

# The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York



Member Handbook  
2015-2016 Season

# ABOUT THE METROPOLITAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF NEW YORK

The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York (MYO) is committed to fostering a community of talented young musicians from Long Island and providing them with an opportunity to rehearse and perform choral and orchestral masterworks at the highest possible level with recognized leaders in music education and performance. Founded in 1993 by John C. McNeur, MYO has grown from a 15-piece orchestra to seven orchestras, a flute choir, and seven choral ensembles, serving over 950 musicians between the ages of 8 and 18. Over the past several summers, MYO has embarked on performance tours, including Central and Eastern Europe, the United Kingdom, and most recently to The People's Republic of China.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The MYO handbook is intended to provide a reference for common questions and official procedures that concern our regular season. Any new information will be distributed to members and their families throughout the season as needed. If you have any questions, please email us or call our office during business hours and we will be happy to assist you.

## **Contact Information**

### **Mailing Address:**

The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York  
 13 Myrtle Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
 Manhasset, NY 11030

### **Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday  
 9am - 5pm

### **Telephone:**

(516) 365-6961

### **Fax:**

(516) 365-6960

### **MYO Office Staff:**

Anthea Jackson	Executive Director
Stephen Duggan	General Manager
Nicole Fox	Membership Manager

### **Email:**

[ajackson@myo.org](mailto:ajackson@myo.org)  
[sduggan@myo.org](mailto:sduggan@myo.org)  
[nfox@myo.org](mailto:nfox@myo.org)

### **Website:**

[www.myo.org](http://www.myo.org)

### **Like us on Facebook:**

[Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York](https://www.facebook.com/MetropolitanYouthOrchestraofNewYork)

### **Follow us on Twitter:**

[@myoorch](https://twitter.com/myoorch)

## From the Executive Director

Dear MYO Members and Families,

Congratulations to all of our new and returning musicians! It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2015-2016 season of The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York. Founded in 1993 by John C. McNeur, MYO has grown from a 15-piece orchestra to 15 ensembles including seven orchestras, a flute choir, and seven choral ensembles. We are proud to serve over 950 musicians between the ages of 8 and 18.

Benefits of your MYO membership include:

- Making music with Long Island's leaders in education and performance
- Performing at renowned concert venues in Long Island and New York City
- Collaborating with talented and dedicated young musicians
- Comprehensive training for higher levels of music making

**New in 2015-2016:** select MYO ensembles will perform for the first time at the 92nd Street Y and at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Rose Theater, as well as at Carnegie Hall. We are delighted to perform at cherished Long Island concert venues: Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, The Tilles Center, The Staller Center for the Arts, and LeFrak Concert Hall at Queens College.

**MYO is touring Spain in July 2016!** The tour is open to registered MYO members entering 8th grade - 12th grade in September 2015, and to our MYO Alumni.

Please see our website for more details [www.myo.org](http://www.myo.org).

MYO members are expected to uphold our organization's high musical standards and abide by the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook. Thank you to our members and their families for taking the time to read this handbook carefully, as it will answer many of your questions and prepare you for the 2015-2016 season.

It is our goal to provide you with opportunities that are as exceptional as you are and we look forward to a brilliant year of music ahead!

Congratulations again and best wishes,



Anthea Jackson, Executive Director  
The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York

# Membership

Membership in MYO Choirs and Orchestras is available to qualified musicians who audition and are accepted. Acceptance is based on several factors including musical ability, technical proficiency, experience, age, and the needs of each ensemble.

Membership in the program is a serious commitment and members are expected to be actively involved from the first rehearsal in September through the final concert in May. Please refer to your MYO ensemble schedule for specific rehearsal and performance dates and times.

## **Programs**

MYO has 15 performing ensembles across Long Island's Nassau and Suffolk Counties for the 2015-2016 season. Learn more about MYO Music Directors and Pianists at [www.myo.org](http://www.myo.org) under About Us.

