



**MYSO**  
**Metropolitan Youth**  
Symphony Orchestra

**May 6, 2026**

**PETER LIPARI, DIRECTOR**

**PROGRAM**

Carmen Suite No. 1 ..... Georges Bizet  
I. Prélude  
II. Aragonaise  
III. Intermezzo  
IV. Séguedille  
V. Les dragons d'Alcala  
VI. Les Toréadors

.....  
Recognition of MYSO's Graduating Seniors & Nancy Denton Scholarship

Mary K. Rosen Memorial Award Presentation  
Cathy & Andy Bellos, 2026 Recipients

.....  
Carmen Suite No. 2 ..... Georges Bizet  
I. Marche des contrebandiers  
II. Habañera  
III. Nocturne  
IV. Chanson du Toréador  
V. La Garde Montante  
VI. Danse Bohème

**SUPPORT MYSO**

Thank you for attending today's performance. To support MYSO further, please consider a Pay-What-You-Wish Donation to our orchestra made online or at the door.



Support MYSO with Give Butter



Support MYSO with Venmo

This program is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council

Illinois  
**ARTS**  
Council

# MYSO

# Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra Members

## VIOLIN I

Brody Wise, *Concertmaster*  
*The Nicolette Bellos Memorial Chair*  
Mariana Hernandez  
Maritza Orozco  
Juliana DeBoer  
Vielka Mancera  
Kylian McKenzie  
Hannah Conley  
Elaina Pedrosa

## VIOLIN II

Matthew Budde, *Principal*  
Brian Baron  
Carmen Mora  
Teresa Mora  
Abigail Fransens

## VIOLA

Madeline Hobbs, *Principal*  
Marilyn Mundt  
Elliot Kastengren  
Marion Sasso  
Kristin DeBoer

## CELLO

Nathaniel Hoch, *Principal*  
Johnny Sever  
Rauri O'Hara  
Paola Martinez  
Sarah Kastengren  
Liliana Mejia

## CONTRABASS

Grace Vanderhyden  
Jackson Brewes

## FLUTE

Miles Solita, *Principal*  
Claire Wellman, *piccolo*  
Audrey Orelove  
Sam Vota  
Molly Mravle

## OBOE

Andelise (Ande) Carlson, *Principal*  
Ella Price

## ENGLISH HORN

Andelise (Ande) Carlson

## CLARINET

Layla McKinney, *Principal*  
Lena Conroy

## BASSOON

Cathryn Governale, *Principal*

## HORN

Evan McFarland, *Principal*  
Cam Mialkowski  
Olivia Vota

## TRUMPET

Kevin Guzman, *Principal*  
Jeremy Lannan  
Spencer Mendoza  
Maye Villagomez  
Kristen Wessel

## TROMBONE

Christian Toth, *Principal*  
Oliver Feltz  
Sophia Orellana  
Mateo Ruiz

## TUBA

Jase Neisler

## PERCUSSION

Dominic Brinley  
Brian Tieman  
Itzel Nunez  
Dilan Leal  
Nathan Vanderhyden

## SAXOPHONE, PIANO,

Nicholas Lask

## MYSO 2025-2026 CONCERT SCHEDULE

<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2026</b> .....	6:15pm Alumni & Open Rehearsal Invitation
<b>Thursday, June 4, 2026</b> .....	6:30pm "Concerts on the Hill" Performance Joliet Bicentennial Park 201 W. Jefferson St, Joliet, IL



## PETER LIPARI MUSIC DIRECTOR

Music Director Peter Lipari is an accomplished conductor of musical groups in the United States and abroad. His lively styles of conducting and audience interaction win the hearts of musicians and concertgoers alike.

Maestro Lipari is the Director of Orchestras at Joliet Township High School. He is also the Music Director of the West Suburban Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Singers, and Festival Orchestra.

