

2024-2025 Members' Handbook



LA CROSSE AREA YOUTH
symphony
ORCHESTRAS

2024-2025 Members' Handbook

721 King Street,
La Crosse, WI 54601
www.lyso.org
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The mission of the La Crosse Area Youth Symphony Orchestras is to provide a unique opportunity for youth to develop and showcase their artistry in the symphonic tradition and to enhance their lives and the cultural environment of the communities we serve.

The Board of Directors understands and appreciates that participation in the La Crosse Area Youth Symphony Orchestras programs requires a serious commitment on the part of its members and their families.

The La Crosse Area Youth Symphony Orchestras accepts applicants based on their musical ability, without regard to sex, race, religion, disability, or national origin.

All members of LYSO are required to read this handbook and abide by all of its policies. Parents or guardians of members are asked to ensure that their child abide by these policies and meet the professional expectation of this organization.

This reference guide will provide members and their families a comprehensive resource for the La Crosse Area Youth Symphony Orchestras. Included are rehearsal and performance schedules, rules and regulations, general guidelines and other pertinent information. Should you have questions or issues that are not addressed in this book, please don't hesitate to contact the manager, Cassie Davis at manager@lyso.org.

History of the LYSO

In 1967 Frank J. Italiano brought a group of young musicians together – this was the beginning. Two years later, in 1969, the La Crosse Youth Symphony Society became incorporated. The La Crosse Area Youth Symphony Orchestras have grown and changed over the years, but it still has the same purpose today as it did 46 years ago: to give the youth of the area a way to gain valuable musical experience, to obtain different insights into the techniques of their particular instrument from a faculty of professional musicians and teachers, and finally, to give our youth the enjoyment of performing in an orchestra and an appreciation of the arts – whether as a performer, a future teacher or an avid audience participant.

In the fall of 1983, the Youth Symphony added the Philharmonic Orchestra, which is now a full orchestra. Other groups have been added over the years, such as the Preparatory Strings, the Discovery Orchestra, the Premier Orchestra and various Chamber groups. We now have the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Italiano Orchestra.

Audition Requirements and Procedures

Membership Requirements

Orchestra membership is based on musical ability as well as the orchestra's specific needs for instrumentation for the season. Young musicians from 4th grade through 12th grade who play an orchestral instrument may audition. With two orchestras, there are many opportunities for talented musicians.

The Philharmonic Orchestra

The Philharmonic Orchestra is an intermediate-level, full orchestra (strings and winds) that allows motivated and interested students to enjoy a rewarding orchestral experience. It is for young musicians who have had playing experience and desire the challenge of excellent music but are not yet ready to play the most difficult of orchestral repertoire. The Philharmonic Orchestra will challenge the middle school and high school musician. Players gain from the experience of playing more advanced orchestral repertoire, which is not always possible in a school setting.

The Italiano Orchestra

The Italiano Orchestra is a full orchestra comprised of young musicians through the 12th grade who have demonstrated an ability to perform at an advanced level. Members enjoy the enrichment and challenge of performing with other serious and dedicated musicians. Technical skills include being able to play in both basic and more difficult key signatures. Woodwind and brass players will be able to play chromatic scales, read expected clefs for their instruments, and transpose where applicable. String players will be able to play scales through at least three octaves, be able to play fluently through all positions, have advanced bowing techniques (e.g., spiccato and sautillé) and be able to read all expected clefs for their instrument. Percussion players will have mallet instrument techniques (two octave scales), and knowledge of timpani (tuning and technique). Timpani, xylophone, marimba, vibraphone and snare drum will be provided. Students are asked to bring their own mallets.

Audition Requirements

Audition Requirements for the Philharmonic Orchestra:

Solo: Select a Class A or Class B solo from the WSMA High School or Middle School list, OR select a piece of similar difficulty that is not on the list. (Ask your music teacher for help selecting a solo).

Scales: Play the scales from the WSMA Middle Level Auditions Requirements. **NOTE:** Ignore EVERYTHING EXCEPT the scales.

Nothing else is required (no sight reading).

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Audition Requirements for the Italiano Orchestra:

Solo: Select a Class A or Class B solo from the WSMA High School or Middle School list, OR select a piece of similar difficulty that is not on the list. (Ask your music teacher for help selecting a solo).

Scales: Play the scales from the WSMA High School Audition Requirements. **NOTE:** Ignore EVERYTHING EXCEPT the scales.

Nothing else is required (no sight reading).

Auditions are for new members only and for Philharmonic members wanting to move into the Italiano Orchestra. If you were a member during the second semester of the previous season, you do not audition for the next season.