### **Nassau County:**

Nassau Treble Choir  
Nassau Concert Choir  
Nassau Symphonic Choir  
Nassau Chamber Chorale  
Nassau Flute Choir  
Nassau String Orchestra  
Nassau Concert Orchestra  
Nassau Symphony Orchestra  
Nassau Principal Orchestra

### **Music Director:**

Craig B. Knapp and Pianist Naomi Aomori  
Erica Purrone and Pianist Jessalyn Christen  
Louise O'Hanlon and Pianist Naomi Aomori  
Edward P. Norris III and Pianist Cara Brown  
Nana Aomori  
Michelina Cerbone  
Peggy Ho  
Patricia Koppeis  
Scott Stickley

### **Suffolk County**

Suffolk Treble Choir  
Suffolk Concert Choir  
Suffolk Youth Chorale  
Suffolk Concert Orchestra  
Suffolk Symphony Orchestra  
Suffolk Principal Orchestra

### **Music Director:**

Craig B. Knapp and Pianist Kaitlin Schneekloth  
Melanie Dominick and Pianist Brendan Sparks  
Shoshana Hershkowitz and Pianist Brad Drinkwater  
Eileen Murphy  
Scott Zarchy  
Phil Preddice

## **Registration**

To register for the 2015-2016 season, you must submit the following:

- Completed online Registration Form
- Completed online Release and Medical Information Form
- Tuition Fee

The Registration Form includes the terms and conditions of our Parent/Guardian Agreement, and both forms require a parent or guardian signature.

Your registration form, release form, and tuition must be received and processed before you can be enrolled as an active MYO member. Members will receive:

- MYO 2015-2016 Handbook (emailed to members and available on [www.myo.org](http://www.myo.org))
- Schedule of Rehearsals, Concerts, and Events
- Folder and Assigned Music
- MYO 2015-2016 T-Shirt
- Weekly E-Notes from the MYO Office

## **Tuition**

The annual tuition fee helps MYO offset the costs associated with:

- Instruction by MYO Music Directors, Pianists, Coaches, and Guest Performers
- Rental and security fees for MYO rehearsal spaces, September through May
- Performances in renowned concert venues in Long Island and New York City
- Sheet music for rehearsals and performances

### **2015-2016 Tuition Fees**

Nassau/Suffolk Treble Choir: \$535

1.75 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau/Suffolk Concert Choir: \$550

2 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau Flute Choir: \$550

2 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Suffolk Youth Chorale, Nassau Symphonic Choir, Nassau Chamber Chorale: \$560

2.5 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau String Orchestra: \$560

2 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau/Suffolk Concert Orchestra: \$560

2.25 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau/Suffolk Symphony Orchestra: \$610

2.5 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau/Suffolk Principal Orchestra: \$610

2.5 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Please note the tuition does not cover the cost of concert tickets, concert recordings, or any additional MYO merchandise.

## Payment Methods

Tuition payments may be submitted online through PayPal, or in the form of cash, check, money order, or credit card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover). Please be sure to include the MYO member's full name (first and last) on each check or money order. Any bank fees resulting from a returned check are the responsibility of the paying party.

Full tuition payments must be completed by the due date indicated on the registration form. If this presents a hardship, payment plans are available. Please contact the MYO office at 516-365-6961 for details. **Members will not be permitted to attend rehearsals without a tuition payment or payment plan in place.**

MYO Member accounts with an outstanding balance on **Monday, January 4, 2016** will be subject to review and possible probation.

## MYO Concert Ticket Prices

MYO families are expected to purchase concert tickets to three formal concerts held throughout the 2015-2016 season. The ticket income offsets the cost of venue rental, labor, and concert programs. Concert ticket prices for Long Island venues are priced at \$25 for Adults, and \$10 for Students (21 years and under) and Seniors (60 years and older). Concert ticket prices for New York City venues are higher (\$18-\$55 on average) because of the costs associated with renting internationally renowned concert spaces.

## Discounts, Financial Aid, and Senior Scholarships

We offer the following tuition discounts:

- \$100 discount for each additional sibling who is an active MYO member in 2015-2016
- As part of our building use agreement with the Sachem School District in Suffolk County, we offer a \$100 tuition discount to members who are currently enrolled in Sachem public schools.

Financial Aid may be provided based on demonstrated financial need and the availability of MYO funding. The deadline for submitting the Financial Aid Application for the 2015-2016 season is **Friday, July 17, 2015**.

We are proud to offer merit-based scholarships to **graduating seniors** who have demonstrated outstanding musicianship, dedicated service to MYO, and have plans to major in music at college (including the fields of Music Administration, Business, Composition, Education, Performance, Recording and Therapy). Performance includes instrumental and vocal performance, as well as Musical Theatre.

