2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Development Director  
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Marketing & Publications Manager  
Sam Herman  
Administrative Assistant & Brand Manager

CONDUCTING STAFF

Carlos Ágreda  
Music Director & ESYO Symphony Orchestra  
David Beck  
ESYO Repertory Orchestra  
Joseph Gumpper  
ESYO String Orchestra  
Leo Milman  
Concertino Strings  
Richard Albagli  
ESYO Youth Percussion Ensemble & ESYO Repertory Percussion Ensemble  
Mark Foster  
ESYO Youth Percussion Ensemble  
John Antonio  
ESYO Repertory Percussion Ensemble  
Genoveffe Vitale  
ESYO Chamber Percussion Ensemble & Concertino Percussion  
Dr. Robert Hansbrough  
ESYO Wind Orchestra  
Lee Russo  
ESYO Youth Jazz Orchestra  
David Fisk  
ESYO Repertory Jazz Orchestra  
Julie Taylor  
ESYO Concertino Wind Choir  
Scott Hopkins  
ESYO Concertino Brass Choir  
Rae Jean Teeter  
Melodies Of Christmas Chorale

CHIME STAFF

Connor Armbruster  
Jessica Bowen  
Olivia Cox  
Nyasia Darby  
Michael Dee  
Cathy Gatta  
Teresa Gatta Norton  
Rachel Hill  
Matthew Johnson  
Amarie King  
Lin Polster  
Bridie Schnore  
Nicholaus Smith  
Elizabeth Torres  
Susan Wheeler  
Monica Wilson-Roach
WELCOME TO EMPIRE STATE YOUTH ORCHESTRA!

Congratulations! Welcome to Empire State Youth Orchestra’s 2020-2021 season. We invite you to dive in, challenge yourself, make new friends, and enjoy some “serious fun” with your fellow musicians. While the essence of ESYO remains the same, this season will be different, as we continue to adjust to life with COVID-19. We’ve divided each ensemble into smaller ensembles and pioneered new orchestra and ensemble layouts that meet social distancing guidelines. ESYO concerts will be recorded LIVE in a safe-studio environment and streamed online in our new Virtual Concert Hall. ESYO is also launching online learning modules that will enhance your ESYO experience.

To protect everyone’s health and ensure your safety, we need you to do your part:

- Read and understand the policies outlined in this special COVID-19 Member Handbook;
- Be committed to your success and the success of your ESYO Ensemble;
- Take advantage of all the resources available to you through ESYO;
- Wear your mask, wash your hands, practice social distancing, stay home if you are sick;
- Be prepared for “Serious Safety” and “Serious Fun!”

QUESTIONS?
Contact your orchestra or ensemble manager for assistance, or reach out to ESYO’s Operations Director, Sue Lascoe, for help at slascoe@esyo.org.

Rebecca Calos  
Executive Director

Carlos Ágreda  
Music Director
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CODE OF CONDUCT

1. 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.

2. ATTENDANCE: ESYO is committed to providing its members the opportunity to rehearse and perform in an ensemble that meets the COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols outlined by ESYO as well as all state mandates and guidelines published by appropriate health authorities. This season will feature smaller chamber-sized ensembles in new socially-distanced layouts. Traditional rehearsals will be enhanced using Google Classroom and familiar digital strategies. This, in turn, requires the commitment of each member to prepare, practice and to be present at all rehearsals, virtual meet-ups, and concert recording sessions. If a member is absent, or is not prepared, the entire ensemble is adversely impacted. Please carefully review the absence policy outlined below. Violation of this policy (outside of COVID-19 related absences) may result in a member being placed on probation. Consequences for being placed on probation may include (but are not necessarily limited to): reseating, suspension, dismissal, and/or monetary fine to cover the cost of a replacement musician for a recording session.

Before the first rehearsal – check your calendar and notify your manager or conductor in writing/email immediately of any potential or actual conflicts.

