



Handbook 2023-2024

PO Box 621

Crete, IL 60417

suburbanyouthsymphony.org

thesyso@gmail.com

Immanuel Lutheran Church

4800 Sauk Trail

Richton Park, IL, 60471

Organization

Board of Directors

President	Janet Kuester	New Lennox
Vice President	Mort Castle	Crete
Treasurer	Cynthia Westerman	Crete
Secretary	Rozalyn Torto	Chicago
Board Members	Stan Birer	Flossmoor
	Marilynn Tannebaum	Olympia Fields
	Joan Finnegan	Burr Ridge
	Sue McKeigue	Palos Park
	Andrea Gibb	Olympia Fields
Music Director	David Forsman	Crete
Assistant Director	Brian Ostrega	Park Forest
Orchestra Manager	Melinda 'Mindy' Sondag	Orland Park

Mission

Our mission is to provide all students with the necessary skills, music education, and inspiration to play and enjoy music, and to rebuild the culture of string playing in the south/southwest suburbs.

Ensembles

- **Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra**

The Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO) is the top performing group and namesake of the organization. Students in SYSO have achieved a level of technical independence, and are able to play their instrument well enough to adapt to the goals of the group. Members will learn string orchestra works, chamber music during our 6-week chamber unit where each ensemble is assigned a musician from the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra as coach.

- **Suburban Youth Symphony Junior Orchestra**

The junior orchestra is the bridge from IOP level work to membership in SYSO. In the junior orchestra you continue to expand the skills you've learned in IOP as a beginner, and learn to use those skills as a member of an ensemble. Students will spend time in rehearsal dedicated to technique and theory. Our goal is Junior orchestra students will learn that the more skill and ability you have to share, the more you enjoy sharing. Students in SYSJO will have the same opportunities as students in SYSO.

- **Incredible Opportunity Program**

The Incredible Opportunity Program (IOP) is our beginner ensemble, a group instruction class, for students ages 8-13 who do not already play a string instrument, but would like to learn to play the violin. Students will learn and reinforce basic violin skills such as how to hold the violin and bow, making a solid sound with good technique and ensemble skills by playing with other students.

Auditions

- **SYSO/SYSJO:** Students who are auditioning for SYSO or SYSJO will complete an in-person or video audition for the Music Director. Students will prepare 4 minutes of contrasting repertoire and scales up to 3 sharps and 1 flat, 2 octaves. **Students will be placed into either SYSO or SYSJO at the Music Directors discretion.**

Children ages 8-17 who already play a string instrument and can read music are welcome to audition. To register, please complete the online registration form at <https://www.suburbanyouthsymphony.org/join-syso>.

- **IOP:** Students may apply to participate through an essay contest in which they submit an essay titled, “Why I Want to Play (the Violin/Viola/Cello).” Submissions must be emailed to thesyso@gmail.com by October 8, 2023.

Expectations

Tuition

- IOP: \$280 for the full year or \$165 per semester. Financial aid is available to students who qualify. Students will also be expected to purchase any materials needed for class, such as books, shoulder pads, or anything else as directed by the IOP teacher.
- SYSO: \$420 for the full year or \$235 per semester
- First semester or full year tuition is due by October 8, 2023. Second semester payment is due by January 21, 2024. Payments can be made to SYSO via our website: <https://www.suburbanyouthsymphony.org/tuition>

Financial aid

- Financial Aid is available upon request to the Orchestra Manager. All requests for financial aid are reviewed by board members appointed to the scholarship committee. Applications may be submitted at any time, but since funds are limited, families are encouraged to apply early in the season.

- Current parents are SYSO's greatest recruiters! If you refer a new student who enrolls and pays full tuition, you will receive a tuition rebate of \$50. Please contact the Orchestra Manager for more details.
- **Scholarship Opportunity - Robin Lipman Award** - This award is given to a well-rounded individual to keep music as a creative and joyful part of their life. This award was inspired by the memory of Robin Lipman and her love of the students of SYSO with passion and commitment of service to the orchestra. This scholarship is awarded during the Spring Concert at the end of the season for the upcoming season. The scholarship will be paid out to the camp/teacher/organization of the recipient's choice directly from SYSO. Scholarships can be revoked if expectations are not met.