Applications for the following scholarships will be available in the Spring of 2016:

- The Joseph Ferriso Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)
- The Veronica Franco Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)
- The Genelle Taney Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)
- 3 additional MYO Senior Scholarships (\$1,000 each)



## Withdrawing Membership

We would like to reiterate that by accepting a position in MYO, you have made a season-long commitment. However, should a situation occur where you need to withdraw your membership after the season is underway, you must send Membership Manager Nicole Fox a written statement explaining the reason(s) for your withdrawal to [nfox@myo.org](mailto:nfox@myo.org). All assigned music must be returned to MYO or you will be charged a replacement fee of \$10 per part.

Participation fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE** after your child's **first** official rehearsal of the season. No refund will be granted for any reason if your child completes his/her first official rehearsal of the season. MYO will retain an administrative fee of \$100 for any refund issued **prior to** your child's first MYO rehearsal of the 2015-2016 season. A petition for refund is required.

## Personal Information Access

We use a secure online program to manage our members' information, called Charms Office Assistant. Through Charms, you can access and edit your personal information which we use to contact you via email, phone, mail, and (in case of emergency) text message. You can also use Charms to check your music assignments, download practice parts, review absences, and more.

To access this area:

1. Click the **"MYO Members Only"** link found on the homepage of our website ([www.myo.org](http://www.myo.org))
2. Charms will prompt you to enter your **"School Code"**; please enter **"MYONYOrch"**
3. Use your 6-digit MYO ID number as the **"Student Area Password"** (you may change it once logged-in)

If you are making changes to your personal information, your changes will not be saved to your account unless you click the **"Update"** button in the upper right hand corner of the page.

**Weekly MYO E-Notes will be sent to the email addresses listed in your Charms account.**

## Promoting MYO Performances and Auditions

We strongly encourage our members and their families to promote MYO performances and new member auditions through word of mouth.

- Please share our website address ([www.myo.org](http://www.myo.org))
- "Like" our Facebook page (Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York)
- Follow us on Twitter (@myoorch)
- "Check-in" to MYO rehearsals and performance venues
- Invite your music teachers to a MYO concert
- Tag MYO in your rehearsal and concert photos

# Policies and Expectations

## **MYO Code of Conduct**

Whether rehearsing or performing with your MYO ensemble, you are responsible for the following:

- You are a guest in MYO rehearsal and concert spaces and you must leave the premises in the same condition you found them
- You are expected to follow directions from MYO Music Directors, MYO Staff, and Venue Staff
- **MYO strictly enforces a zero tolerance policy regarding any form of harassment toward other members, MYO Music Directors, and Staff**
- You must not touch any musical instruments that do not belong to you
- **Cell phone use during MYO rehearsals and concerts is strictly prohibited**
- No talking during rehearsals unless you are addressed by the Music Director
- Homework is to be completed **before** or **after** rehearsals only

The first violation will result in a verbal warning from your Music Director and/or onsite MYO Staff.

The second violation will result in a call to member's family from the Executive Director.

The third violation will result in probation and possible dismissal from MYO.

## **School Ensemble Participation**

As a MYO Member, you are expected to remain an active, positive role model in your school music ensemble(s). Participating in both a school music program and MYO provides many benefits to young musicians, including experience playing a wide variety of musical styles, development of technique and musicianship, and the opportunity to work with and gain knowledge from different music directors and peers.

Every attempt is made to avoid scheduling conflicts with school events and other music organizations on Long Island. Please compare your rehearsal and concert schedule with your school events calendar now and discuss any possible conflicts with Membership Manager Nicole Fox at [nfox@myo.org](mailto:nfox@myo.org) **and** with your MYO Music Director as soon as possible.

## **Rehearsal Supervisors**

Rehearsal Supervisors are on-site MYO Staff members who manage rehearsals and concerts. Your rehearsal supervisor will assist with:

- Checking members in and distributing materials such as sheet music, tickets, and merchandise
- Monitoring our members before and after rehearsal and during breaks to ensure member behavior is consistent with the MYO Code of Conduct
- Responding to parent questions and concerns
- Accepting paperwork and payments, and transporting rehearsal materials to and from the MYO office

- Working with parent and member volunteers to coordinate ensemble set-up and breakdown
- Remaining with members to be sure everyone departs the premises safely

## Attendance

Attendance is taken at every rehearsal by your Rehearsal Supervisor, and MYO members are responsible for checking in upon arrival. **Your MYO music folder must be presented each week to be scanned for attendance.** Please **do not** use your sheet music for this purpose.

