applies to SLSYO musicians and volunteers.

This policy is intended to support the guidelines for professional and ethical conduct established by the Symphony's Mission, Core Values, and other workplace policies, and to outline the Symphony's expectations regarding employee participation in social media activities within or outside work hours. This policy applies to any Symphony employee at any level of employment, who creates, contributes to or otherwise engages in blogs, wikis, social networks, virtual worlds or any other kind of social media, whether or not the individual expressly represents the Symphony in their engagement/communication and whether this occurs outside or during work hours.

We respect the legal rights of our employees to engage in concerted activity concerning wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment. Nothing in this Social Media policy is intended to prohibit our employees from engaging in any such activity, or expressing their opinions, about wages, hours, or other terms and conditions of their employment or their co-workers' employment. With these qualifications, the following rules apply:

1. The same rules that apply to messaging and communications in traditional media (e-mail, voicemail, internet usage) apply to social media messaging and communications as well. If your social media activity would violate any of the Symphony's policies in another forum, it also will violate them in an online forum. For example, employees are prohibited from using social media to:

- Engage in unlawful harassment;
- Circumvent policies prohibiting unlawful discrimination; or
- Publish defamatory statements.

2. Only certain designated individuals have the authority to speak on behalf of the Symphony. If you are speaking about the Symphony, and are not one of these individuals, make that clear in your social communications and be clear this is your personal opinion. Never represent yourself as a spokesperson for the Symphony unless you have been authorized to speak on behalf of the Symphony on the specific subject matter. If you are communicating about the Symphony, use good judgment and be honest and accurate in your communications.

3. It is important to remember your online activities can reflect both on you and the Symphony, whether these activities take place during or outside work hours.

4. Even though social media may seem more informal, it is communication like any other and should be approached in a respectful and courteous manner. Avoid using statements, photographs, video or audio that reasonably could be viewed as malicious, obscene, threatening or intimidating, that were recorded or taken without consent of the individuals involved, that disparage patrons, members, directors, employees, musicians or vendors, or that might constitute harassment or bullying. Examples of such conduct may include an offensive post meant to intentionally harm someone's reputation, and posts that could contribute to a hostile work environment on the basis of race, gender, disability, religion, national origin, or any other status protected by law or Symphony policy.

Miscellaneous

SLSO Concert Tickets

As a member of the SLSYO, you will be eligible to receive complimentary tickets to select SLSO concerts throughout the season. At the beginning of each concert cycle, musicians will receive notice of eligible SLSO concerts. We strongly encourage all students and families to take advance of this opportunity! Complimentary tickets may only be used by YO musicians and their guests.

New this year: Members of the YO will receive a discount when purchasing tickets to SLSO concerts.

- This offer is valid for 4 tickets per concert
- 50% discount for classical concerts
- 25% for films/specials/family concerts
- Box seating and \$15 tickets are excluded

This discount will automatically be applied when purchasing your tickets online if you registered your account using the same email address as provided to the YO. Additional directions for accessing this discount will be sent via email.

Logo Wear

Every musician will be given a free SLSYO t-shirt in the fall. Additional t-shirts and sweatshirts may be ordered online through the SLSO's partner store, ByJack.

Mentoring the Music: Peer to Peer Program

SLSO IN UNISON and the SLSYO teamed up in 2015 to introduce Mentoring the Music: Peer to Peer. This program pairs musicians from the SLSYO with African American students who are part of their school music program but seek music development opportunities beyond their classroom.

Peer to Peer mentees and their SLSYO mentors meet on a regular basis and each pair receives regular coaching from musicians of the SLSO.

SLSYO students that are selected to be mentors will receive a full tuition waiver (valued at \$600) or community service hours. Applications for the 23/24 season can be found at www.slsso.org/yo-only and are due **September 22, 2023**.

For more information, please contact Joseph Hendricks at joseph@slso.org.

