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CHIME MASTER TEACHING ARTIST

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Olivia Cox

Michael Dee  
Cathy Gatta  
Teresa Gatta Norton  
Amarie King  
Rachel Hill  
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Matthew Martell  
Bridie Schnore

Nicholaus Smith  
Susan Wheeler  
Cante Yacobellis  
SITE MANAGERS

Nyasia Darby  
Lin Polster
Welcome to Empire State Youth Orchestra!

Welcome to the 2019-2020 ESYO Season! Please use this handbook to locate important information.

If you have any questions at any time that are not answered in this handbook, please contact your orchestra or ensemble manager for assistance. You may also reach out to ESYO’s Operations Director, Sue Lascoe, for help at slascoe@esyo.org.

Here’s to a wonderful season of music-making and learning.

Abbe Kovacik   Rebecca Calos   Carlos Ágreda  
Chair, ESYO Board of Directors  Executive Director  Music Director

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CODE OF CONDUCT

At all ESYO rehearsals, concerts, and events, you are expected to maintain a standard of conduct that will be a credit to yourself, your parents, school, and community, and that will contribute to the atmosphere of serious work and musical excellence that distinguishes ESYO.

All members of any ESYO group, and the adults who work with them, must be respectful to, and supportive of, one another. Harassment, sexual harassment, and bullying will not be tolerated. These behaviors may include actions or statements that are designed to disturb or upset others, may be repetitive, and are often distinguished by issues of power and control. Youth or adults in ESYO experiencing or observing such behavior should report it to the ensemble manager or conductor immediately.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Start Time: You are expected to be in your seat, ready to play, at least 10 minutes before the downbeat for rehearsals, warm-ups, and concerts. If your rehearsal starts at 7:00pm and you are “on time,” then you are in your seat and ready to go at 6:50pm! You are tardy if you arrive at the same time that rehearsal is starting.

Commitment: ESYO is committed to providing its members the opportunity to rehearse and perform with a full ensemble. This, in turn, requires the commitment of each member to prepare, practice and to be present. If a member is absent, or is not prepared, the entire ensemble is adversely impacted. Please carefully review the absence policy outlined below. Any violation of this policy will result in the member being placed on probation. Consequences of probation are at the discretion of the conductor. A member’s probationary status will be considered during the next applicable audition process.

CONFLICTS (Potential or known)

• Before the first rehearsal, and during the season, please continually check your calendar and notify your manager or conductor immediately of any potential or actual conflicts.

• Notice must be in writing – by email or absence form, as per the requirements of your ensemble.
ABSENCE & TARDINESS POLICY
Violations to the Absence & Tardiness Policy will result in a member being placed on probation.

Written Notification: Before the first rehearsal, and during the season, please continually check your calendar and notify your manager or conductor immediately of any potential or actual conflicts.

Notification MUST be received in writing within one week of the start of a concert cycle. Failure to notify in writing will result in probation.

- Two excused absences are allowed per concert period;
- Only one excused absence may be in the three (3) weeks prior to a concert. (All ensembles except ESYO Symphony);
- NO absences are allowed in the two weeks prior to an ESYO Symphony concert;
- No absences are allowed from mandatory rehearsals, dress rehearsals, warm-ups or concerts;
- College visitations, proms and balls are NOT excused absences.
- Habitual tardiness is not acceptable;
- Mandatory music-related school events take precedence over ESYO events, but a member MUST notify the manager of any conflicts, in writing, within one week of the start of a concert cycle;
- Being in the pit for your school musical is excused; being an actor in the musical is NOT excused.

PROBATION
Consequences for being placed on probation may include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Reseating;
- Being placed on suspension;
- Dismissal for the remainder of the season;
- Levying of a fine to cover ESYO's costs for hiring a replacement musician.
BEHAVIOR POLICY

ZERO-TOLERANCE

ESYO will not tolerate the use, possession, sale, or giving away of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs, or the use or possession of any firearm or other weapon at any ESYO rehearsal, warm-up, performance or other ESYO activity. Bullying or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. Students found bullying or harassing other students are subject to interview and possible expulsion from ESYO without refund. Report any suspicious activity at ESYO events to your ensemble manager.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

• Cell phone use for any purpose is not allowed during rehearsals, warm-ups, or concerts;
• Chewing gum or eating in rehearsal or performance areas is not allowed.