- Two excused absences are allowed per concert-recording period;
- Only 1 excused absence may be in the 3 weeks prior to a concert recording session (Everyone except for ESYO Symphony Orchestras);
- NO absences are allowed in the two weeks prior to a concert recording session (ESYO Symphony Orchestra);
- No absences are allowed from mandatory rehearsals, dress rehearsals, warm-ups, or concert recording sessions;
• 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 recording cycle;
• Being in the pit for your school musical is excused; being an actor in the musical is NOT excused.

COVID-19 “SERIOUS SAFETY” ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES
Share your love of music and not your germs. Stop the spread and stay home if you are sick!

ESYO will follow the COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols in connection with its live rehearsals, performances, and events until the appropriate health authorities determine that the health and safety concerns relating to COVID-19 are no longer present or a significant threat.

• Absences due to COVID-19 illness or suspected exposure to the virus are considered excused absences and NOT subject to the standards outlined in the attendance policy;
• Members exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, either upon arrival, or at any point during program hours, will be sent home, and will need to be symptom free and test negative for the virus before returning;
• After testing positive for COVID-19 any member of the ESYO community must meet the following conditions to return:
  - Fever-free without fever-reducing medications
  - Improvement in respiratory symptoms
  - At least one negative result of an FDA-approved COVID-19 test

For more information read ESYO’s COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols

3. 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. The policy extends to public or private social media channels, chat rooms, and digital message boards owned, operated, or moderated by ESYO. Report any questionable activity at ESYO events to your ensemble manager.
4. REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE: LIVING WITH COVID-19

- NO FOOD, GUM, CANDY of any kind; a water bottle is allowed;
- All members must remain in their designated seating spaces at all times;
- Restrooms may be accessed only after notifying an ESYO Staff member; please plan accordingly to avoid needing to use these facilities if at all possible;
- NO cell phone use for any reason is permitted during rehearsals, warm-ups, concerts, or recording sessions;
- Wear a mask or approved facial covering at all times;
- Wash and sanitize your hands before entering the rehearsal space;
- Enter and exit program spaces in an orderly fashion in order to maintain physical distancing;
- Bring only personal belongings needed to participate in the program including your own music stand. Store your personal belongings in designated areas or within your assigned seating space.

Stay healthy, be well, and play it safe! Please read and understand ESYO’s COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols.

CONSEQUENCES FOR CONDUCT VIOLATIONS: may include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Written or verbal warnings;
- Suspension;
- Dismissal;
- Withdrawal of invitation to audition for the following 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.
This COVID-19 Program Safety Plan is being implemented due to the safety and health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and is specifically needed at this time since the Empire State Youth Orchestra (ESYO) is contemplating a modified service offering for its 2020-2021 season that will blend limited live rehearsals and performances with virtual meetings, classes, rehearsals, and performances. ESYO will follow this Program Safety Plan in connection with its live rehearsals, performances, and events until such time as the appropriate health authorities determine that the health and safety concerns relating to COVID-19 are no longer present or a significant threat. Notwithstanding all the precautions that Empire State Youth Orchestra will take, due to the nature of the virus, the risk of contracting COVID-19 remains. Please be safe, respect others, and follow all of the precautions, protections, and protocols put in place during this COVID-19 epidemic.

MANDATORY HEALTH SCREENINGS OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

- All members, staff and volunteers are to be screened upon their arrival at an ESYO program site. This will include a health screening questionnaire. Any staff member or volunteer exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, either upon arrival, or at any point during program hours, will be sent home, and will need to be symptom free and test negative for the virus before returning;
- Per NYS mandate, all parents will be required to complete a simple health screening online questionnaire and temperature check for their student(s) no more than 12 hours prior to their arrival at an ESYO program site. Parents will be required to complete a paper questionnaire at drop-off if the online form has not been completed;
- Any student exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, either upon arrival, or at any point during the program, will be sent home, and will need to be symptom free and test negative for the virus before returning;
- Students may be asked to submit updated Health Forms, if and when required by NYS or the Department of Health;
- Parents must keep their child(ren) home if they are exhibiting any of the following symptoms:
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Any other signs of illness

- ESYO reserves the right to send students and staff members home should they exhibit any of the above symptoms.