Students who join either orchestra after the season's auditions have taken place – for example, through the Bring a Friend program – will need to audition separately to determine eligibility and in which orchestra they will play. These students will be placed at the end of the section until the next year's chair placement auditions are held.

All members (new and returning) must play a **placement audition** prior to the first rehearsal in September. Placement auditions take place only in August/September and are valid for the entire year. Requirements and excerpts for this audition will be emailed to everyone after the August audition date. Students who do not submit a virtual audition video will be placed at the back of their section.

Adjudicators

The adjudication panel consists of LYSO conductors and faculty. This panel will determine the placement of the musicians. **The panel's decisions are final.**

Other Audition Information

- Auditions are closed to parents and the public.
- Students will be judged on intonation, interpretation, tone, rhythm, technique, and scale proficiency.
- Orchestra placements may not be appealed.

Audition results will be emailed to everyone within 48 hours following the audition date.

Financial Information

Membership Fees

- Tuition fees are: **\$350 per semester**.
- Fees can be paid either by check at rehearsal, made payable to LYSO, or through the members section of our website (preferred)
- Membership fees are nonrefundable. Fees must be paid by the 1st rehearsal.
 - Students will not be given their folders until tuition is paid or discussed with the orchestra manager.
- This is an all-inclusive fee - there are no additional fees for the audition, folders, music, etc.

Fundraisers:

Fundraisers will be offered to help offset the LYSO's operating costs. All fundraisers are voluntary – there are no required fundraisers.

A Night in Vienna: This year will mark the 3rd annual A Night in Vienna fundraiser. Taking place at Cappella Performing Arts Center, LYSO students participate in performing in pre-dinner music or a recital for the guests of the fundraiser, encouraging them to donate to the organization and support the students.

Where the Money Goes:

The money is used to purchase equipment, music, print programs, tickets and posters, to rent performance halls and rehearsal space, to pay salaries; to hire professional music coaches and teachers.

Financial Assistance:

It is the policy of the LYSO to deny no child admission because of an inability to pay. This assistance is available to all members regardless of age, ability or length of time in the LYSO. Please contact the orchestra manager at manager@lyso.org to discuss options.

All requests for financial assistance must be received by the the week before the first rehearsal of each semester. An application is at the end of this handbook.

Financial assistance does not affect the standing or eligibility of a member in any way.

General Policies

Attendance

PARTICIPATION BY ALL MEMBERS IS MANDATORY FOR ALL CONCERTS, dress rehearsals and the rehearsal prior to the concert are required. If you miss any of these you WILL NOT be allowed to play the concert.

Any member missing the last two rehearsals prior to each semester concert or any part thereof, unless for a doctor's excused illness or extreme emergency, **WILL NOT** be allowed to participate in the concert and possibly forfeit future membership. This will be determined by the conductor.

Our orchestras can only produce the highest quality performance when all musicians are in attendance. Unlike sports teams, we have no "substitutes" and our sound changes when musicians are missing. Therefore, all musicians are expected to attend every rehearsal. We do understand that school music events may come first; however, they do count as an absence.

There are only nine rehearsals per concert cycle. If excessive absences occur (**more than three**) participation in the upcoming concert is at the discretion of the conductor. The reason for the absence is not the issue; rather it is the absence itself and the subsequent lack of preparation. More than three absences per concert cycle will mean you are not as prepared as the others, and you may be asked not to perform in that concert.

All absences need to be submitted online (at the For Members page) at least one week prior to the absence.

Personal illness and/or family emergency - absence must be submitted online prior to rehearsal (if possible).

If you are unable to play your instrument for any reason, you are still expected to come to rehearsal, take notes and stay "in tune" with what's going on in your section.

Arriving late or leaving early

A member will be considered tardy if not seated and ready to play when the conductor begins the rehearsal. Two instances of tardiness will be counted as one absence.

Leaving early will count as half an absence.

Members must use the online absence form as soon as they know they will be tardy or have to leave early (at the For Members web page).

Music Policy

Each LYSO member is assigned a folder at the beginning of the season; keep your music in this folder. Every player is responsible for their own folder and the music issued. Since original music replacement charges can run anywhere from \$5 to \$30 per part, you should handle your music carefully and return it on time. It is the member's responsibility to be certain that they have all the music that has been assigned.

A musician who has failed to return music or pay replacement costs will not be permitted to participate in orchestra activities until they have arranged for replacement of the music.

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Music is entrusted to each orchestra member and must be handled with great care.

- Copies and originals will be handed out.
- Non-musical marking of the music is unacceptable
- Folders will be assigned at the start of each semester and must be returned at the concert or as instructed. A musician not performing in the concert must return the music folder prior to the concert. Copies must be turned in as well as the original music. NOTE: the LYSO will not assume responsibility for personal items left in music folders.
- Musical markings or notations should be made in light to medium pencil only. NEVER USE INK TO MARK MUSIC (even if it is a copy)!