CONSEQUENCES FOR BEHAVIOR VIOLATIONS

Consequences for behavioral violations may include (but are not necessarily limited to):

• Being placed on immediate suspension by the musician's manager or conductor;
• Dismissal for the remainder of the season;
• Not being allowed to audition for the upcoming season.

Decisions about consequences may be appealed to the Review Committee of the ESYO Board of Directors. In the case of suspension or dismissal, the musician/family is still responsible for the payment of any outstanding tuition to ESYO.
MUSIC DISTRIBUTION & COLLECTION

Music will be sent to members of ESYO Symphony, Repertory, String, & Wind Orchestras in August. All others will receive their music at the first rehearsals in September. Please work on your music as soon as it is received.

Music folders are provided to each ESYO musician, courtesy of John Keal Music. It is the musician's responsibility to take good care of his/her music.

Music will be collected at the end of each concert period per the instructions of the manager or conductor.

PRACTICE/PRIVATE LESSONS/MUSIC QUESTIONS

All ESYO musicians are expected to take regularly scheduled private music lessons on their primary instrument to support the level of playing in their ESYO ensemble. If you need help finding a private teacher, please visit our online directory.

Please work on your ESYO music with your private teacher and, as necessary, ask questions of the Principal Player in your section or your conductor.

PREPAREDNESS REVIEW FOR STRING PLAYERS

For Symphony, Repertory, and String Orchestras: During each concert preparation period for Symphony and Repertory Orchestras, and mid-season for String Orchestra, preparedness reviews for string players will be held to determine whether you have adequately prepared your music for the upcoming concert. Players who are unprepared will be expected to play for their conductor at a subsequent rehearsal and may not be permitted to play in the concert. Being unprepared more than once may jeopardize your continued participation in ESYO. Players who miss a preparedness review for any reason will play for the conductor at the next scheduled rehearsal to determine preparedness.
STRING SEATING ASSIGNMENTS

All seating is at the discretion of the conductor, who will seat players in an order that will result in a strong and balanced section. With the exception of principal seats, a player’s seat assignment may be in the front, middle, or back, regardless of the musician’s ability or performance during the preparedness review.

PART ASSIGNMENTS FOR BRASS & WOODWINDS

Brass and woodwind players in both Symphony and Repertory Orchestras will be heard by their conductors in the late summer before the first rehearsal. Part assignments are made after these sessions.

Brass and woodwind players in Wind Orchestra will be heard by the conductor in Sept. to determine part assignments. Players will be recorded mid-season for the conductor to evaluate seating assignments.

PART ASSIGNMENTS FOR PERCUSSION

Principal timpani and principal percussion seats are assigned based on the results of June auditions.

PRINCIPAL PLAYERS RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of Principal Players include:

• Setting an example of preparation, promptness, and attentiveness for the section;
• Noting trouble spots in the music and bringing that to the attention of sectional coaches;
• Calling for silence if necessary during a rehearsal;
• Notifying section members of schedule changes;
• **String Principal Players**: be sure the section plays all bowings as marked, and convey bowing changes or additions to the entire section;
• **Percussion Principal Players**: assign parts and coordinate instruments for rehearsals and concerts.
PAYMENT PLANS & TUITION ASSISTANCE

ESYO is committed to ensuring that all musicians who successfully audition for ESYO ensembles are able to participate, regardless of financial considerations. Payment plans are available. Musicians may apply for need-based tuition assistance by completing and submitting an application. Applications are due by July 26. Musicians receiving tuition assistance may be asked to help their Managers or Conductors, which may include but is not limited to setting up/taking down chairs and stands before/after rehearsals and concerts.


TUITION RATES

Rates published here are for the 2019-20 season. Please read the following, and then for all tuition related questions, please contact Lisa Stulmaker, Finance Director, at lstulmaker@esyo.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuition Level</th>
<th>Tuition Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symphony Orchestra (Including Tour)</td>
<td>$4,950⁺</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symphony Orchestra (Not Including Tour)</td>
<td>$1,150⁺</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repertory Orchestra</td>
<td>$1,050⁺</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind Orchestra</td>
<td>$650</td>
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<tr>
<td>String Orchestra</td>
<td>$650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Jazz Orchestra</td>
<td>$600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repertory Jazz Orchestra</td>
<td>$600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Percussion Ensemble</td>
<td>$700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repertory Percussion Ensemble</td>
<td>$680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamber Percussion Ensemble</td>
<td>$680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concertino Strings</td>
<td>$550</td>
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* Symphony & Repertory Orchestra tuition includes the cost of the Frost Valley Weekend Retreat.