**DROP OFF & PICK UP PROCEDURES**

- Each student group will have a specific drop-off and pick-up time and location. To expedite the check-in process, families are highly encouraged to complete the health screening questionnaire online no more than 12 hours prior to arriving at the program site;
- Staggered rehearsal times will allow for the screening and health assessment of each student without creating a long line of cars waiting;
- To ensure the safety of our students, parents and visitors will not be permitted to enter ESYO program sites. Rehearsal spaces will be restricted to students and ESYO staff only.

**GENERAL SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

- Any person entering an ESYO program site will be required to wear a mask or approved face covering; masks/face coverings must remain in place at all times while at the program site. Exception: wind & brass players may use a slotted mask (see Instrument Specific Safety Protocols);
- Unless there is a specific invitation for visitors to attend an ESYO event, which will be accompanied by additional instructions, parents/caregivers, visitors, and others accompanying students will not be allowed to access the site used for rehearsals, performances, or events;
- Everyone must maintain at least six feet of physical distance from all other persons, even while playing. Musician seating will be clearly marked, and will be positioned to accommodate this distancing, with increased spacing for wind & brass instruments;
- Dismissal from rehearsals will be orderly, and staggered by section in order to allow for physical distancing to be maintained as musicians exit the area;
- All persons will be required to wash/sanitize their hands before entering a program space;
- Students are to bring only the personal belongings needed to participate in the program including your own music stand, and keep all personal belongings in designated areas or within their assigned seating space;
- Students are not to share stands, music, folders, pens, pencils, water bottles, or any other personal belongings brought to the program site. Exception: Percussion instruments will be shared during rehearsal; frequent hand washing/sanitizing will be practiced,
and all percussionists will be required to hand wash/sanitize prior to entering and exiting the rehearsal space (see Instrument-Specific Safety Protocols);

- All persons are to avoid touching items that do not belong to them, except for ESYO staff who are responsible for sanitizing and physically moving items relating to a rehearsal, performance, or event.

INSTRUMENT SPECIFIC SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Winds/Brass:
- Seats will be separated by 10ft rather than 6ft to increase safety;
- Spit valves must not be emptied on the floor; an absorbent, disposable pad (such as a puppy pad) or small cup with an absorbent layer (such as kitty litter) should be used;
- ESYO will provide wind players personal protection equipment designed to limit the flow of air beyond their seating area, and enhance the overall safety of the group.

Percussion:
- Players are to use hand sanitizer frequently throughout rehearsal, particularly when changing instruments;
- Players are to thoroughly wash their hands immediately before and following rehearsal prior to departing from the program site;

Strings, Harp, Piano:
- Players are to wear masks at all times and maintain physical distancing, as identified by ESYO staff and seating demarcation.

SOCIAL INTERACTION

- ESYO understands that social interaction is a natural and normal part of interaction between students. While we recognize such social interactions will occur in connection with ESYO rehearsals and events, we will enforce responsible social interaction in which participants remain at least six feet apart at all times and where face masks are present at all times;
- ESYO will undertake reasonable measures to manage social interaction between students, before and after rehearsals, performances and events, and during restroom use;
- When social interaction occurs in a manner that is inconsistent with this COVID-19 Event Safety Plan, ESYO staff will provide reminders and, if the circumstances warrant, ask the student to modify their behavior. All such reminders and interactions should occur while maintaining at least six feet between the individuals involved.

