

# **RESPONSIBILITIES**

## Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra 2026 - 2027

**Membership Definition:** Performing members are those students accepted into the orchestra by audition to perform in the orchestra, with a minimum age of 12. Any student of Lewis University or Joliet Junior College up to the age of 24 may audition.

**Credit Seeking Members:** Lewis University and Joliet Junior College students must register for University Orchestra each semester. Credit seeking students are not required to pay audition or membership fees, but must be registered for the credit-granting class through Lewis University or JJC. Speak to your advisor for more information.

- I. **Financial Obligations – adopted by MYSO 11-18-2016**
  - A. Membership fees are \$390.00 per member. Families with more than one child in the orchestra will have a discount for each child in the orchestra. \$365.00 for the second child; \$340.00 for the third child and a discount of \$25.00 for each additional child. Fees are due by the third rehearsal. There is a \$25.00 late fee if the fees are late unless arrangements are made with the Executive Director.
  - B. Tickets – Members are expected to encourage family and community attendance for each concert, as ticket sales account for a large percentage of our nonprofit revenue.
  - C. Fees and Ticket requirements for those musicians joining MYSO after the first concerts of the season are as follows:
    1. Member joining after the first set of concerts:  
\$260.00 membership fee
    2. Member joining after the second set of concerts:  
\$130.00 membership fee
  - D. Auditions: All new and returning musicians must pay a \$25.00 non-refundable audition fee. College credit-seeking members are exempt.
  - E. Seating deposits.  
All seating deposits of \$25.00 need to be handed in by June 1<sup>st</sup>.  
The seating deposit tells MYSO that you will be returning to the orchestra the following season. If you do not make a seating deposit on or before June 1<sup>st</sup> then you are welcome to re-audition for MYSO but you will be in the pool of all others auditioning. The seating deposit is applied to your membership fees for the coming season. All returning musicians re-audition for chair placement.

- F. If a check is returned for insufficient funds the payer is responsible for all charges incurred for MYSO.
- G. Once a musician has been accepted and has committed to the season there will be no refunds given. (adopted by MYSO board 6-27-16)
- H. High school or home schooled students who play in MYSO, must pay MYSO dues and cannot avoid doing so by enrolling for MYSO at Joliet Junior College.

## II. Attendance

- A. Attendance is mandatory for rehearsals, concerts, and sectionals. Rehearsals are held in Borromeo Convocation Hall at Lewis University on Wednesday from 6:15 PM until 8:45 PM.
- B. **Three absences during a season is reason for dismissal from the orchestra. (adopted by MYSO board 5-23-11)**
- C. Musicians are expected to be prompt. All members should allow enough time to warm-up, tune, and be ready to play at the scheduled rehearsal time. Bring all necessary equipment and accessories - mutes, reeds, extra strings.
- D. All musicians are important to the orchestra. When a musician is accepted by audition into the orchestra s/he makes a commitment to attend all rehearsals and all performances. If a musician has a conflict with a performance s/he must notify the music director and the executive director before the first rehearsal of the concert cycle.
- E. **Musicians that miss a concert without notifying the Executive Director by the first rehearsal of a concert cycle (dates stated above) may be suspended from the orchestra.**
- F. Letters of recommendation will be limited to seniors applying to college. The music director will not write a letter of recommendation for anyone who has missed a MYSO concert.

## III. Responsibilities at Rehearsals

- A. Help with the set-up and breakdown at each function. Our rehearsal/concert site should be left as we found it.
- B. String bass players and percussion players are responsible for obtaining necessary instruments from the storage area and returning them after rehearsal.
- C. All members need to practice their music during the week between rehearsals. Private study is strongly recommended.

- D. Bring a pencil with at all times (no pens).
- E. Conduct becoming young professionals is expected during the rehearsals. Disruptive behavior is a detriment to the whole orchestra.
- F. Do not leave the function site at any time, including breaks, until excused.