2023 / 2024 Calendar

CYCLE I

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	WHO
Sat. Sept. 9	1:30 – 4:30pm	Orientation & Full Rehearsal	Touhill	All Full Time (FT), Alternate (ALT) musicians & parents/guardians
Sat. Sept. 16	1:30 – 4:30 pm	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	Clayton High School	FT musicians
Thurs. Sept. 21	7:00 – 9:30 pm	SLSO Forest Park Concert	Art Hill	Optional activity. All family and friends are invited to attend.
Sat. Sept. 23	1:30 – 4:30 pm	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	Clayton High School	FT musicians
Sat. Sept. 30	1:30 – 4:30 pm	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	Clayton High School	FT musicians
Sat. Oct. 7	1:30 – 4:30 pm	Sectional & Full Orchestra Rehearsal	Clayton High School	FT musicians Optional for ALT musicians *
Sat. Oct. 14	1:30 – 4:30 pm	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	TBD	FT musicians
Sat. Oct. 21	1:30 – 4:30 pm	Sectional & Full Orchestra Rehearsal	Clayton High School	FT musicians Optional for ALT musicians *
Fri. Oct. 27	4:00 – 8:00 pm	Concerto Competition	Community Music School	Participants only Exact times will be assigned
Sat. Oct. 28	-----	Fall Break	-----	
Sat. Nov. 4	1:30 – 4:30 pm	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	Clayton High School	FT musicians
Sat. Nov. 11	1:30 – 4:30 pm	Full Orchestra Rehearsal	TBD	FT musicians
Fri. Nov. 17	6:00 – 8:30 pm	Dress Rehearsal	Touhill PAC	FT musicians
Sat. Nov. 18	10:00 – 12:00 pm 12:00 – 1:00 pm 1:00 pm	Sound Check Lunch YO Concert #1	Touhill PAC	FT musicians

Please note: dates, times, locations, and activities are subject to change.

** Sectionals are an optional activity for alternates, but a great way to connect with their section and work with the musicians of the SLSO. Attendance is not required unless the alternate has been asked to perform with the YO during that concert cycle.*

2023 / 2024 Calendar

CYCLE II

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Sun. Dec. 3	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Sectionals
Sat. Jan. 6	1:30 – 4:30 pm	YO Rehearsal
Sat. Jan. 13	1:30 – 4:30 pm	YO Rehearsal
Fri. Jan. 19	4:00 – 6:00 pm	YO + SLSO Dress Rehearsal
Sat. Jan. 20	Tbd Tbd 7:30 – 9:00 pm	Sound Check Lunch YO Concert #2

CYCLE III

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Sat. Feb. 3	1:30 – 4:30pm	YO Rehearsal
Sat. Feb. 10	1:30 – 4:30 pm	YO Rehearsal
Sat. Feb. 17	1:30 – 4:30 pm	YO Rehearsal
Sat. Feb. 24	1:30 – 4:30 pm	YO Rehearsal
Sat. Mar. 2	1:30 – 4:30 pm	YO Rehearsal
Sat. Mar. 9	-----	Spring Break
Sat. Mar. 16	1:30 – 4:30 pm	YO Rehearsal
Sat. Mar. 23	1:30 – 4:30 pm	YO Rehearsal
Sat. Mar. 30	1:30 – 4:30 pm	YO Rehearsal
Sat. Apr. 6	1:30 – 4:30 pm	YO Rehearsal
Sat. Apr. 13	1:30 – 4:30 pm	YO Rehearsal
Fri. Apr. 19	6:00 – 8:30 pm	Dress Rehearsal
Sat. Apr. 20	10:00 – 12:00 pm 12:00 – 1:00 pm 1:00 pm	Sound Check Lunch YO Concert #3

Please Note: Dates, times, locations, and activities are subject to change.

Additional dates to remember:

Friday, September 22	Peer to Peer application due
Saturday, September 23	Letter of Agreement and Tuition Form due
Saturday, September 23	Merit and Need-based Scholarship applications due
Saturday, September 30	Concerto Competition application due (No Preliminary round this year.)
Friday, October 13	First YO tuition payment due
Friday, October 27	Concerto Competition
Friday, December 1	Second YO tuition payment due
Monday, January 22	24/25 YO application opens
Friday, January 26	Third YO tuition payment due
Sunday, March 31	23/24 YO application deadline

Contacts

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