DISCOUNTS

A discount of $50 per tuition is available for multiple tuitions in one family (e.g., more than one musician in ESYO) OR membership by one musician in two or more ensembles.
Payment Plan Options

Option A- One (1) Payment Plan
Balance of all tuition due on July 15. Payment Options: check, credit card*.

Option B- Three (3) Payment Plan
Non-refundable deposit due July 15. Balance to be paid in three (3) installments on the 15th of each month.

Option C – Five (5) Payment Plan
Non-refundable deposit due July 15. Balance to be paid in five (5) installments on the 15th of each month.

Option D – Ten (10) Payment Plan
Non-refundable deposit of $200 due July 15. Balance to be paid in ten (10) installments on the 15th of each month, August – May.

* A 2.5% processing fee is associated with all credit card payments.

REFUND POLICY

If you have to resign from ESYO, tuition will be refunded as follows:

• If your tuition is paid in full and you are leaving
  • before the first rehearsal, you will receive:
    • Tuition paid less the $200 non-refundable deposit = refund;
    • between your ensemble’s first rehearsal and Nov. 1, you will receive
      • Tuition paid less the $200 non-refundable deposit) x 50% = refund;
  • after Nov. 1, there is no refund.

• If you are on a payment plan and you are leaving
  • before the first rehearsal, you will receive:
    • Tuition paid to date less the $200 non-refundable deposit = refund;
  • after your ensemble’s first rehearsal there is no refund.

If you are suspended or dismissed from ESYO there is no refund.
After receiving an invitation to join an ESYO ensemble (based on your audition result) you must complete four steps to confirm your membership:

1. Read the ESYO Membership Handbook;
2. Complete the online registration form by July 15;
3. Complete and mail the Consent Forms by August 1;
4. Pay the $200 non-refundable deposit by July 15 or submit a Financial Aid form by July 26.

ESYO Administrative Office

Rebecca Calos
Executive Director
rcalos@esyo.org

Lisa Stulmaker
Finance Director
lstulmaker@esyo.org

Sue Lascoe
Operations Director & Repertory Orchestra Manager
slascoe@esyo.org

Andrea Restrepo
Operations Assistant, Symphony Orchestra and String Orchestra Manager, & Librarian
arestrepo@esyo.org

Anne-Marie Gorman Doyle
Donor Engagement Manager
amgormandoyle@esyo.org

Rosalie Phan
Marketing & Publications Manager
rphan@esyo.org

Jared Shortmeier
CHIME Administrative Director
jshortmeier@esyo.org

Alexandra Carella-Delfino
CHIME Education Manager
acarella-delfino@esyo.org
ESYO Conductors & Orchestra Managers

**Symphony Orchestra**
Conductor: Carlos Ágreda
cagreda@esyo.org
Manager: Andrea Restrepo
arestrepo@esyo.org

**Repertory Orchestra**
Conductor: David Beck
dbeck@esyo.org
Manager: Sue Lascoe
slascoe@esyo.org

**String Orchestra**
Conductor: Joseph Gumpper
jgumpper@esyo.org
Manager: Andrea Restrepo
arestrepo@esyo.org

**Wind Orchestra**
Conductor: Bob Hansbrough
bhansbrough@esyo.org
Parent Manager:
Lisa Rittner – esyowinds@esyo.org
Student Manager:
Eugene Lorini – esyowinds@esyo.org

**Youth Jazz Orchestra**
Conductor: Lee Russo
lrusso@esyo.org

**Repertory Jazz Orchestra**
Conductor: David Fisk
dfisk@esyo.org

**Percussion Ensembles Coordinator**
Beth Antonio
bantonio@esyo.org

**Youth Percussion Ensemble**
Conductors:
Richard Albagli
ralbagli@albany.edu
Mark Foster
mfoster2@me.com

**Repertory Percussion Ensemble**
Conductors:
Richard Albagli
ralbagli@albany.edu
John Antonio
jantonio@esyo.org

**Chamber Percussion Ensemble**
Conductor: Genoveffa Vitale
gvitale@esyo.org

**Concertino Strings**
Conductor: Leo Milman
lmilman@esyo.org
Manager: Nancy Calhoun
concertinostrings@esyo.org
E-MAIL – OUR PRIMARY METHOD OF COMMUNICATION TO YOU