CLEANING, DISINFECTING, AND HYGIENE

- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the program spaces and hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes will be available to each student to sanitize their hands, belongings, music stands, and other items needed for the program;
• Students will only be able to access restroom facilities after notifying an ESYO staff member, and the number of students in the restroom will be monitored to ensure safe physical distancing;
• The cleaning staff responsible for sanitizing the program spaces will comply with ESYO’s Sanitizing Protocols, and will arrive ahead of the performance, rehearsal, or event to clean and disinfect all appropriate areas;
• After each rehearsal, performance, or event, cleaning and disinfecting will occur throughout the ESYO program site;
• Cleaning & sanitizing logs will be maintained by ESYO staff.

PROTOCOLS FOR POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES
• In the event that an ESYO staff person, student, or visitor is found to have tested positive for COVID-19 or exhibits significant symptoms of COVID-19, the individual must be removed from interaction with the ESYO community for at least 14 days and encouraged to isolate. ESYO will follow all State and County Department of Health guidelines to ensure the safety of all other students, staff, and families. These protocols may include 14-day quarantines, suspension of rehearsals, contact tracing, additional facility cleaning, the testing of those who may have made contact with the infected musician or staff, further quarantines or stay at home requests, as may be recommended by health officials, and any other sensible actions designed to keep the larger community safe as any impacted persons recover;
• In order for any ESYO staff person, student, or visitor to return to an ESYO work location or venue used for rehearsal, performance, or other event who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has significant symptoms of COVID-19, the individual must meet the following conditions:
  - Lack of fever (less than 100.0°), without fever-reducing medications; **AND**
  - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing); **AND**
  - At least one negative test result of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA conducted on recommended specimens (nasopharyngeal, nasal and oropharyngeal, or nasal and saliva). For persons who were asymptomatic at the time of their first positive test and remain asymptomatic, testing may begin a minimum of 7 days from the first positive test.
TUITION RATES, TUITION ASSISTANCE, REGISTRATION, REFUND POLICY, & PAYMENT PLANS
2020-2021 TUITION RATES

For all tuition related questions, please contact Lisa Stulmaker, Finance Director at lstulmaker@esyo.org.

Symphony Orchestra $850
Repertory Orchestra $750
Wind Orchestra $670
String Orchestra $670
Youth Jazz Orchestra $620
Repertory Jazz Orchestra $620
Youth Percussion Ensemble $720
Repertory Percussion Ensemble $700
Chamber Percussion Ensemble $700
Concertino Strings $550

DISCOUNTS
A discount of $50 per tuition is available for households with two or more members. The same discount is available for members enrolled in two or more ensembles.

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 August 15, 2020.

NOTE: COVID-19 has adversely impacted the lives and livelihoods of families across the Capital Region. ESYO is committed to making sure members have access to the benefits of ESYO regardless of their ability to pay. If a member of your household has been laid-off or furloughed due to COVID-19 or is currently experiencing financial difficulties due to the global pandemic, we encourage you to apply for need-based financial aid through the general Financial Aid form.

ESYO gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Foundation, the Suzanne D. Lake Scholarship Fund, The Harmony in Music Scholarship established by the Kolodziej and Resta Family, The Helen Cha-Pyo Golden Baton and Scholarship Fund, The Accelerator Scholarships, and the Richard Albagli Scholarship Fund, that support our 2020-2021 tuition assistance awards.
ONLINE REGISTRATION & NON-REFUNDABLE COMMITMENT DEPOSIT
Accepted applicants must register online by August 15, 2020, and submit a $200 non-refundable deposit. This deposit is credited toward the tuition payment.

REFUND POLICY
- Membership withdrawal prior to September 1, 2020 is eligible for a full refund minus the first $200 in tuition, which is considered to be a non-refundable deposit;
- Membership withdrawal prior to November 1st is eligible for 50% of the tuition fee minus the first $200 in tuition, which is considered to be a non-refundable deposit;
- Membership withdrawal after November 1st is NOT eligible for a refund.

*COVID-19 EXCEPTION*
Should restrictions caused by COVID-19 result in the cancelation of more than 3 consecutive in-person rehearsals, a member has the option to withdraw for the remainder of the season. Membership withdrawal due to COVID-19 is subject to a pro-rated refund of the remaining cost of tuition, minus the $200 non-refundable deposit.