A musical leader of passion, initiative and vision, he has conducted orchestra, choral, opera, and musical theater performances by groups including:

- Chicago's Grant Park Orchestra, Rockford Symphony, L'Opera Piccola, Chicago Musical College & Light Opera Works
- St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, Eugene (Oregon) Opera & Ohio Light Opera
- Spoleto Festivals, both in Italy & the U.S.
- Bournemouth Sinfonietta, City of Southampton Orchestra, & London Mozart Players in England
- Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in Australia

Maestro Lipari is a passionate advocate for a symphony's involvement in the community, an enthusiastic proponent of contemporary music, and has led more than a dozen world and national premieres. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Illinois and a master's degree in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University. He also studied at the University of London as a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar, earning a post-graduate diploma in music.

## MYSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pam Nogal, *president*

Michael Gorcowski, *vice-president*

Devan Szopinski, *secretary*

Peter Lipari, *music director*

Audra Sybert, *executive director*

Jinane Chahine

Mike McFerron

Daniel Torsion

Melanie Brsan Villasenor

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS!

**Brian Baron** (*violin*) has been in MYSO for four seasons and graduates from Joliet Central High School. He will attend Illinois State University for Music Education to become a school music teacher while composing on the side. He will always remember the Bicentennial Park concerts, as they are the last concert of each season and show the culmination of the hard work and dedication put in throughout the year.

**Matthew Budde** (*violin*) is graduating from Joliet Junior College and has been a MYSO member for four years. He has plans to attend Governors State University to major in Theatre.

**Madeline Hobbs** (*viola*) has been in MYSO for four seasons and has been the principle violist for three years. She is graduating from Joliet Junior College.

**Jeremy Lannan** (*trumpet*) has been in MYSO for 8 years! He is graduating from Joliet Central High School, and will first attend Joliet Junior College before attending Illinois State University for psychology. He credits MYSO for teaching him how to properly open up and be himself around others without feeling anxiety about who he is.

**Nicholas Lask** (*piano, saxophone*) is attending Millikin University for music education upon graduation from Lincoln Way Central. In his one year in MYSO, his favorite memory "is getting the entire band to decipher and analyze my single sheet of music."

**Spencer Mendoza** (*trumpet*) is graduating from Joliet Central High School and has been a MYSO member for two seasons. Spencer plans to attend Worsham College of Mortuary Science, majoring in Funeral Directing. "Working with Stefan Smith was a fantastic learning opportunity, and in just two short days I learned so much about the capabilities of myself and MYSO as a whole."

**Liliana Mejia** (*cello*) plans to attend Morningside University in Iowa to major in chemistry and become an optometrist. She will continue her cello playing in the Sioux City Orchestra. She is graduating from Joliet West High School.

**Carmen Mora** (*violin*) has been a MYSO member for four years and will be graduating from Kolbe Academy Homeschool. This fall she will be attending Holy Apostles College (Connecticut), majoring in Sacred Art. Carmen enjoyed MYSO's recent Hollywood recording session experience as well as playing the Carmen suite twice.

**Itzel Nunez** (*percussion*) is an Illinois State Scholar graduating from Joliet Central High School, and is attending Northern Illinois University for child development. Itzel joined MYSO just a few months ago and most enjoyed the Hollywood performance and recording session opportunity.

**Rauri O'Hara** (*cello*) will be attending Knox College, double majoring in studio art and environmental studies. She has been a MYSO member throughout all four years at Joliet Central High School. Knox College, double majoring in studio art and environmental studies. Her favorite memories are always those made during breaks or moments before and after a concert giggling with my friends and discussing new music!

**Sophia Orellana** (*trombone*) has been a MYSO member for one season and is graduating from Plainfield South High School.

**Johnny Sever** (*cello*) plans to study mechanical engineering at the University of Central Florida upon graduation from Lincoln Way Central. He is an Illinois State Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, Summa Cum Laude. He has been in MYSO for four seasons and remembers the time Lipari accidentally stabbed himself with his baton!

**Miles Solita** (*flute*) is graduating from Joliet Junior College and has been in MYSO for four years. Miles will be attending the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign to pursue Electrical Engineering. Lipari accidentally throwing his baton into the orchestra remains at the top of his most memorable moments here in MYSO!

**Sam Vota** (*flute*) is attending Syracuse University to major in forensic sciences and minor in music. In his two years in MYSO, Sam is proud to have worked really hard with his flute section to listen and tune to each other, playing beautifully together and trusting all the musicians around him. He is graduating from Coal City High School.