Please be sure that we have current emails for both musicians and parents/guardians. During the course of the season, you’ll receive emails from conductors, managers, office staff, and “ESYO.” Please do not unsubscribe! The emails contain pertinent information about your specific ensembles as well as info from other arts organizations including offers of discount/free tickets. If you notice you are not receiving regular emails, please contact an ESYO staff member.

TEXT MESSAGE NOTIFICATIONS

We request your cell number after acceptance into an ensemble along with your permission to communicate via text. This method of communication will only be used to get information out quickly to a large group of ESYO families (i.e. last minute cancellations, etc.). Please see the Consent Forms for additional information.

CARPOOL LIST

Each fall, ESYO will provide upon request a carpool list to all musicians/parents and guardians in order to allow musicians and parents to communicate with each other to arrange carpools, plan chamber group or combo rehearsals, etc. You may choose to be included in the list upon completing the Consent Forms.
Who do you contact with questions about . . .?

Absences, Rehearsal & Concert Schedules or Concert Dress Code:

Symphony Orchestra – arestrepo@esyo.org
Repertory Orchestra – slascoe@esyo.org
Wind Orchestra – esyowinds@esyo.org
String Orchestra – arestrepo@esyo.org
Youth Jazz Orchestra – lrusso@esyo.org
Repertory Jazz Orchestra – dfisk@esyo.org
Youth Percussion Ensemble – ralbagli@albany.edu
Repertory Percussion Ensemble – jantonio@esyo.org
Chamber Percussion Ensemble – gvitale@esyo.org
Concertino Strings – concertinostrings@esyo.org

Rehearsal/Concert Cancellations

Rehearsal and concert cancellations due to weather or other emergencies will be posted on our website ESYO.ORG, our Facebook page, and, if time permits, the School Closings Network carried by most television outlets in our region. You will also receive an email notification and text notification if you opt-in.

Please plan to stay home if driving conditions are unsafe where you live even if the rehearsal has not been cancelled. Simply notify your manager or conductor – this will not be counted as an absence.

Tuition/Payment Plans

Contact Lisa Stulmaker, Finance Director – lstulmaker@esyo.org or 518.382.7581
REHEARSAL & CONCERT SCHEDULES

Detailed schedules for all ESYO ensembles for both Rehearsals and Concerts can be found online. Please check your ensemble’s schedule for conflicts and inform your manager and/or conductor about these conflicts as soon as possible. Directions to Rehearsal and Concert Venues can be found online.

REHEARSAL LOCATION AND TIMES

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Tuesdays, 7:00 – 10:00 pm, Brown School, Schenectady

REPERTORY ORCHESTRA
Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:30 pm, Brown School, Schenectady

WIND ORCHESTRA
Sundays, 2:00 – 4:00 pm (4:00-4:30pm Brass or Woodwind Choir)
Massry Center, The College of Saint Rose, Albany

STRING ORCHESTRA
Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm, Brown School, Schenectady

YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA
Mondays, 6:15-8:15pm, Band Room, Guilderland High School

REPERTORY JAZZ ORCHESTRA
Mondays, 6:15-8:15pm, Niskayuna High School

YOUTH PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
Tuesdays, 4:15 – 6:15 pm, Brown School, Schenectady

REPERTORY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
Sundays, 5:45 – 8:00 pm, Brown School, Schenectady

CHAMBER PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
Sundays, 3:30 – 5:45 pm, Brown School, Schenectady

CONCERTINO STRINGS
Sundays, 4:30-6:00pm, The Addy (3rd Floor) at Proctors, Schenectady
**DRESS CODE**

ESYO Musicians are required to wear clothing that is professional in appearance following the specifications detailed below. **Managers and conductors are authorized to prohibit your participation in a concert if you are improperly attired.**

**SYMPHONY & REPERTORY ORCHESTRA CONCERT DRESS**

**All students wear ALL BLACK:**
- Top: Long-sleeved (at least 3/4 length), solid black dress shirt with collar OR floor- or ankle-length long-sleeved black dress;
- Bottom: Floor- or ankle-length black skirt OR black dress slacks (not form-fitting);

**Option A:**
- Ankle/floor-length, dressy black skirt (no revealing slits) OR loose-fitting, long black dress pants; (no leggings, jeggings, jeans, or other casual fitted pants);
- Dressy white blouse (any sleeve length or shell);
- Solid (opaque) black stockings or tights;
- Black dress shoes (flats or low heel).