Arriving late for a rehearsal is disruptive. We expect our members to arrive at least fifteen minutes early to check in and warm up prior to the start of the rehearsal. **Three (3) late arrivals per concert cycle will count as one (1) absence.**

## Absences

**The MYO attendance policy allows for a maximum of three (3) excused absences per concert cycle. This policy may vary based on the requirements of your ensemble.** Any member exceeding this allowance will be notified by email and placed on probation. Members on probation should speak to the MYO Staff and their Music Director regarding their continued participation. The Music Director may ask members to play or sing their parts to determine their level of preparation.

Upon approval from the MYO Staff and Music Director, the probation status will be lifted. However, **members who do not receive this approval will not be permitted to perform in the upcoming concert.** Music Directors reserve the right to dismiss any member for lack of commitment (including, but not limited to, excessive absences, lack of preparation, and behavioral issues).

## Reporting MYO Absences

If you are going to be late or absent from a MYO rehearsal, please email [absence@myo.org](mailto:absence@myo.org) and include a clear explanation. Keep a copy for your records. Required school commitments, illness/injury, or a family emergency are examples of reasonable absences.

You are expected to report any absences or late arrivals to the MYO Staff and your Music Director. We also take your responsibility in reporting absences into account when considering any requests concerning future placement, financial aid, and merit scholarship awards. You can track your attendance record through your MYO Members Only account on Charms.

## Personal Practice and Preparation

**Members are required to practice their MYO music outside of rehearsal.** MYO Rehearsals are for learning how your individual part fits within the ensemble. We encourage you to listen to recordings of the works you are performing, as guided by your Music Director.

## Private Lessons

MYO members are strongly encouraged to take private music lessons. Lists of private instrumental and vocal teachers in the Nassau and Suffolk areas will be available through Charms to our current members only. These lists are a courtesy and MYO does not endorse or vouch for one private teacher over another and is not responsible for the quality of the instruction, qualifications of teachers, determination of fee structure, or any behaviors of teachers working outside of MYO.

## New Member Auditions

Auditions are required for initial placement in our MYO ensembles.

Auditions will be held in May and June for the upcoming season, and in September in the event of an ensemble opening. Acceptance into the program is highly competitive, and based largely upon:

- Demonstrated musical ability and technical proficiency
- Tone quality and intonation
- Rhythmic accuracy and sight-reading ability
- Experience, age, and the needs of each ensemble

## Returning Member Auditions

Returning Member Auditions will be held in May and June for the upcoming season. There is no fee for returning member auditions and the MYO Staff will notify members and families of their audition day and time by email. You do not need to fill out the online Audition Application form, as it is for new members only.

The Music Directors will make recommendations for ensemble placement in the 2016-2017 season based on these auditions and in consultation with other Music Directors and MYO Staff. Members will be notified of their placement in early July following the new and returning member auditions.

Not all of our returning members are required to audition for the 2016-2017 season. Please review the following information to see your specific ensemble's requirements.

## Nassau Orchestra and Flute Choir Members

All returning Nassau Orchestra and Flute Choir members will be **required** to audition for placement in the 2016-2017 season. Returning members will audition for their current MYO Music Director and auditions will be scheduled by instrument and ensemble on regular rehearsal nights in May and June 2016 by the MYO office. These auditions are only a few minutes in length and give our returning members a chance to play for their current Music Director one-on-one and demonstrate their technical and musical ability, beyond what was demonstrated during weekly MYO rehearsals.

## **Suffolk Orchestra Members**

Returning members who have been recommended to audition for placement in either the Suffolk Symphony Orchestra (moving from Suffolk Concert Orchestra) or the Suffolk Principal Orchestra (moving from Suffolk Symphony Orchestra) for the 2016-2017 season will audition for their prospective MYO Music Director. These auditions will be scheduled on MYO rehearsal nights in May and June for the upcoming season.

Audition recommendations will be made based on the member's playing level, orchestral experience, musical maturity, and age/maturity level.

Returning members who are remaining in the Suffolk Concert Orchestra, Suffolk Symphony Orchestra, or the Suffolk Principal Orchestra, will not be required to audition for placement in the 2016-2017 season.

## **All MYO Choir Members**

Returning member auditions give our MYO Choir Directors a chance to build their choirs, knowing the abilities of both returning and new members before the first rehearsal in September. This information also allows them to choose music for the 2016-2017 season that best suits the vocal abilities of their members.