Rehearsals and Performances

- **Rehearsal times**

IOP: Incredible Opportunity Program classes are held Saturdays 11:00-12:00 at McCord Gallery in Palos Park, and Sundays 3:00-4:00 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Richton Park. Parents are encouraged to stay with their child for the entire class.

SYSJO: Suburban Youth Symphony Junior Orchestra rehearsals are scheduled Sundays 1:30-2:45PM. Members of SYSJO may be asked to attend part of SYSO's rehearsal at 3:00PM. Parents will be notified beforehand what time to pick up your child. Please be prepared to be available for the entire rehearsal time.

SYSO: Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra rehearsals are scheduled for Sundays from 3:00-5:30 PM. Please be prepared to be available for the entire rehearsal time.

- **Arrival Times**

Please plan to arrive 10 - 15 minutes before scheduled class/rehearsal. We will use this time to unpack, tune, and prepare for rehearsal.

- **Attendance**

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is expected. **If you absolutely must miss a rehearsal, please contact thesyso@gmail.com.**

Absences without contact are considered unexcused. **More than two unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the orchestra without refund of tuition.** Like other team-oriented programs that require a solid commitment, students in this program are accountable to each other and absences affect the outcome of the music.

- **Required Materials**

- Instrument
- All current music, organized in a binder or folder
- Sharp pencil/eraser
- Music stand - [Director's Choice: Recommended Stand](#)
- All other materials needed to play: rosin, endpin anchor, etc.

- **Practice**

In addition to attending all rehearsals and performances, it is expected that all orchestra members practice regularly at home. Group rehearsal time is limited, and must be used wisely in order to prepare pieces for the concerts and improve the group's ensemble.

Private lessons are highly recommended, and go hand in hand with the outcome of a student's playing ability. **ALL STUDENTS IN SYSO AND SYSJO ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A PRIVATE TEACHER.** We encourage all students to take challenges from rehearsal to their private teacher. A list of private instructors in the area is available on our website at <https://www.suburbanyouthsymphony.org/private-teacher-directory>

- **Performances:** For each performance, musicians should wear appropriate clothing and arrive at the call time given by the music director. Call times will be communicated to students and parents no later than two weeks in advance. Reminders will be given in rehearsals and through online communication.

IOP/SYSJO: Concert dress is a white top with black pants and black shoes, unless instructed otherwise.

SYSO: Concert dress is a black top with black pants and black shoes, unless instructed otherwise.

Communication

Communication between staff and parents is vital to successful outcomes. Any changes in the schedule will be communicated via email and other online communications. Parents and students are encouraged to reach out to the orchestra manager if they have any questions or comments.

- Email: thesyso@gmail.com
- Website: <https://www.suburbanyouthsymphony.org/>
- Facebook: <https://facebook.com/SuburbanYouthSymphonyOrchestra>
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/syso_ig/
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCIC0IF35I2LP7TcifYNhtQ>

Two Parent Meetings will be scheduled during the 2023-24 season. These meetings will be held via ZOOM, and a link will be sent out via email in advance. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend these meetings. Meetings will be recorded, and are available upon request if a parent must miss.

To help spread the word about our awesome organization, we invite you to join, like, share, and subscribe to our social media groups. We encourage you to share your photos and videos on our pages. We will post photos periodically as well as updates and reminders for events and helpful articles for students and parents. Concert videos will be recorded/live streamed and uploaded to YouTube and Facebook.

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra Concert Opportunities

Free and Reduced-Price Tickets

- All IOP/SYP/SYSO students may request free tickets for every Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO) concert.
- Parent tickets are available for the reduced price of \$22 each. Sibling tickets are available at no cost.
- **IPO Ticket Deadlines and Procedures**
 - Ticket requests and payment for adult tickets are due by the end of the Sunday rehearsal the week before the Saturday IPO concert as listed below. Deadlines are earlier due to SYSO rehearsal and concert schedule.
 - Checks for parent tickets should be made payable to SYSO. For more information on each IPO concert, please visit ipomusic.org.
 - Concerts will take place at Ozinga Chapel at Trinity Christian College, 6601 W. College Dr., Palos Heights, IL