# THE METROPOLITAN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

EXPRESSES OUR THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS WHO CONTRIBUTED THIS SEASON AS OF 4/12/26:

## MAESTRO'S CIRCLE \$1,000+

Anonymous  
 Cathy & Andy Bellos,  
*In Memory of Nicolette Bellos*  
 Pamela Breuning  
 Illinois Arts Council  
 Theresa Rouse

## BENEFACTORS \$500-\$999

Coffman Truck Sales  
 Michael Gorcowski  
 Susan Layon, Brett Stanwyck  
 & Julie Stanwyck  
 John Krol  
 Motorola  
 Warren Rost  
 Daniel Torson

## PATRONS \$250-\$499

Business Knowledge Systems  
 Culver's of Romeoville  
 Joel Kuehner  
 Mancke Family  
 Mary Smelser  
 Sever Family  
 Sybert Family  
 Rita Wise

## SPONSORS \$100-\$249

Confer Insurance Agency  
 D'Arcy Motors  
 Dennis Denton  
 Edward Jones  
 Heartland Bank &  
 Trust Company  
 Stacie Hobbs  
 Hoch Family  
 Jeffrey Howell  
 Mary McDonald  
 Pam & Roger Nogal  
 Judith Sandberg  
 Lawrence Sisk  
 Devan Szopinski  
 Melanie Brsan Villasenor  
 Ann Wise

## DONORS \$50-\$99

Annette Conroy  
 Franzen Family  
 Marilyn Mundt  
 NAMI of Will-Grundy

## SUPPORTERS \$25 TO \$49

iGive  
 Holly Keenon  
 Sarai Luna  
 Margaret Martinek  
 Glenda Melendez  
 Elena Ramon  
 Marianne Roszyk  
 Donald Stinson  
 Wise Family  
 Terese Zintak

## GIFTS IN KIND TO MYSO

Joliet Junior College ..... Concert Host  
 Lewis University & LU Music Department ..... Concert live-streams,  
 and Hosts of rehearsal site, storage & concerts  
 Alby Odum ..... Hollywood Event Audio Engineer



## DAY CAMP

July 27-31, 2026

9:30am-5pm

The Girls Create Music Camp brings approximately twenty aspiring musicians who identify as female (grades 8-12) to Lewis University, free of charge, for a week of learning about songwriting, music production, and recording techniques. Working collaboratively with professional musicians, students will create, record, and produce original music. Campers will also develop basic music theory skills and learn about the contributions of women to popular music and culture of the 20th and 21st centuries.

A substantial gender imbalance exists in the music industry. A research study published in 2020 by the USC Annenberg Foundation reported that 12.5% of songwriters and only

2.6% of producers were women.<sup>1</sup> In the study, researchers found that one of the core drivers of gender inequality in the music industry is lack of access to educational resources. The aim of the Girls Create Music Camp is to contribute to the ongoing efforts to address gender disparity in the music industry by providing arts education that emphasizes representation and inclusivity.

This camp is free. Lunch, snacks, & T-shirt provided.  
For all students, grades 8-12, who identify as female.



For more information and to apply visit [www.lewisu.edu/music/girlscreatemusic.php](http://www.lewisu.edu/music/girlscreatemusic.php)

We acknowledge the Land on which we stand and occupy today as the original home of many past Indigenous peoples—most recently the Illini, Potawatomi, Ojibwa, Odawa, Sauk, Fox, and Miami and acknowledge Indigenous understanding of and reverence for the land and its resources, and the respect Indigenous people have shown towards all life upon it. We acknowledge the history of racism and displacement of these peoples from their homelands, the disrespect for traditional cultures, and the extreme hardship Native and Non-Native Americans have endured on the road to recovering their cultures spiritually, physically, and economically. As an institution of higher learning, it is our duty to remind future generations the debt we owe to the original stewards of this continent.



Arts&Ideas Lewis programming is made possible by generous support from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, Arts Midwest, and the Illinois Humanities.

Visit [luartsandideas.org](http://luartsandideas.org) for details to these & all of the great Arts&Ideas events.