The following returning members are required to audition for their potential 2016-2017 Choir Directors. The auditions will be scheduled on regular MYO rehearsal nights in May and June 2016 by the MYO office.

## **Treble Choirs**

Treble Choir members going into the 7th grade and moving to the Concert Choir will be required to audition for the Concert Choir Director.

## **Concert Choirs**

Concert Choir members going into the 9th grade and moving to the Nassau Symphonic Choir or Suffolk Youth Chorale will be required to audition for the respective Choir Director.

## **Suffolk Youth Chorale**

Returning Suffolk Youth Chorale members are not required to audition for placement in the 2016-2017 MYO season.

## **Nassau Symphonic Choir**

Nassau Symphonic Choir members entering 11th and 12th grade will audition for placement in the Nassau Chamber Chorale by recommendation only. Audition recommendations will be made based on the member's level of singing, ensemble participation, and attendance.

## **Nassau Chamber Chorale**

Returning Nassau Chamber Chorale members are required to audition for placement in the 2016-2017 MYO Season.

**Please Note:** Any members who are remaining in the Treble Choirs, Concert Choirs, Nassau Symphonic Choir, or Suffolk Youth Chorale in 2016-2017 based on their age and the age requirements of the ensemble are not required to audition.

## Orchestra Seating Auditions

All instrumentalists will be auditioned at the beginning and middle of the season to determine seating assignments. The seating audition dates are included in your rehearsal and concert schedule.

If, for any reason, you are unable to attend the scheduled date of the seating audition, please notify the office immediately to set up an audition prior to the listed audition date, which will be at the discretion of the Music Director. **There will be no make-up seating auditions after the scheduled date.**

The Music Director and Coaches will determine final concert seating based on demonstrated preparation, mastery of the music, leadership capability, and attendance. This procedure will be repeated in the middle of the season, eliminating permanent seating by a single audition. **The decision of the Music Director is final.**

*\*\*We would like to stress that family and other outside involvement in this process is disruptive to the Music Directors, Members, Coaches, and Staff. The Music Directors and Coaches work with the members on a regular basis and are able to determine the best possible results for the ensemble based on each individual's growth and strengths on their respective instruments and music. This is a training organization, and as such, we ask that you trust our professional judgment.*

## Orchestra Sectional Rehearsals

All String, Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion sections in MYO orchestras receive additional coaching from professional Long Island-based music educators. The MYO Staff will schedule one sectional per concert cycle, for each orchestral section. Sectional dates are included in your rehearsal and concert schedule.

## Printed Music and Distribution

All members will be issued music at the beginning of each concert cycle. **Original music will be assigned to members.** Please be mindful that original music is expensive and replacement charges can be as much as \$25 per part. Please handle any music carefully and return it in the condition in which it was received. Members will be charged a replacement fee of \$10 or more for each piece of unreturned, lost, or damaged original music.

- Printed music will be assigned to you with a specific part number. You will be responsible for returning that specific part at the end of the concert cycle. Do not mix it up with someone else's music. **If the part assigned to you is not returned, you will have to pay for it.**
- You can review your music assignments by visiting your online Charms account.

**MYO Members are expected to bring their own music folder and music to every rehearsal.**

Copies of the concert music will be available for download and printing through Charms.

*\*See Personal Information Access Section on page 9*

**Only pencil markings are permitted on the music.** Please mark your part lightly in pencil. Music returned with excessive markings, drawings, or with markings made in ink, will be considered damaged and you will be charged a replacement fee.

## Rehearsal Reminders

1. **Bring your music and pencil to every rehearsal.**
2. **Vocalists are encouraged to bring water to rehearsal.**
3. **All personal instruments must be in good working order.**

### **For Reed Instruments**

- Have a supply of extra reeds available at every rehearsal and concert

### **For Brass**

- All members must have the appropriate mute(s) available at each rehearsal and concert based on the needs of the music
- Have valve oil and slide grease available as needed

### **For Strings**

- Have a mute available at each rehearsal and concert
- Have a shoulder rest (as needed), rosin, dust cloth, and an extra set of strings available at each rehearsal and concert
- Cellists must supply their own rock stops

### **For Percussionists**

- Have own snare drum sticks, timpani pitch pipe, and mallet bag
- Complete any necessary setup **before** each rehearsal, in collaboration with your Music Director

## Concerts

### **MYO Formal Concerts**

Each MYO ensemble will perform in three (or more) concerts throughout each season as noted in your rehearsal and concert schedule. We will email members specific concert information at least one month in advance of the event, and will post updates on our website's Concert and Events page, Facebook page, and in our weekly MYO E-Notes.