**Option B:**
- Black socks or tights (at least mid-calf height, no bare legs or feet);
- Black dress shoes (no open toes or sandals);
- ESYO tie/scarf (available for purchase at the beginning of the season).

**WIND ORCHESTRA & STRING ORCHESTRA CONCERT DRESS**

**Option A:**
- Black dress pants;
- White dress shirt;
- Black bow tie (available for purchase at the beginning of the season);
- Black socks;
- Black dress shoes.

**Option B:**
- Black dress pants;
CONCERTINO STRINGS CONCERT DRESS

Option A:
- Ankle/floor-length, dressy black skirt (no revealing slits) OR loose-fitting, long black dress pants (no leggings, jeggings, jeans, or other casual fitted pants);
- Dressy white blouse (any sleeve length or shell);
- Solid (opaque) black stockings or tights;
- Black dress shoes (flats or low heel).

Option B:
- Black dress pants;
- White dress shirt;
- Black socks;
- Black dress shoes.

**At discretion of conductors, percussion ensembles may be directed to wear white blouses.

ALL JAZZ & PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES CONCERT DRESS

Option A:
- Ankle/floor-length, dressy black skirt (no revealing slits) OR loose-fitting, long, black dress pants (no leggings, jeggings, jeans, or other casual fitted pants);
- Dressy black blouse (any sleeve length or shell)**;
- Solid (opaque) black stockings or tights;
- Black dress shoes (flats or low heel).

Option B:
- Black dress pants;
- Black dress shirt**;
- Black socks;
- Black dress shoes.

**At discretion of conductors, percussion ensembles may be directed to wear white shirts and/or ties.

REHEARSALS

All musicians are expected to dress properly and present a neat and clean personal appearance at rehearsals and any ESYO events not requiring concert dress.

MISCELLANEOUS

The concert dress code may be adjusted for weather conditions or any unusual circumstances at the discretion of the conductor or manager.
Concert tickets are available about one month before the concert date. You will be notified as to how and when tickets are being sold.

**SPECIAL TICKET OFFERS FOR ESYO-PRODUCED CONCERTS**

**ACCESS ESYO**

Access ESYO allows for the purchase of concert tickets for as little as $1 per seat, and is sustained through an ongoing “pay it forward” campaign that invites donors to contribute the “gift of music” to our online ACCESS ESYO ticket bank.

**BRING A FRIEND**

To help develop new audiences for ESYO and to expose more young people to music, an ESYO player may receive one complimentary student ticket to a concert in which he or she is performing to give to a friend who has never attended an ESYO concert. Contact the ESYO office for your Bring-a-Friend ticket.

**MEMBER COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS**

All current ESYO musicians may attend performances by other ESYO ensembles free of charge. Parents and other non-ESYO family members must pay for tickets.

**MUSIC TEACHER COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS**

Your school and private music teachers may have two complimentary tickets for any ESYO-produced concert. Please invite them to attend your concerts! Teachers may order these tickets by calling the ESYO office before the day of the concert (If the concert is on a weekend, teachers should call before 4pm on the Friday before the concert).

**RESTRICTIONS**

*Bring-a-Friend*, member complimentary tickets, and teacher complimentary tickets are not available for “Melodies of Christmas” performances, or any non-ESYO produced event.
Frost Valley is a required rehearsal retreat weekend for musicians in ESYO’s Symphony and Repertory Orchestras and is held at the Frost Valley YMCA Camp in the Catskill Mountains. The weekend consists of three (3) full orchestra rehearsals and two (2) sectional rehearsals – the equivalent of more than a month of weekly rehearsals. In addition to music training, Frost Valley gives orchestra members a chance to get to know each other and the ESYO staff.