#### IV. Music

- A. Individual parts will be assigned to each player.
- B. There should be no permanent marks added to the music.
- C. All folders are collected after the last concert in a concert cycle. The music is to be returned in order and in the original folder with the musician's name on it.
- D. There will be a charge of \$5.00 for any music that needs to be copied at rehearsal. If an entire folder is lost or not handed in after the last concert in a set there will be a \$30.00 charge for the music.
- E. Any problems with your music should be directed to the librarian.

#### V. Concert Dress

- A. The following attire is acceptable for performances: Long black dress with sleeves, black suit, black tux and white shirt, black bow tie, black dress socks, stockings, black shoes. Hair ornamentation and jewelry should be minimal.

#### VI. Section Leaders

- A. Should have complete command of their parts by the third rehearsal.
- B. Give instructions on fingerings, technique, phrasing and bowing to members of their sections.
- C. Check with the music director if there are questions about markings or bowings.
- D. Help your section maintain professional conduct.
- E. If a situation arises that you feel you cannot handle notify the Music Director who will help you handle the situation.

#### VII. Solo Concerto/Original Composition Competition (adopted by MYSO board 6-27-16)

- A. Original Composition Competition takes place every other year and will resume during the '27-'28 season. Compositions can be submitted at [MusicAvatar.org](http://MusicAvatar.org) during submission dates.
- B. Solo Concerto Competition will take place during the '26-'27 season and will continue to be held every other year.
  1. Submission Deadline: interested musicians need to fill out the Concerto Competition form and remit a \$25 non-refundable fee to Mrs. Sybert by the end of October.

2. Audition Video Deadline: Concerto Competition Auditions need to be submitted by November 8.
3. Concerto Concert Date: the winning Concerto Soloist will play their piece with the orchestra at a spring 2027 concert.
4. Rules

Only current members of the orchestra may audition.  
Members are welcome to audition as a vocalist, pianist, or on another instrument that they are not playing in MYSO.  
The winner of the previous year is not eligible.  
Members may only audition with one work per year for each category – one solo entry and one composition entry.  
Membership fees to the orchestra must be paid in full before the audition.  
Musicians must remit a \$25 non-refundable audition fee two weeks prior to audition.  
Auditioning does not guarantee a concert performance with MYSO. In rare cases, the adjudication panel may not choose a winner.
5. Concerto Requirements

The concerto must be pre-approved by the Music director prior to the audition and before submitting the audition form.  
The composition must have an orchestral accompaniment.  
Please note that if the piece is not currently in the MYSO music library and the rental fee is more than \$250.00 it will be the obligation of the Concerto winner to cover the difference for the rental.  
Musicians must complete the audition form and pay the non-refundable \$25 audition fee at least two weeks prior of the audition.  
The music needs to be memorized for the audition.  
Although an accompanist is not required for the audition, it is highly recommended. Please note that the auditionee will be responsible for arranging and compensating the accompanist.

## VIII. Parent Association

- A. Parent meetings are scheduled in September and April.
- B. Parent involvement is necessary for the continued success of MYSO.

## IX. General Information

- A. If weather conditions or other emergency deem it necessary to cancel a rehearsal all musicians will be notified as soon as possible. It is advisable to check your email before leaving home for rehearsal each week.
- B. Directions to all concert venues will be available on the website and at rehearsals.

- C. The website is the most reliable source for new information to the members and should be checked regularly.

X. **Mandatory Rehearsals**

- A. Each MYSO musician is an important part of the orchestra. The absence of any one musician from a concert diminishes the entire group's performance. We therefore ask that each musician, and all parents, understand the importance of attendance at each of our scheduled performances.
- B. Attendance at the final rehearsal just prior to a concert is also crucial. Any excused absences from a concert or mandatory rehearsal are at the discretion of the music director.

XI. **Snack Shop**

We ask that parents donate items to the snack shop – candy, soda, water, and individually wrapped snacks. Every item is sold for a “donate/pay what you wish” price and all proceeds from the snack shop are used for the annual pizza party and reception after the May concert. The snack shop gives the musicians a chance to grab a snack and socialize during break at rehearsal.