



***Springfield Symphony
Youth Orchestras***



***Policy Handbook
2021-2022***

SPRINGFIELD SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS



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Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestras

The Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestras (SSYO) founded in 1944, are two orchestral ensembles sponsored by the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. The Springfield Youth Sinfonia (SYS) is an introductory orchestra that develops ensemble skills. The Springfield Youth Orchestra (SYO) is an advanced orchestra that cultivates standard orchestral repertoire. The orchestras draw their membership from over forty towns in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Vermont.

The founder of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Alexander Leslie, conducted the first performance of the Young People's Symphony (YPS), a senior orchestra grades 9 - 12, on January 14, 1945. In 1956, Prescott Barrows succeeded Dr. Leslie briefly as interim conductor, followed by Robert Staffanson until 1969. Robert Gutter became the fourth conductor of YPS in 1970. Under the direction of Mr. Gutter, YPS participated in the first Festival of Youth Orchestras in 1982 and toured with the Yugoslavian Friendship Program in 1985.

In 1977, the Young People's Philharmonia (YPP), an introductory orchestra for musicians grades 5 - 9, was created to provide opportunities for young string players, and in 1997, was transformed into a full orchestra. Michael Greenebaum directed YPP until 1986. During the 1986-87 season, David Hagy conducted both orchestras. Nyela Basney led the ensembles from 1987 to 1990 until Dr. Peter Cokkinias assumed the podium from 1990 to 1992. Beginning in 1992, YPP and YPS were under separate directorships. Laurie Redmer conducted YPP from 1992-98. Marsha Hassett became YPP conductor in 1998 and Patrick Smith was YPS conductor from 1992-2006. In 2006, the orchestras evolved from grade-based to merit-based. Two new orchestras were formed: Springfield Youth Sinfonia (SYS) and Springfield Youth Orchestra (SYO). Marsha Hassett is conductor for SYS; Jonathan Lam is the SYO conductor.

SSYO musicians have had unique musical experiences in recent seasons. In 1996, YPS toured England, while YPP held an exchange with the Empire State Youth Orchestras. In 1998, SSYO presented its first dinner concert, as well as exchange concerts with the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestras. The 2002 Season Finale Concert featured renowned violinist Corey Cerovsek, performing with the youth orchestras. YPS highlights have included tours to Montreal (1999), Philadelphia (2001 & 2005), Washington, DC (2003), and Burlington/Montreal (2006); and retreats at the University of New Hampshire (2000), the University of Rhode Island (2002), and the University of Southern Maine (2003). YPP highlights have included attendance at a Boston Symphony Orchestra rehearsal with Midori (1999), a New York Philharmonic concert (2000), a performance of soloist Joshua Bell with the Boston Symphony Orchestra (2001), the New York Philharmonic (2001), Boston Ballet's performance of *Onegin* (2002), New York City Opera's performances of *The Magic Flute* (2003), *The Barber of Seville* (2005), and *Carmen* (2006), and the Broadway production of *Beauty and the Beast* (2004). In October 2010, SYS attended a performance of *Don Pasquale* at the Metropolitan Opera and SYO participated in an exchange program with the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, including a performance at Six Flags New England.

Conductors

MARSHA HASSETT



Marsha Hassett, SYS conductor, has a diverse musical background. She played in her area youth orchestra in Buffalo, NY, and attended Ithaca College and SUNY at Buffalo to earn undergraduate and graduate cello performance degrees. Her principal cello teachers were Einar Holm, Robert Silvester, and Mischa Schneider, and her chamber music coaches were members of the Cleveland Quartet. After several seasons with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Marsha embarked on a thirteen-year teaching career at Amherst (NY) Central High School while remaining active as a performer in ensembles, including

the LeClair Trio, Musica Reservata, and the Buffalo New Music Ensemble. In 1990, Marsha entered the New England Conservatory Master's program in Conducting. Following graduation, Marsha taught for one year in Connecticut and served for two years as Associate Conductor of the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the ARK-LA-TEX Youth Orchestra. To fulfill a long-time ambition, Marsha returned to Boston in 1995 to enroll in the violinmaking and restoration program at the North Bennet Street School (NBSS). As a 1998 graduate of NBSS, Marsha now works at Johnson String Instruments in Newton Centre, MA. She continues to perform and freelances throughout the New England area. Marsha became YPP conductor in 1998.

