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# THE ◊ HYDE ◊ PARK YOUTH SYMPHONY

*Christopher Ramaekers, Music Director*

*Joyce Norman, General Manager*

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The Hyde Park Youth Symphony is a community-based organization dedicated to providing a high-quality arts experience to children on the south side of Chicago and nurturing in them a love for music that will last a lifetime. The Symphony serves a broad range of children and families, from a variety of public, private, and home school programs, and from a diversity of racial, ethnic, educational, and economic backgrounds.

## STAFF CONTACTS

<b>Chris Ramaekers</b>	Music Director, Senior Symphony Conductor 248-935-6694	e-mail: <a href="mailto:director@hpys.org">director@hpys.org</a>
<b>Dan McDonald</b>	Intermediate Orchestra Director, String Coach 773-643-9059	
<b>John Tredon</b>	Junior Strings Director 773-324-0726	
<b>Elizabeth Diaz</b>	Wind Coach	e-mail: <a href="mailto:liz_d999@yahoo.com">liz_d999@yahoo.com</a>
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<b>Susan Burns</b>	co-President, Board of Directors 773-752-3706	e-mail: <a href="mailto:sburns@uchicago.edu">sburns@uchicago.edu</a>

MAILING ADDRESS      HPYS C/O A BRODY  
4940 So. Kimbark Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60615

REHEARSALS      Rehearsals are held at the Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn Ave.  
on Thursday afternoons. The Senior Symphony rehearses from 4:30 – 6:30.  
The Intermediate Orchestra and Junior Strings rehearse from 5:30 – 6:30.

## CONCERTS

Holiday Concert: Hyde Park Union Church, Sunday, December 5, 3:00 PM

Winter Concert: DuSable Museum, Sunday, March 6, 3:00 PM

Spring/Concerto Concert: Hyde Park Union Church, Sunday, May 22, 3:00 PM

## ENSEMBLES

### SENIOR SYMPHONY (GRADES 7 - 12)\*

Conducted by Music Director Chris Ramaekers, the Senior Orchestra is designed for middle and high school students who demonstrate a high level of music reading ability and technical mastery of their instrument. Students are placed into the Senior Orchestra by audition. The senior orchestra's repertoire is grounded in pieces for chamber orchestra from the classical period, but may also feature baroque, romantic, and contemporary works, as well as jazz, selections from musical theater, and film music.

In preparation for the spring benefit, the Senior Orchestra is divided into Chamber Ensembles of three to six members. These Chamber Ensembles challenge students with increased individual responsibility and the absence of a conductor. Experience with chamber music is a beneficial counterpart to our full orchestra program, and develops skills that are important for lifelong music making. These groups perform at the Spring Benefit recital.

### INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA (GRADES 5-8)\*

The Intermediate Orchestra is designed for string and wind players who have sufficient training on their instruments to participate in an orchestra setting. Led by Dan McDonald, the program focuses on improving students' music-reading skills, reinforces technical fundamentals, and provides the musical peer motivation that can make such a difference to young players.

The Intermediate Orchestra frequently joins the Senior Symphony to perform a joint piece on concert programs.

### JUNIOR STRINGS (GRADES 2-6)\*

The Junior Strings program is designed for students who have at least 6 – 12 months of instruction on their instrument. Led by longtime string teacher John Tredon, this group is a chamber ensemble made up of young violinists, violists, and cellists who work on improving their skills and get their first chance playing in a group. The repertoire is tailor-made to the ensemble, ensuring that each student can make the maximum progress.

*\*These grade designations serve as a general guideline for placement; students may be placed in any ensemble based on experience and ability, at the discretion of the music director. Students who are younger than 2nd grade who have adequate experience on their instrument may be accepted as well.*

- CONCERT DRESS** Ladies: Long, dark (black preferred) skirts or pants, white blouse, black shoes.  
Gentlemen: White shirt, dark (black preferred) pants, black socks and shoes.
- AUDITIONS** There are **two** audition sessions for new members: September and January. Seating auditions take place as part of the fall audition session and at the discretion of the conductor throughout the year. After the initial designated audition days, all other auditions will be held by appointment.
- CELL PHONES** All cell phones must be in the **off** position during rehearsal.
- EXPECTATIONS** HPYS is a community that meets for the benevolent purpose of making music. As such, each of its members are expected to live up to certain requirements:
- Daily practice at home* (HPYS music may not be the sole focus of every practice session, but should constitute a portion of every practice session.)
  - Respect for fellow students, staff, and the practice facility at the Hyde Park Union Church.*
  - Prompt arrival at all rehearsals and performances.* For normal rehearsals, this means arriving 10-15 minutes early. Enough time must be allowed to unpack instruments and warm-up so that rehearsal can start on-time. There is an old saying in the entertainment world: early is on-time, on-time is late, and late is fired!
- ATTENDANCE POLICY** Membership in HPYS is both a privilege and a responsibility. ***Prompt attendance is expected for all rehearsals and concerts.*** We cannot achieve any progress without the participation of all members. Tardiness and irregular attendance shows a lack of respect for your colleagues and is a disruption of the orchestra's time together.
1. Two excused absences are allowed per concert cycle (there are 9-11 rehearsals per cycle). Please report all absences *at least* one day in advance to General Manager, Joyce Norman (773-562-2369).
  - 2. No unexcused absences are expected.**
  3. Last-minute attendance emergencies or late arrivals should be communicated to the General Manager. This information is very helpful for the musical staff, even at the last minute. More than 15 minutes of missed rehearsal time constitutes an absence.
  4. Attendance at the dress rehearsals (typically the rehearsal right before each concert) is required. Members of any ensemble who miss a dress rehearsal will not perform in the concert.