Formal MYO concerts are recorded for archival purposes, except for the New York City venues. Online recordings of the Long Island-based performances may be available for a fee. Look for more information in the MYO Concert E-Notes.

MYO is no longer producing recordings on CD due to high costs and diminished demand.

## **Community Concert Series**

The MYO Community Concert Series will bring our musicians into the Long Island community to perform at venues including senior centers, afterschool programs, and hospitals. **We strongly encourage each member to perform in their ensemble's community concert during the season**, based on the availability of performing opportunities. If you or your family has recommendations for additional performing opportunities, please let us know.

## **Sporting Events**

In recent seasons, MYO Choirs have performed the National Anthem for the Long Island Ducks, NY Islanders, NY Mets, Stony Brook University Seawolves, and the NIT tournament at Madison Square Garden. MYO Choirs will continue to sing the National Anthem at sporting events in the 2015-2016 season based on opportunity and availability. Check your weekly E-Notes for details.

## **Concert Tickets**

Ticket information will be included in our concert E-Notes. We will sell tickets through the MYO website whenever possible, and will maintain venue seating charts for concert-goers to choose their own seats and make purchases. Please consult [www.myo.org](http://www.myo.org) for specific information regarding concert date, time, seating, and pricing. New York City concert tickets will be sold directly through each venue.

For smaller concert venues, it may be necessary to limit the number of tickets available to each member's family.

## **Concert Programs**

All MYO concert programs include the full name and school name of each member, as well as acknowledging their participation in the following festivals for the 2015-2016 season: All State, All Eastern, All National, and the American Choral Directors Association National Conference Choir.

**Please email [admin@myo.org](mailto:admin@myo.org) with your confirmed 2015-2016 festival participation.**

## **Dress Rehearsals**

**Attendance at all MYO dress rehearsals is mandatory.** These rehearsals are the only opportunity our members have to familiarize themselves with the concert venue and conquer nerves associated with performing on a new stage. Dress rehearsals are scheduled immediately prior to each concert at the concert venue.

**Members are required to wear concert dress to all dress rehearsals.**



## Concert Dress Code

We expect our MYO ensembles to look as good as they sound. Please follow the concert dress code carefully. Members who do not follow the code for their particular ensemble may be asked to return home and change before the performance. **MYO provides a list of suggested stores for purchasing concert dress items on Charms.**

The following dress will not be permitted onstage:

- **No** jeans, khaki pants, or leggings
- **No** t-shirts or tank tops
- **No** sport socks or sport shoes
- **No** perfume, cologne, or aftershave
- **No** excessive hair ornaments or jewelry
- **No** sheer, lace, or mesh clothing
- **No** side slit skirts or dresses
- **No** bare legs or feet

## Principal Orchestras, Symphony Orchestras, and Youth Chorales (including Suffolk Youth Chorale, Nassau Symphonic Choir, and Nassau Chamber Chorale)

### Girls

- Unadorned black dress top with discreet neckline and long sleeves and long black skirt to the ankle or black dress pants
- OR long black unadorned ankle-length dress with discreet neckline and long sleeves
- If sleeves are short, a matching unadorned black jacket or sweater with long sleeves is required to be worn
- Black tights or black pantyhose (no patterns)
- Black closed-toe dress shoes (no decorations)

### Boys

- Black tuxedo (no tails) OR black suit jacket and black pants
- Bright white dress shirt with a black bow tie
- Black socks and black dress shoes

## **Concert Orchestras, Flute Choir, and Concert Choirs**

### Girls

- Unadorned black dress top with discreet neckline and long sleeves
- Long black skirt to the ankle OR black dress pants
- Black tights or black pantyhose (no patterns)
- Black closed-toe dress shoes (no decorations)

### Boys

- Bright white dress shirt with a long black tie
- Black jacket and black dress pants
- Black socks and black dress shoes

## **String Orchestra and Treble Choirs**

### Girls

- Bright white ironed dress top with discreet neckline and long sleeves
- Long black skirt to the ankle OR black dress pants
- Black tights or black pantyhose (no patterns)
- Black closed-toe dress shoes (no decorations)

### Boys

- Bright white ironed dress shirt with a long black tie
- Black dress pants and black belt
- black socks and black dress shoes