JONATHAN LAM



Jonathan Lam, SYO conductor, began violin studies at the age of six and was a member of the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras. He continued his studies at Tufts University earning Bachelor of Arts in Music and Quantitative Economics. At Tufts, he was named Assistant Conductor of the Tufts Symphony and served as an Assistant Conductor for the Kalistos Chamber Orchestra and as Guest Conductor for the Metro West Youth Symphony. Mr. Lam then enrolled at Southern Illinois University, earning his Master's in Orchestral Conducting. During his last semester as a conducting

student, he led the Southern Illinois Symphony when the Music Director went on sabbatical. During that time, he successfully led performances of a Broadway musical *Parade* as well as working with New Orleans Jazz musician Banu Gibson and ended the semester leading the orchestra in a performance of Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. Recently he has served as Conductor for the Nashoba Youth Orchestras in Westford, MA, the Worcester Youth Orchestras, Assistant Conductor for the Southern Illinois Music Festival Orchestra and Chorus, and serves as a cover conductor for the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra, Beverly, MA. As a violinist, he played in numerous orchestras in the US and Canada, including the violin and viola sections of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, and served as Assistant Principal Viola in the Paducah Symphony (KY). In the summer of 2003, Mr. Lam attended the prestigious Pierre Monteux School for Conductors and Orchestra Musicians.

Benefits of Membership

- Great repertoire & skilled conductors
- Fellowship with other young musicians
- Performance opportunities
- Sectionals with members of the SSO
- Concerto Competition
- Advancement opportunities within the ensembles
- Musical retreats or educational trips in selected years

General Information

Youth Orchestra Manager: *Rocío Mora* manages the Sunday operations of the youth orchestras and serves as a liaison between the conductors, Education Director, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra staff, the SSYO musicians and parents. On site for most rehearsals and all concerts.

Phone: 413-733-0636 x 119 email: rmora@SpringfieldSymphony.org

General SSYO email: ssyo@SpringfieldSymphony.org

Rehearsals: Regular rehearsals are held on Sunday evenings at the Community Music School of Springfield (127 State St, Springfield, MA 01103). SYS woodwinds, brass, and percussion rehearse from 5:00-6:45 pm in Room B3; SYS strings rehearse from 5:40-7:45 pm in Room B3. All SYO musicians rehearse from 5:00-7:45 pm in Robyn Newhouse Hall. Musicians should arrive fifteen minutes early to warm-up. Rehearsals are not open to the public.

We will ONLY use the Stockbridge Street entrance for the school for both SYS and SYO (for GPS directions, you can enter the address 21 Stockbridge Street, which is across from this entrance). Parking is available across the Stockbridge Street entrance - your child can meet you in the parking lot. Please do not block the curb in front of the school, particularly by the door. It is a crosswalk and you will be ticketed. Remember that Stockbridge Street is an active city street. Wait until you are on the curb to congregate and despite being a one-way street, always look both ways before crossing and be sure to use the crosswalk. The parking lot is free to use, but please be sure to ONLY enter and exit the parking lot from Willow Street. Also, please do not move the gate and enter the parking lot from Stockbridge Street as that is a pedestrian walkway and not an active driveway.

Musicians should bring their own music, stands, and pencils to all rehearsals. **Food and drinks are not allowed.** To maintain our rehearsal privileges at CMSS, everyone needs to respect CMSS property and keep the rehearsal halls and outside areas clean. After rehearsals, chairs should be returned to their proper places.

Attendance Taking: Musicians must check in at the attendance table at each rehearsal where volunteer parents will be taking attendance. Two parents will be asked to volunteer for attendance duty at each rehearsal. This will be on a rotating basis.

Staying Informed: Weekly Notes are sent by email. **This is our primary method of keeping in touch so be sure to provide an email that is in good working order, and please take the time to read these emails each week.** At rehearsal each week, announcements are made to the musicians. About two weeks before every concert, families will receive an e-mail with concert information and a map and directions of the concert location. Hard copies will also be available at rehearsals two weeks prior to the concert at the info table.

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Concert Attire:

SYS

- Long-sleeve white blouse, black skirt (below the knee) or dress slacks, dark nylons/tights, and shoes
- Long-sleeve white shirt, black bow tie, dark pants, black socks and shoes.

SYO

- Long-sleeve black blouse, black skirt (below the knee) or dress slacks, dark nylons/tights, and shoes.
- Dark sport- or suit-jacket, long-sleeve white shirt, black bow tie, dark pants, black socks and shoes.

Breaks: Rehearsal break time is 6:30 PM for SYO and 6:45 PM for SYS.