Members of the Symphony and Repertory Orchestras are required to attend; there is a section for Frost Valley in the online Member’s Registration Form that should be completed by all members of the Symphony and Repertory Orchestras. Questions about attendance and alternative travel arrangements should be directed immediately to Sue Lascoe, Operations Director & Repertory Orchestra Manager: slascoe@esyo.org or (518) 382-7581.

DATES: FROST VALLEY 2019 – scheduled for September 6-8, 2019

- Friday, September 6, 2019 – 3:30 pm – drop off musicians at Brown School, 150 Corlaer Ave., Schenectady, NY; buses will depart promptly at 4:00 pm;
- Sunday, September 8, 2019 – 2:45 pm – pick up musicians at Brown School (buses will depart Frost Valley at 12:45 pm).

STAFF & CHAPERONES

Frost Valley staff members are well trained and know our needs. We also have a staff of chaperones attuned to the needs of both teenagers and the younger musicians on the trip. Musicians will be supervised at all times.

HOUSING

Musicians bring their own sleeping bags and sleep indoors on bunks in comfortable lodges, all of which have indoor plumbing and hot water. Chaperones sleep in the same lodges as the musicians, but in separate rooms. Lodge/room assignments are made primarily based on the musicians’ ages. Musicians may request a roommate (through the online registration process) and we will try to meet that request.
ACTIVITIES

Musicians will be able to choose from a wide-range of recreational activities during the rehearsal breaks. All musicians should be prepared for lots of walking to and from lodges and rehearsal spaces.

HEALTH CONCERNS

Please note any health concerns/medical conditions on the Consent Forms due by August 1 for Symphony and Repertory Orchestras. Please contact Sue Lascoe regarding any specific issues at slascoe@esyo.org or (518) 382-7581.

FOOD

Musicians must bring a “bag” dinner to eat on the bus Friday evening; all other meals will be provided. Special diets can be accommodated; notify us about special diets on the online registration form.

WHAT TO BRING

You’ll receive detailed information about this as the retreat date approaches.

CONCERTO COMPETITION
(SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ONLY)

ESYO’s Lois Lyman Concerto Competition was named in memory of an area violinist, teacher, and ESYO co-founder, and is open only to members of the Symphony Orchestra in good standing. The competition is held each season, and the winner performs as a soloist with the Symphony Orchestra at one of its concerts. At the discretion of the Conductor for the Repertory Orchestra, the runner-up may perform with that group.

To enter the competition, you must first have your choice of repertoire approved by the Music Director and, once approval has been received, you must submit an online application.

Guidelines and application can be found online.
MELODIES OF CHRISTMAS

Melodies of Christmas is an annual, televised holiday show featuring ESYO’s Symphony Orchestra and Chorale. Produced by CBS 6/Albany and sponsored by Freihofer’s and Price Chopper to benefit the pediatric oncology program at Albany Medical Center, the four Melodies concerts attract a total audience of over 10,000 each year. The show is taped for broadcast on CBS 6/Albany (WRGB) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. As of December 2014, ESYO has helped raise more than $8 million for the program.

MELODIES OF CHRISTMAS CHORALE-PARTICIPATION BY ESYO MUSICIANS

The Melodies Chorale is comprised of highly talented singers in grades 10 -12. Chorale auditions are held in June. The Chorale rehearses on Tuesday evenings in October, November, and early December. Members of ESYO’s Symphony and Repertory Orchestras may not participate in the Chorale because their respective rehearsals conflict with Chorale rehearsals.

TICKETS FOR MELODIES CONCERTS

Tickets for the Melodies concerts are sold by ESYO only to Symphony Orchestra families during the month of October – before they go on sale to the general public. The Chorale can buy tickets in October directly from Proctors Box Office. Information about ticket sales is posted in the rehearsal newsletter.
BARRY RICHMAN CAREERS IN MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP
Named in honor of ESYO's founder and the funder of this award, the Barry Richman Careers in Music Scholarship is awarded at the end of each season to a graduating senior from any ESYO ensemble who best exemplifies the values and goals of ESYO, serves as role model to his/her peers, has made outstanding musical contributions, and plans a career in music. A recommendation from the applicant's music teacher is required. It is a $1000 award. The winner is announced before the season ends. Application information will be announced in the spring.