If you need to borrow additional music during a rehearsal you must sign it out with the manager and return it at the end of rehearsal.

School Participation

The LYSO organization is firmly committed to the importance of school music programs. Members are expected to participate in their school orchestras and bands if they are offered.

Rehearsals

You will find a full season schedule/calendar under the members tab of the website. Please refer to the schedule often. Mark all dates on your calendar, and be sure that your parents are aware of all these dates as well.

What to bring to all rehearsals

- Your instrument with all its proper accessories (mutes, reeds, rock stops, etc.) Think ahead remember to bring your instrument home from school on Friday.
- Your own music and pencil with eraser – do not rely on your stand partner.
- All string players should have an extra set of strings in their instrument case.
- All woodwind players should have extra reeds in their instrument case.
- Come to rehearsals musically prepared. Know your music.

Use of rehearsal facilities

- No food, gum, or drinks in rehearsal or sectional rooms at any time.
- All members need to pick up trash and help put chairs and music stands back so that all rooms are left in the proper order.
- Do not wander through the building before or after rehearsals or on break. Areas for LYSO use are rehearsal rooms, sectional rooms (on a sectional day), break area and restrooms.
- You are responsible for keeping your instrument and other belongings safe during a rehearsal. LYSO is not responsible for damage or theft of your instruments or other belongings. Please do not leave instruments unattended or lying on chairs where they can be knocked off and damaged.

Conduct

- Be in your chair, warmed up, tuned and ready for the first downbeat at starting time.
- When the conductor stops for a correction, cease playing immediately and pay attention to what is being said.

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- Give your full attention to the conductor. No talking or disruptive behavior while the conductor is on the podium. Social conversation should be limited to breaks and after rehearsal.
- Parents, families, music teachers and friends are welcome to visit any of the rehearsals EXCEPT dress rehearsals, which are closed to all. They are not allowed to interact and if they cause disruptions will be asked to leave.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS ARE PROHIBITED BY LYSO AND WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL. ALL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN INSIDE THE BUILDING DURING REHEARSALS AND BREAKS.

Concert Ticket Information

Ticket sales offset the cost of renting the concert hall. Please encourage family and friends to attend for their pleasure as well as the performers' benefit. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

Concert Ticket prices: Adults - \$15.00 Senior Citizens - \$5.00
Students - \$5.00

Parent Participation

The LYSO program could not function without the volunteer time that parents give. Parents can contribute in many ways, including acting as ushers or chaperones and helping with fundraising.

Concert Dress

If a member comes inappropriately dressed, they may be sent home. Please remember that you are up on a stage with the audience below you, short skirts or white socks will not be allowed!

Italiano Orchestra

Girls: all black – black **floor-length** skirt or dress (must be long-sleeved) or black dress pants, black **long-sleeved** blouse, black nylons and black dress shoes.

Boys: all black – black tux or suit, black bow tie, black socks and black dress shoes. White **long-sleeved** shirt.

Philharmonic Orchestra

Students wear ALL BLACK.

- Top: Long-sleeved (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length), black dress shirt OR floor- or ankle-length long-sleeved black dress
- Bottom:
 - Long black dress pants OR floor- or ankle-length black skirt (not form-fitting)
 - Black socks or tights (at least mid-calf height, no bare legs or feet)
 - Black dress shoes (no open toes, sandals, or sneakers)

Communications

LYSO Website

The best way to keep up with activities, announcements, schedules, and changes is at the LYSO website. The website is updated constantly. Find the website at <http://www.lyso.org>.

Announcements and Handouts

Announcements are frequently made at rehearsals, and things may be handed out at rehearsals. It is the member's responsibility to make sure that parents/guardians are informed of these after each rehearsal.

Last Minute Information

When information changes at the last minute, LYSO will be in touch, usually through email. Also, the LYSO website (www.lyso.org) will be updated often with any breaking news.

Bad Weather Cancellations or Delays

All weather-related postponement and cancellation information will be posted prominently at the LYSO website.

If you live outside of the La Crosse area, your weather may be far different than in La Crosse. If we do not cancel a rehearsal, but you feel that you can't get your child there safely, please let us know you won't be coming.

LYSO Office

The best method of contact is via the manager's email, manager@lyso.org. The manager does not work any set hours and has other responsibilities beyond LYSO, but will do their best to respond to any inquiries within 48 hours.

Email

The best way to contact the manager or either of the conductors is through email.