Ticket Ordering and Payment Deadline	IPO Concert Date	Concert Time / Location	Concert Selections
October 1, 2023	October 14, 2023	5:30PM / Ozinga Chapel	Music from the Americas
November 5, 2023	November 18, 2023	7:30PM / Ozinga Chapel	Piazzolla & Mozart

February 11, 2024	February 24, 2024	7:30PM / Ozinga Chapel	Sierra, Marsalis & Gershwin
February 25, 2024	March 16, 2024	3:00PM / Ozinga Chapel	Debussy, V. Williams & Thomas
March 31, 2024	April 13, 2024	7:30PM / Ozinga Chapel	Bologne, Mozart & Haydn
May 5, 2024	May 18, 2024	7:30PM / Ozinga Chapel	Joyful Voices: Shaw & Beethoven

SYSO Calendar 2023-2024

All schedule times are subject to change at the discretion of the Music Director. All changes in the schedule will be emailed to members, as well as posted on our online outlets.

Performances

Fall Concert

- Sunday, November 19, 2023
- Concert time: 4:00pm
- Call time: 3:00pm

Hearts & Roses Concert

- Sunday, February 18, 2024
- Concert time: 4:00pm
- Call time: 3:00pm

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra Pre-Concert Performance

- TBD
- Performance time: TBD
- Call time: TBD
- Location: Ozinga Chapel, Trinity Christian College, 6601 W. College Dr., Palos Heights, IL 60463

Spring Concert

- Sunday, May 5, 2024
- Concert time: 4:00pm
- Call time: 3:00pm

2023-24 Season Calendar [Sunday]

DATE		
August	13	
	20	
	27	
September	3	No Rehearsals - Labor Day
	10	Rehearsals
	17	Rehearsals
	24	Rehearsals; Tuition Due
October	1	Rehearsals
	8	Rehearsals; SYSO/SYSJO/IOP Parent Meetings
	15	Rehearsals
	22	Rehearsals
	29	Rehearsals
November	5	Rehearsals
	12	Rehearsals
	19	CONCERT - Call Time 3:00pm
	26	No Rehearsals - Thanksgiving Break
December	3	Rehearsals
	10	Rehearsals
	17	Rehearsals
	24	No Rehearsals - Winter Break
	31	No Rehearsals - Winter Break
January	7	Rehearsals - Chamber Unit: First Rehearsal with Coaches
	14	Rehearsals; SYSO/SYSJO/IOP Parent Meeting
	21	Rehearsals; Tuition Due
	28	Rehearsals
February	4	Rehearsals
	11	Rehearsals
	18	Hearts & Roses CONCERT - Call Time 3:00pm
	25	Rehearsals
March	3	Rehearsals
	10	Rehearsals

	17	Rehearsals
	24	Rehearsals
	31	No Rehearsals - Spring Break
April	7	Rehearsals
	14	Rehearsals
	21	Rehearsals
	28	Rehearsals
May	5	CONCERT - Call Time 3:00pm

**2023-24 Season Calendar [Saturday]
McCord Gallery IOP Students ONLY**

DATE		
August	12	
	19	
	26	
September	2	
	9	Rehearsals
	16	Rehearsals
	23	Rehearsals
	30	Rehearsals
October	7	Rehearsals
	14	Rehearsals
	21	Rehearsals
	28	Rehearsals
November	4	Rehearsals
	11	Rehearsals
	18	Rehearsals
	19	CONCERT - Call Time 3:00pm
	25	No Rehearsals - Thanksgiving Break
December	2	Rehearsals
	9	Rehearsals
	16	Rehearsals
	23	No Rehearsals - Winter Break

	30	No Rehearsals - Winter Break
January	6	Rehearsals
	13	Rehearsals
	20	Rehearsals
	27	Rehearsals
February	3	Rehearsals
	10	Rehearsals
	17	Rehearsals
	18	Hearts & Roses CONCERT - Call Time 3:00pm
	24	Rehearsals
March	2	Rehearsals
	9	Rehearsals
	16	Rehearsals
	23	Rehearsals
	30	No Rehearsal - Spring Break
April	6	Rehearsals
	13	Rehearsals
	20	Rehearsals
	27	Rehearsals
May	4	Rehearsals
	5	CONCERT - Call Time 3:00pm