## **Audience Expectations**

MYO audiences are comprised primarily of family and friends of MYO members and we expect you to follow these guidelines out of respect for our young performers and Music Directors:

- Stay for the duration of the concert
- We understand you are in a hurry to get home after the concert, but please be sure to show your appreciation of the talented and hardworking musicians onstage with your full applause before you depart
- Turn off or silence all cell phones and pagers
- No refreshments in any of the MYO concert venues
- No talking during the performance
- Do not bring portable video games to occupy young concert goers; the LCD screens are distracting to the performers and other audience members
- Videotaping, recording, and flash photography are all strictly prohibited at MYO concert venues as enforced by the venue staff

## More About MYO

### **Concerto and Vocal Competition**

MYO will host a Concerto and Vocal Competition for MYO instrumentalists and singers in 2015-2016. The winners of the competition will receive a cash award and may be eligible to perform as a soloist with their MYO orchestra or choir.

MYO singers and instrumentalists (orchestral instruments only) are eligible to submit an audition recording via YouTube, MP3 file, or DVD/CD. Audition recordings should be no longer than 20 minutes in length and performed with piano accompaniment. Instrumentalists should include one movement of a concerto from the standard orchestral repertoire. Singers should include one aria from the standard opera, operetta, and oratorio repertoire. The Concerto and Vocal Competition is open to our MYO members including singers, string players, woodwinds, brass, percussion, and harp players. Online applications will be available through our website by **Wednesday, November 4, 2015**. Completed applications and audition recordings must be returned to the MYO office by **Wednesday, December 23, 2015**. Finalists will be selected and invited to perform at the Finals Concert on **Wednesday, January 27, 2016** at 7pm.

### **MYO Summer Performance Tour to Spain 2016**

MYO is touring Spain July 6 - 19, 2016 and will visit Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Malaga, Valencia, and Barcelona! We are recruiting talented young musicians for the MYO Tour Choir and Tour Orchestra to perform five concerts in Spain under the direction of Choir Director Sandra Baskin and Orchestra Director Scott Stickley! The MYO 2016 Spain Tour is open to registered MYO members entering 8th grade - 12th grade in September 2015 and MYO Alumni. Please see the Tours page on [www.myo.org](http://www.myo.org).

### **Fundraising and Donations**

MYO tuition fees are not enough to cover our operational costs. We also rely on individual donations, concert program advertisements, and MYO concert ticket and merchandise sales to help pay our excellent Music Directors, Pianists, and Coaches, support our outstanding performances, and continue building our music library.

You can help support MYO by:

- Advertising your place of business in our concert programs during the 2015-2016 season
- Considering a matching gift with your employer
- Making a personal donation, naming a senior scholarship, or considering a commemorative giving opportunity as outlined on our website

*MYO is a certified 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, and as such, all contributed donations are tax deductible as prescribed by law.*

## **MYO Merchandise**

MYO Merchandise items including backpacks, hoodies, long-sleeved blue MYO shirts, 2015-16 season t-shirts, MYO bears, water bottles, magnets, stickers for instrument cases, and more, will be available for sale at all Long Island concert venues and at select rehearsals throughout the season. Proceeds go towards our MYO Scholarship Fund. Thank you for your support!

## **Parent Information**

### **Parent Meetings**

Parent meetings are scheduled at the beginning of every MYO season at each of the rehearsal sites. Please refer to your MYO Ensemble Schedule for your specific meeting date and time. These meetings are an opportunity to get to know your MYO Staff, learn more about the season, and ask questions. Refreshments will be provided ☺

### **Carpooling**

MYO Carpool lists will be made available at the Parent Meetings and on our secure online program (Charms Office Assistant) and they are divided by day and location of MYO rehearsals. Each list is ordered alphabetically by town, and includes Member name, MYO ensemble, and home phone number.

### **Emergency Cancellations**

Please check our website or Facebook page for emergency cancellation of a rehearsal or performance due to school closings, inclement weather, or other circumstances beyond our control. MYO will make every effort to schedule make up rehearsals based on rehearsal site availability.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

MYO Volunteers are an integral part of our organization. Volunteers assist with rehearsals and concert events during the season, and we would really appreciate your help with member check-in, rehearsal set up and break down, and chaperoning members at concert venues.

Please call the MYO Office at 516-365-6961 if you are interested in volunteering during the 2015-2016 season. Thank you!