THE HELEN CHA-PYOO BATON AWARD
This $1500 award is given each spring to a senior who embodies former Music Director Helen Cha-Pyoo's passionate commitment to music as a means to uplift and enrich the community. Application information will be announced in the spring.

NEEDS-BASED FINANCIAL AID

Alfred Z. Solomon Scholarship Fund
The Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust believes, as do we, that no one should be denied the opportunity to pursue a talent because of economic hardship. These scholarships help safeguard ESYO's longstanding commitment to grant any qualified musician the assistance they need to become a member. Any eligible ESYO musician may apply through the general Financial Aid form.

Suzanne D. Lake Scholarship
This scholarship honors Suzanne Lake's role as one of ESYO's founders, and her decades of service to young musicians. This needs-based award favors a rising senior demonstrating a commitment to the serious pursuit of music. Any eligible ESYO Symphony Orchestra musician may apply through the general Financial Aid form.

The Harmony in Music Scholarship
Established by the Kolodziej and Resta Family
This scholarship supports the musical aspirations of talented young players who demonstrate financial need. In recognition of the challenge faced by larger families to afford enriching opportunities for all their children equally, this award favors applicants seeking to enroll more than one child in Empire State Youth Orchestra. Any eligible ESYO Symphony Orchestra musician may apply through the general Financial Aid form.
The Richard Albagli Scholarships

*Established by the Chang, Harris & Provancher Families*

These scholarships honor Richard Albagli’s more than thirty years of service to ESYO as percussion conductor, his deep commitment to music education and his compassion for others. These awards favor percussion applicants. Any eligible ESYO Symphony Orchestra musician may apply through the general Financial Aid form.

Summer Enrichment Awards

*Established in honor of Kathy Gallagher*

These needs-based awards range from $500-$1000, and are to be used for summer programs, private lessons, and instrument purchase or repair. Application information will be announced in the spring.

The Niskayuna Community Foundation

This grant is specifically targeted to musicians with financial need living in Niskayuna. Any eligible ESYO Symphony Orchestra musician may apply through the general Financial Aid form.

The Helen Cha-Pyo Scholarship Fund

This scholarship provides private music instruction and quality instruments for those musicians demonstrating financial need, specifically targeting CHIME students who have successfully matriculated into competitive ESYO performing groups, but require additional support to achieve at the highest level. Any eligible ESYO Symphony Orchestra musician may apply through the general Financial Aid form.

The Accelerator Scholarships

These needs-based scholarships honor Roger Hannay’s unwavering desire to help those in need who are also willing to help themselves. These awards favor returning ESYO musicians who have been accepted into a more advanced ensemble and who reflect Roger’s grit, determination and dedication to hard work.
FUNDRAISING EXPECTATIONS
FOR ALL MUSICIANS

To keep ESYO accessible/affordable for most young musicians, the tuition we charge only covers about 40% of the full cost of the program. To help offset this short fall, ESYO holds fundraising activities to generate financial support and help spread the word about ESYO. ESYO musicians are expected to participate in these activities.

FUNDRAISING
Fundraising helps ESYO to keep its program affordable and accessible to as many young musicians as possible. Musicians and parents are expected to help with fundraising efforts as much as possible.

How can you help?
At ESYO, we try very hard to keep tuition low. We also have a longstanding commitment to tuition assistance for qualifying musicians. That said, tuition dollars cover only 40% of the actual cost of a year with ESYO, so we have to fundraise. It is important to understand that while we do provide tuition assistance for those who need it, our fundraising is for ALL of our musicians.

The 60% not covered through tuition must be earned through the fundraising and development efforts of a small, dedicated staff. How can you help? There are many opportunities!

We have four major fundraisers throughout the year. Our Fall Appeal takes place in October, our “No Show Gala” end of December, Playathon is in February and our Spring Appeal takes place in April.

Fundraising has two primary objectives:

1. Raise money for ongoing ESYO education, operations and the orchestras themselves. Again, tuition covers only 40% of the cost of a young musician’s ESYO experience. The remaining 60% is subsidized through fundraising, grants, donations and the like.