5. If you have transportation difficulties, please alert the General Manager in order to arrange ride-sharing.

6. **Senior Orchestra members:** student attendance may be a factor when deciding placement in chamber ensembles. If attendance becomes a problem while preparing for chamber ensemble performances, the director reserves the right to make the necessary changes to these ensembles or the rehearsal schedule, including scheduling additional rehearsals.

***At the Director's discretion, more than two excused absences per concert cycle, or any unexcused absences are grounds for disqualifying a student from performing in the next concert.***

## TUITION POLICY

A tuition fee is required for all HPYS members:

Senior Symphony: \$495/year

Intermediate Orchestra: \$360/year

Junior Strings: TBA approx. \$360/year

The tuition fee may be paid in 3 installments (before each concert cycle), however, **we strongly encourage all families to pay the fees for the entire year.** Please make checks out to "Hyde Park Youth Symphony" and send to our assistant treasurer at the following address:

Sheila Schwartz  
1458 E. 56<sup>th</sup> St.  
Chicago, IL 60637

Late payments can be received in person at the first rehearsal.

HPYS is committed to accepting all students regardless of financial circumstances and thus provides a limited amount of need-based financial aid. For an application or further details, please contact General Manager, Joyce Norman at 773-562-2369 **before** tuition is due.

## PARENTS

HPYS enthusiastically supports the participation of the parents in their operations. Every parent is asked to help their own student's individual progress and the overall quality of the ensembles by insisting on daily practice. We also encourage parents to spread the word about HPYS and help get other young musicians involved in our music making!

Additional participation possibilities include Board membership, rehearsal responsibilities, mailings, concert arrangements, spring benefit, fundraising, recruitment, web design, and audio-visual recording. Please speak to a member of our staff or board about getting involved!

## SCHOOL MUSIC

The Hyde Park Youth Symphony recognizes the importance of school music programs in their communities and expects its members to be active participants in their programs. HPYS and the schools share a

common goal of training future musicians. Ongoing communication will help us both achieve that goal, and we encourage HPYS families to help us identify avenues for mutual support.

## CONCERTO COMPETITION

The first rehearsal of the Spring Quarter includes the Claire Despres Oppenheim Concerto Competition for Senior Symphony members. All participants in the competition will have the opportunity to perform their concerto in recital, and judges will select one or two winners to perform with the Senior Symphony during the Spring Concert.

Though the competition's focus is on technical and musical mastery, good attendance, hard work, and a generally positive attitude in rehearsals will reflect well on all participants (as it will on all members of the Symphony!)

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

A limited number of high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors will be selected as HPYS Mentors for the '10-'11 season. Mentors must demonstrate both a high level of musicality and personal maturity. Mentors may be assigned to any of the three HPYS orchestras, and responsibilities may include leading sectionals, coaching chamber groups, library work, set up and striking of the orchestra set-up, and any other necessary managerial and musical assignments at the discretion of the conductor.

Mentors may also have concert performance assignments and should expect to be present at all concerts, regardless of whether they are themselves performing.

In all rehearsal and performance situations, mentors will be expected to model exemplary preparation, attention and attitude. Their main role in the orchestra is to give younger and less experienced musicians a positive impression of what can be achieved, both musically and personally through the study of music. Mentors must adhere to all rules and guidelines outlined for HPYS members, including concert dress, expectations, and the attendance policy.

## EVENTS

### **Family Potluck: October 4, 6:30, HP Union Church**

Bring your favorite dish and meet other HPYS families! Rehearsal will end early (6:15) and the dinner will start at 6:30. A great chance to talk with other young musicians, parents and the HPYS staff.

### **Holiday Concert: December 5, 3:00 PM, Hyde Park Union Church**

For our annual Holiday Concert, HPYS will once again join forces with the Chicago Children's Choir.

### **Winter Concert: March 6, 3:00 PM, DuSable Museum**

HPYS returns to the DuSable Museum of African American History (located at 56<sup>th</sup> and Cottage Grove in Washington Park) for another Winter Concert.

### **Concerto Competition: March 10, 5:30 PM, HP Union Church**

Members of the Senior Symphony compete in the Claire Despres

Oppenheim Concerto Competition. Named for our founder, the Concerto Competition gives students the opportunity to display their talents as soloists. The winner(s) go on to play their selection accompanied by the orchestra at the final concert.

**Spring Benefit: May 1, 7:30 PM, Location TBA**

The Spring Benefit is another chance for HPYS students and families to get to know one another better, as well as to do some serious fundraising for the orchestra! Chamber Ensembles from the Senior Symphony perform along with a special guest soloist.

**Spring Concert: May 23, 3:00 PM, HP Union Church**

HPYS's final concert of the year features the winner of the Claire Despres Oppenheim Concerto Competition.