PAYMENT PLANS
Option A
- Pay in Full;
- One (1) payment due August 15, 2020.

Option B
- Two (2) Automatic Payments;

Option C
- Eight Payments;
- First $200 of tuition due August 15, 2020. Remainder is divided into eight monthly payments automatically processed on the 15th of each month, September through April;
- Monthly installation plans incur a one-time $25 administrative fee due at registration.

A 2.5% processing fee is applied to all credit card payments. No-fee processing is available for electronic ACH debit payments from an authorized checking account.

Contact Lisa Stulmaker at lstulmaker@esyo.org to set up a payment plan. Payment plans must be set up within 48 hours of registering for membership in ESYO. Failure to set up a payment plan may result in the discontinuation of membership.
DEFAULTS & DISMISSALS
Defaulting on the selected payment plan will result in the immediate discontinuation of membership. Membership eligibility for subsequent seasons is dependent on the settlement of any unpaid balance. NOTE: If a member is dismissed from ESYO due to a failure to abide by ESYO’s Code of Conduct, that member is not eligible for any refund, and eligibility for subsequent seasons is at ESYO’s discretion.

COMMUNICATION & CONTACTS

EMAIL – PRIMARY METHOD OF COMMUNICATION TO YOU
Be sure to register for ESYO using your most current and preferred email address. It is important that ESYO also has the most current email address for your parents or caregiver. 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, newsworthy notes and briefings from ESYO, as well as information from other arts organizations including offers of discount/free tickets. If you are not receiving regular emails, contact your ensemble manager or email Justin Cook, Marketing & Publications Manager, at jcook@esyo.org.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM
Google Classroom is the official virtual rehearsal room for ESYO. You will be registered to your ensembles Google Classroom using the Gmail address from your registration form. Google Classroom is more than just a virtual rehearsal room, it is an important hub for all ESYO ensemble communication. Ensemble news, notes, schedules, and announcements will be published in your Google Classroom.

ESYO.ORG
Visit the member-only section of the website to download ensemble schedules, member newsletters, alerts, surveys, and required forms. The website is the best way to get access to the most up-to-date information 24/7.

TEXT MESSAGE NOTIFICATIONS
We request your cell phone number and your parents’ cell phone number after acceptance into an ensemble along with your permission to communicate via text. This method of communication is only to be used to get urgent or emergency information out quickly to a large group of ESYO families.
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF DIRECTORY

Rebecca Calos  
Executive Director  
rcalos@esyo.org

Lisa Stulmaker  
Finance Director  
lstulmaker@esyo.org

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

Andrea Restrepo  
Operations Assistant, Symphony Orchestra and String Orchestra Manager & Librarian  
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Alexandra Carella-Delfino  
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Jared Shortmeier  
CHIME Administrative Director  
jshortmeier@esyo.org

Anne-Marie Gorman Doyle  
Development Director  
amgormandoyle@esyo.org

Justin Cook  
Marketing & Publications Manager  
jcook@esyo.org

Sam Herman  
Administrative Assistant & Brand Manager  
sherman@esyo.org
CONDUCTORS & ENSEMBLE MANAGERS DIRECTORY

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 Email:
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@esyo.org
Mark Foster
mfoster@esyo.org

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

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

Concertino Strings
Conductor: Leo Milman
lmilman@esyo.org
Manager Email:
certinostings@esyo.org
WHO DO YOU CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ENSEMBLE?
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

COMMUNICATION REGARDING WEATHER RELATED REHEARSAL/CONCERT RECORDING 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. **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.**

COVID-19 RELATED SUSPENSIONS & CANCELLATIONS
ESYO will follow all State and County Department of Health guidelines to ensure the safety of all other students, staff, and families. These protocols may include 14-day quarantines, suspension of rehearsals, contact tracing, additional facility cleaning, the testing of those who may have made contact with the infected musician or staff person. COVID-19 related cancellations will be posted in your ensemble’s Google Classroom. You will also receive an email notification and text message.