Inclement Weather Cancellation Policy: The decision to cancel an SSYO event will be made three hours before a scheduled rehearsal or event, unless an emergency situation occurs. An email blast will be sent to everyone providing cancellation information.

Policy for SSYO Concert Tickets: SYS and SYO will be performing at three SSYO concerts during the 2021-2022 season. Ticketing will be established and announced via SSYO's weekly newsletter to its musicians and families for each concert.

SSYO Concerts 2021-2022

Season Premiere

11/21/21, 3:00pm

TBD

Winter Concert

2/13/22, 3:00 pm

TBD

Snow date: 2/27/22

Season Finale

5/15/22, 3:00pm

Symphony Hall



Conditions of Membership

Conditions of membership in SSYO were established to promote musical excellence, personal growth, and team building.

Attendance: Performance readiness depends upon your commitment to be at all rehearsals. Attendance at the dress rehearsal the week prior to the concert date and the warm-up rehearsal on concert day is required for participation in the performance. We respect commitment to school musical events and religious holiday observances as excused absences. The orchestra's conductor, the SSYO Manager, and the Education Director will conduct a membership review after **3 unexcused** absences; this may result in not being able to play in a concert. Additional absences may lead to loss of membership from the orchestra. Circumstances surrounding all absences, along with other factors, will be taken into consideration prior to any action. Frequent absences, tardiness, demonstrated lack of interest, and behavioral problems are grounds for dismissal. Musicians **must** notify the [Youth Orchestra Manager](mailto:ssyo@springfieldsymphony.org) (ssyo@springfieldsymphony.org) **prior** to any absence (including the reason of absence). If the Youth Orchestra Manager is not notified in advance, that absence will be considered "unexcused" unless it is an emergency. In cases of illness or family emergencies where advance notice is not possible, call 413.733.0636, ext. 119, and leave a message for the Youth Orchestra Manager. Messages can be left twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Punctuality: SSYO members should be in the rehearsal room, with instruments tuned, fifteen minutes before the start of rehearsal. Musicians must stay close to their rehearsal room at break and return promptly to the rehearsal room after break. Rehearsal time is valuable. Tardiness and early dismissals from rehearsal are disruptive. Excessive tardiness and/or early dismissals (any combination of three occurrences) is considered a form of absence and noted as such in the musician's record. If a musician must leave rehearsal early, he/ she must notify the [Youth Orchestra Manager](#) prior to the time of departure.

School Music Programs: SSYO musicians are expected to participate in their school's music program, where available. The youth orchestras are considered extracurricular and are not intended to replace components of any school's music curriculum. School music directors are the sponsors for all district and statewide events. In the event that a student has a legitimate schedule conflict and cannot participate in their school program, an exemption may be sought through the school music director or conductor (contact the [Youth Orchestra Manager](#) for details).

Scheduling Conflicts with School Concerts: Musicians should compare the SSYO calendar with their school calendars as soon as they receive them, and notify the Education Director in writing of any potential conflicts. When a musician faces a scheduling conflict between an SSYO commitment and a school concert commitment, the SSYO musician is expected to honor the school concert commitment. Other extracurricular activities, appointments, college tours, and musical endeavors should be scheduled for times that do not conflict with SSYO commitments.

SPRINGFIELD SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Private Study: Musicians are highly encouraged to take lessons on their SSYO instrument with private instructors. Please inform the [Youth Orchestra Manager](#) of any changes in instructor.

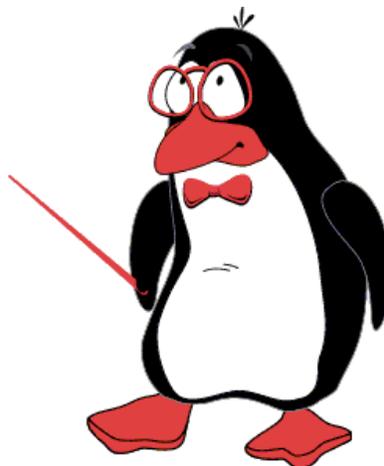
Tuition for 2021-2022 Season: The annual membership fee for SYS and SYO this year is \$450 for the first family member and \$395 for each additional family member. Financial assistance is available through SSYO scholarships or a limited number of student internships. Families may also make payment arrangements with the [Youth Orchestra Manager](#). Late charges may apply to any payments submitted after deadlines unless special arrangements have been made.

SSYO Scholarships: SSYO has a limited scholarship fund available to provide full or partial scholarship awards to families who demonstrate financial need. Scholarships may be applied only to membership fees.