2. To support our mission to never turn away a qualified musician because of an inability to pay. We have 35 scholarship recipients this year. The number of students needing scholarships has increased, and the amount they need has increased. We do not want to turn any of these musicians away.
PLAYATHON – our biggest fundraiser!
Each orchestra and ensemble participates in this day-long fundraising performance marathon at Crossgates Mall. Members are expected to collect at least $75 in donations before Playathon day. Additional funds are raised on Playathon day through the sale of ESYO items and from auctions to conduct ESYO's ensembles.

VOLUNTEERING
ESYO has a small, dedicated staff that works hard to meet all of the operational needs of our ensembles. With such a small staff, though, we rely on the invaluable assistance of our amazing volunteers. We hope you will consider joining our Volunteer Team this season!

Throughout the year, we have many opportunities for volunteering to help meet these needs. Lots of help is needed for Playathon, which involves all of our ensembles, and Melodies of Christmas, which involves only the Symphony Orchestra. Beyond that, we need parents to sell tickets “at the door,” serve as parent liaisons (between conductor and parent), hall monitors during rehearsals, and help moving larger instruments for concerts. We also frequently need your help to stuff envelopes, or pitch in at special events. We ask that you consider volunteering for at least one event per year. With that help, we can be sure and offer our musicians the best experience possible!

PARENT LIAISONS
Each ensemble has one or more parents who serve as volunteer Parent Liaisons. Duties of the liaisons differ slightly between groups but, in general, involve coordinating volunteer activities that support the management of the group. For example, the liaisons may arrange for a few parents to help backstage before a concert, sell concert tickets, or pass out programs. Liaisons for the larger groups work with the groups’ managers; for the smaller groups, the liaisons work directly with the conductors.

HALL MONITORS
For some ESYO groups, parents are asked to monitor the halls outside the rehearsal spaces to ensure that noise levels are appropriate and that ESYO musicians do not wander into restricted areas of the rehearsal venue. For these groups, parents will be given an assignment of the rehearsal they are scheduled to serve; the schedule is prepared early enough so that changes can easily be made if necessary.
WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY MUSIC?

Symphony and Repertory Orchestras receive their music (by mail) in August—early enough to practice for a listening session in late August (strings, brass and woodwinds for Symphony Orchestra; brass and woodwinds for Repertory Orchestra) and to be ready for the Frost Valley rehearsal retreat in September. String Orchestra and Wind Orchestra receive music (by mail) in late August. Music is handed out to musicians in all other ensembles at first rehearsals in September.

WHAT IS THE TUITION?

Tuition varies between ensembles. Review the “Tuition Rates, Payment Plans and Tuition Assistance” section for specific tuition amounts. Tuition covers approximately 40% of the cost of running ESYO’s program, helping to pay for professional musicians who conduct and coach the musicians, rental fees for rehearsal and concert halls, rental or purchase of music and more.

WHERE CAN I FIND DIRECTIONS TO CONCERT AND REHEARSAL VENUES

Links for directions to concerts and rehearsal venues can be found at ESYO.ORG.

HOW DO I CONTACT MY CONDUCTOR OR MANAGER?

Review the “CONTACTS AND COMMUNICATION” section of this handbook for information as to whom you should contact for specific questions.

WHO DO I TELL IF I AM GOING TO BE ABSENT?

For all absences – those you are requesting permission for and for unexpected absences (as in the case of an illness), please notify your manager or conductor. Contact information is found in the “CONTACTS AND COMMUNICATION” section.
DO I HAVE TO PAY TUITION ALL IN ONE PAYMENT?

Payment plans are available. Please review the “TUITION RATES, PAYMENT PLANS, AND TUITION ASSISTANCE” section. Should you have further questions, please contact Lisa Stulmaker, Finance Director, at lstulmaker@esyo.org or (518) 382-7581.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

Submit a completed Financial Aid application (available online) by July 26. Because Financial Aid is need-based, we do require that you send us copies of the first two pages of your parents’ most recently filed Federal income tax return (with the Social Security numbers blacked out).

WHEN IS THE CONCERTO COMPETITION AND HOW DO I APPLY?

The 2019-20 competition will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 (snow date Sunday, January 19) at The Massry Center for the Arts at The College of St. Rose. The concerto competition is only for Symphony Orchestra members in good standing.

Your repertoire choice must be approved by the Music Director BEFORE you can submit an application; requests for repertoire approval are due October 25, 2019. The online application is due November 15, 2019. Details can be found online.