VIRTUAL CONCERT HALL TICKETS AND VIEWING INFORMATION
Contact Justin Cook, Marketing & Publications Manager – jcook@esyo.org

TUITION/Payment PLANS
Contact Lisa Stulmaker, Finance Director – lstulmaker@esyo.org or 518.382.7581
REHEARSAL SCHEDULES

Sunday
2:00 – 3:30pm Wind Orchestra (beginning Sept. 13)
4:00 – 5:30pm Chamber Percussion Ensemble (beginning Sept. 20)
4:30 – 6:00pm Concertino Strings (beginning Sept. 13)
7:00 – 8:30pm Youth Percussion Ensemble (beginning Sept. 20)
       Rep Percussion Ensemble (beginning Sept. 20)

Monday
6:30 – 8:00pm String Orchestra (beginning Sept. 14)
7:00 – 8:30pm Jazz Orchestra (beginning Sept. 21)

Tuesday
6:30 – 8:30pm Symphony String Orchestra (beginning Sept. 8)
             Repertory String Orchestra (beginning Sept. 15)

Wednesday
6:30 – 8:30pm Repertory Classical Orchestra (beginning Sept. 16)
             Repertory Romantic Orchestra (beginning Sept. 16)

Thursday
6:30 – 8:30pm Symphony Classical Orchestra (beginning Sept. 10)
             Symphony Romantic Orchestra (beginning Sept. 10)
VIRTUAL ESYO

Throughout the 2020-2021 season, ESYO will offer virtual learning modules as a supplement to ensemble rehearsals. These opportunities for further learning will be open to students across all ensembles and CHIME sites beginning this fall. We look forward to exploring topics that will support students as they grow into well-rounded musicians, from music appreciation and repertoire, to aural skills and musicianship.

ESYO GOOGLE ACCOUNT

Google Classroom is the official hub for ESYO communication and online learning. All ESYO members are required to have a personal Gmail/Google Account in their name. Online safety is top of mind for all parents. ESYO online classrooms are facilitated by ESYO conductors and ensemble managers. Secure Google accounts help keep our virtual classrooms safe and secure.

Members are to register for the 2020-21 season with their preferred email & Gmail address. For a step by step guide to getting online with ESYO visit www.esyo.org/esyo-online.

Attention Parents: If your ESYO musician is 13 or younger, their account must be set up using Family Link. For more information visit support.google.com.
MUSIC DISTRIBUTION & COLLECTION

- Members of ESYO Symphony, Repertory, and String Orchestra will receive their music 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 their 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 email info@esyo.org;
- 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
Symphony Orchestra will hold online auditions for Brass and Woodwind players before each concert cycle to determine part assignments. The excerpts and dates of auditions will be given at the beginning of the season. Repertory and Wind Orchestra will hold online auditions for Brass and Woodwind players before the first rehearsal to determine part assignments. Wind Orchestra also holds online auditions 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 auditions.

PRINCIPAL PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES
Responsibilities of Principal Players include:

- Lead by example with respect to preparation, promptness, attentiveness, musicianship;
- Note trouble spots in the music and bring to the attention of coaches and conductor;
- Assist in maintaining proper rehearsal etiquette
- Assist the conductor in realizing interpretive directions;
- Ensure that all members of the section have a unified understanding of the music, making sure that bowings, breathings, fingerings, articulations, and phrasings match;
- Communicate with the other section leaders and the conductor;

**Percussion Principal Players:** Assign parts and coordinate instruments for rehearsals and concerts.
SAFE STUDIO RECORDINGS & DRESS CODE

For all safe studio recordings, 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 recording session if you are improperly attired.