Student Internships: A limited number of internships are available for stagehands and music librarians. Internships carry a stipend worth 50% of the membership fee. Job descriptions and applications are available in the spring for the following season.

Seating: Sectional seating is at the discretion of the conductors. The conductors' criteria for the seating audition are based on the musician's performance of the orchestra's repertoire. Seating auditions for each ensemble will take place once each year. The conductors make all final decisions on matters related to seating.

Withdrawals: Musicians should plan to commit to SSYO for the full season. If withdrawal is necessary, the musician should give the conductor and the [Youth Orchestra Manager](#) a letter of resignation with at least four weeks' notice. There will be no refunds.



Other Activities for 2021-2022

First Rehearsal and Parents' Meeting/Orientation: Because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the New Family Orientation will be held via Zoom. Link to the meeting will be provided via our newsletter.

Sectionals: On April 3rd, members of the professional **Springfield Symphony Orchestra** will be in attendance to give in depth sectional rehearsals. Rehearsal and break time will vary slightly. This is a fabulous opportunity, so please plan on attending!

Concerto Competition: The annual Concerto Competition will be held Tuesday, January 11, 2022 (snow date - January 12th) at a location TBD. The competition is open to all SSYO musicians, except past winners who are still in the same orchestra (i.e., an SYS winner may not enter again while still a member of the SYS, and an SYO winner may not enter again while a member of the SYO). Contestants perform one movement from a concerto or other solo piece by memory with accompaniment, and provide their own accompanist for the competition. All music selected must be approved in advance by the conductor. Judges may select from each orchestra a soloist who demonstrates high artistic standards. It's also possible that the judges might not select a soloist. Musicians selected will perform with their orchestra at the Season Finale. They will write program notes for the piece and a soloist biography.

Fundraising Activities: All fundraisers assist the SSYO in keeping our tuition costs low, trip expenses affordable, and in making scholarship assistance available to our young musicians.

- **Fundraising Concert Event:** TBD - a fundraising concert event that will incorporate soloists, duets, and small ensemble performances.
- **Raffles/Silent Auctions:** At our concerts, we will hold raffles and/or auctions. We ask that all families participate by donating items or helping in the preparation of these events.
- **Alumni, Advertisers, and Sponsorships:** The SSYO relies upon the generous support of our extended family and businesses in our community. For more information on becoming a sponsor or advertising your business in our materials, contact the [Youth Orchestra Manager](#).

Covid-19 Clause:

Due to the ever-changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, any part of our 2021-2022 can change at any point. Please see attached SSYO Policy Handbook Amendment for safety protocols. Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we strive to rehearse and perform together safely.

2021-2022 SSYO STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION



*Youth Orchestra
Manager*

Rocío Mora
413-733-0636 x 119
ssyo@springfieldsymphony.org

SSO Interim Executive Director

John Anz
janz@springfieldsymphony.org
413-733-0636 x 118

SYS Conductor

Marsha Hassett
marshahassett@yahoo.com

SYO Conductor

Jonathan Lam
jonathanlam07@gmail.com

SSYO Mailing Address

SSYO
Springfield Symphony Orchestra
1441 Main Street, Suite 121
Springfield, MA 01103

2019-2020 SSYO STAFF CFORMATION



SSYO Policy Handbook Amendment

COVID-19 Protocols

With the ever-changing face of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the SSYO will be implementing the following requirements and protocols for rehearsals. As of now:

- Vaccination: to protect **ALL** its members, especially those not yet eligible for a vaccine, the SSYO will require that all eligible musicians be vaccinated for COVID-19. All SSYO conductors and staff are, and will remain, fully vaccinated.
- Masks will be worn at all times. Wind and brass players will lower their masks as they prepare to play but should continue to mask during long stretches of rests.
- Only musicians, SSYO staff, and parent volunteers will be allowed into the rehearsal building.
- Every musician must bring their own music stand and supplies (rosin, mutes, reeds, cork grease, sticks/mallets). SSYO will provide “puppy pads” to brass players for spit valve collection that they will dispose of on their own after the rehearsal has ended.
- Food is not allowed in the rehearsal building. Due to potential cross-contamination concerns, there will be no snack at break, and no one should bring in any type of food for themselves and/or to share with others.
- To further diminish unnecessary contact, music will be scanned and emailed to each musician to print at home.

In the future, if rehearsal or performance locations adopt stricter measures, we will need to adopt those as well. Additionally, if local or city authorities, or the state of Massachusetts should announce further restrictions/mandates, we will need to adjust likewise and adhere to those as well.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact [Rocío](#).