Email addresses are:

Board President:	Laura Eber - president@lyso.org
Manager:	Cassie Davis - manager@lyso.org
Italiano Orchestra Conductor:	Mark Pomplun - italiano@lyso.org
Philharmonic Orchestra Conductor:	Zach Mayer - philharmonic@lyso.org

Locations

*Onalaska High School - 700 Hilltopper Drive, Onalaska, WI
Rehearsals and Concerts*

*Please use Door H to enter, it is directly across from the football field bleachers.



Liability Release Form 2024-25 Season

I, the parent or guardian of the below-named child/ward, give my permission for his/her participation in all activities, rehearsals and performances of the La Crosse Area Youth Symphony Orchestras (LYSO).

I hereby release and discharge the LYSO, its agents, directors and volunteers who participate in or conduct activities on behalf of the LYSO from all claims, demands or actions which the parent or guardian's heirs, executors, administrators or assigns may have, against the LYSO, its successors or assigns, for all personal injuries, known or unknown, to my child/ward and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by or arising directly or indirectly out of any activities conducted by the LYSO, including, but not limited to, scheduled activities, rehearsals and performances for the 2024-25 season.

I authorize the La Crosse Area Youth Symphony Orchestras or its agents or volunteers to take my child/ward to the nearest available physician or facility for medical treatment in the event of an emergency in which neither parent can be reached. I authorize any licensed physician or medical facility to treat my child/ward.

I, the parent or guardian, have read this release and understand all of its terms, and I execute it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

Name of Child: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip** _____

Does this child have any disabilities, handicaps, present injuries or limitations, asthma, allergies, hemophilia, heart condition, history of respiratory illness or other significant medical condition?
Yes () No () (If yes, please explain on the other side of this form.)

Insurance Company: _____ **Policy #** _____

Date of last Tetanus Shot: _____

Family doctor in case of emergency:

Physician's Name _____ **Phone** _____

Parent/Guardian: Name _____ **Phone** _____

If there is an emergency and I cannot be reached, please contact:

-

Alternate Contact Name: _____

WHO IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ACT IN MY BEHALF.

Phone _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent or Guardian

Release Form and Code of Conduct 2024-25

Member Name: _____ **Parent Name:** _____

I give permission to the La Crosse Area Youth Symphony Orchestras (LYSO) for the member (listed above) to be photographed and/or video recorded for LYSO publicity purposes - in print, on CD's, DVD's or on the internet.

I give permission to the LYSO for the above member to be published as a member of the LYSO.

I give permission to the LYSO for the above member's contact information to be published in a directory which will be provided to LYSO members and families only.

I hereby give consent for my child to participate, without compensation, in all LYSO activities. I hereby consent to the full and unrestricted use of my child's image and/or performance, without compensation, in photographs, videotapes and sound recordings produced by or for the LYSO. I hereby release the La Crosse Area Youth Symphony Orchestras from any claims of invasion of privacy or defamation that may arise out of, or that may be related to, all LYSO activities.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Students in LYSO have been selected for their talent and commitment to music. It is expected that students have made a willing commitment to expand themselves to their fullest in the hard work and discipline that is necessary to excel and that is essential to achieve a high level of music making. The following list is designed to assist us in that pursuit.

1. I agree to be responsible for being on time, organized (have instrument, music and pencil), prepared, dressed appropriately (dress will be discussed by each conductor in regards to rehearsal and performance) and ready to work at all LYSO activities. I agree to attend all performances of my orchestra.
2. I agree to always make my safety and that of others a priority. I promise to never place myself, the group or any individual in harm's way.
3. I agree to review and adhere to the guidelines in the LYSO Handbook.
4. I agree to make the care of my instrument and my music a priority and to be respectful of my fellow musicians' instruments and music.
5. I agree to always be respectful of the facilities where I rehearse and perform. I agree that I will not bring any food or drinks into the rehearsal rooms (water allowed). I agree to assist in re-setting the room after rehearsals by putting away my chair and stand.
6. I agree to be free of all illegal and mind altering substances, including drugs, marijuana and alcohol at all LYSO activities. I agree to be free from the effects or after-effects of any mind altering substance.
7. I agree to the following: When the Conductor is on the podium, all conversation stops. When the
8. Conductor says something about the music, I will write it down in my music! Electronic equipment such as I Pods or cell phones are not allowed in rehearsal. Rudeness will not be tolerated at any time.
9. Failure to adhere to these policies requires a mandatory conference with your conductor and orchestra manager and may result in disciplinary action or dismissal from the LYSO program.
10. I promise that these rules are **MY** rules and agreements, that I own them and that I accept full responsibility for knowing and following them, voluntarily, as if they had been written by me.

Member Signature: _____ **Date:** _____