SYMPHONY & REPERTORY ORCHESTRA CONCERT RECORDING DRESS
All students wear ALL BLACK:

- Top: Long-sleeved (at least 3/4 length), solid black dress shirt with collar OR ankle/floor-length long-sleeved black dress;
- Bottom: Floor- or ankle-length black skirt OR black dress pant; (No leggings, jeggings, jeans, or other casual fitted pants or active wear).
- Black socks or tights (at least mid-calf height, no bare legs or feet);
- Black dress shoes (no open toes or sandals);
- A colorful CDC recommended face mask.

WIND ORCHESTRA & STRING ORCHESTRA CONCERT RECORDING DRESS

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

Option B:
- Black dress pants;
- White dress shirt;
- Black bow tie (available for purchase at the beginning of the season);
- Black socks;
- Black dress shoe;
- A colorful CDC recommended face mask.
CONCERTINO STRINGS CONCERT DRESS

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

Option B:
- Black dress pants;
- Black dress shirt;
- Black socks;
- Black dress shoes;
- A colorful CDC recommended face mask.

ALL JAZZ & PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES CONCERT DRESS

Option A:
- Ankle/floor-length, dressy black skirt 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);
- A colorful CDC recommended face mask.

Option B:
- Black dress pants;
- Black dress shirt*;
- Black socks;
- Black dress shoes;
- A colorful CDC recommended face mask.

*At discretion of conductors, percussion ensembles may be directed to wear white shirts or blouses and/or scarves 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. To ensure the health and safety of the ESYO community, members, staff, and volunteers are required to wear a CDC recommended face mask while engaged with ESYO.

MISCELLANEOUS
The concert dress code may be adjusted for weather conditions or unusual circumstances at the discretion of the conductor or manager.
VIRTUAL CONCERT HALL & ACCESS ESYO

When COVID-19 shuttered concert halls and closed schools across the country, ESYO continued to play through the pause and hosted its first-ever digital festival. This Fall, ESYO will celebrate the grand opening of its first Virtual Concert Hall. Audiences will be able to stream full-length concerts online from their computer, tablet, or mobile device. Now for the first-time, friends and family can attend any ESYO concert from home, as well as enjoy on-demand videos, and fun and engaging talks and interviews with ESYO conductors, guest artists, and musicians. Access to select full-performances may require a ticket.

ESYO families can reserve their virtual seat online at esyo.org/concert-tickets. Information about on-sale dates and tickets will be emailed to your preferred email address.

ACCESS ESYO
Access ESYO allows for the purchase of concert tickets for as little as $1 per seat. The program 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.

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
(SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ONLY)

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 2019, ESYO has helped raise more than $9 million for the program.

Information about the 2020 Melodies of Christmas performance will be released at a later date.

ESYO SCHOLARSHIPS

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 a role model to their 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 $1,000 award. The winner is announced before the season ends. Application information will be announced in the spring.

THE HELEN CHA-PYO BATON AWARD
This $1,500 award is given each spring to a senior who embodies former Music Director Helen Cha-Pyo’s passionate commitment to music as a means to uplift and enrich the community.

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.

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.

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.

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 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 keep its program affordable and accessible to as many young musicians as possible. Musicians and parents are expected to help with fundraising efforts. We are committed to keeping our tuition low; as a result, your tuition dollars cover only 40% of the actual cost of operating for one season. That is why fundraising is critical. It is important to understand that while we do provide additional tuition assistance for those who need it, ALL of our musicians depend on the success of our fundraising efforts.

What can you do to help?
- Make a family donation or encourage others to support ESYO;
- Know a local business that might support ESYO? Contact Anne-Marie Gorman Doyle amgormandoyle@esyo.org to share your connection;
- Encourage your friends and family to donate to ACCESS ESYO by contributing a “seat” for a future patron;
- Actively participate in all ESYO Fundraising events!

PLAYATHON – OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER!
Members are expected to collect at least $100 in donations before the day of Playathon. Additional funds are raised on Playathon day through the sale of ESYO items and live auctions.

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! Opportunities include:
- Playathon
- Rehearsal Assistants
- Event Support
- Appeal/Mailing Assistance
- Community Outreach/Advocacy