



The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York

Choral and Orchestral Programs



Member Handbook 2020–2021 Season

Rob Davidson Photography

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 and nine choirs, serving musicians between the ages of 8 and 18. MYO enjoys a rich tradition of international summer performance tours, beginning with the 1997 tour to Germany, France, and Austria through the most recent tour to Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Vienna, and Budapest in July 2018. MYO is thrilled to announce our next international performance tour to Italy in July 2021. Please see our [Tours page](#) for more details!

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 at admin@myo.org, or call our office at 516-365-6961 during business hours and we will be happy to assist you.

Board of Directors

Sandra Baskin, President

Debbie Madonna, Trustee

Stephanie Temple, Vice President

Gene O'Brien, Trustee

Ken Davis, Treasurer

Andrea Somma, Trustee

Omid Tousi, Secretary

Anthea Jackson, Executive Director

Jerome Leventhal, Trustee

Anissa Arnold, Executive Liaison

Barbara Lyons, Trustee

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Contact Information

Mailing Address:

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

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
9am - 5pm

Telephone:

(516) 365-6961

MYO Office Staff:

Anthea Jackson
Executive Director

Email:

ajackson@myo.org

Emily Fischer

Membership Coordinator

efischer@myo.org

Website: www.myo.org

Like us on Facebook: [Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York](#)

Follow us on Instagram: [@myorch](#)

Follow us on Twitter: [@myorch](#)

Hear us on SoundCloud: www.soundcloud.com/listentomyo/

See us on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/myorch>

From the Executive Director

Dear MYO Members and Families,

Congratulations to all of our new and returning musicians! We are so impressed by your musical talent and determination and we are thrilled to welcome you to the 28th season of The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York!

MYO is proud to offer exceptional rehearsing and performing opportunities for all 16 of our ensembles, including nine choirs and seven orchestras in 2020-2021. This will be a most unusual season as we reunite our MYO community during the global COVID-19 pandemic. We will rehearse and perform online this fall on Zoom and in person beginning in January 2021, provided we can do so safely.

We are delighted to welcome our participating MYO members from Nassau, Queens, and Suffolk counties and we hope you will enjoy the following benefits of your membership:

- Making music with Long Island's leaders in education and performance
- Performing virtually and at renowned concert venues on Long Island and in New York City
- Collaborating with talented and dedicated young musicians
- Building your musical skills from one MYO season to the next through our comprehensive training program

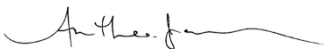
What to expect in 2020-2021: each MYO ensemble will perform three formal concerts, one virtual concert on Sunday, December 13 on Zoom, one concert at our esteemed Long Island performance venues including the Adelphi University Performing Arts Center and The Staller Center for the Arts, and the final concert of the season will be held at Carnegie Hall on Sunday, May 23, 2021. Be sure to check our website www.myo.org and your weekly MYO E-Notes for information about Community Concerts, National Anthem performing opportunities, Collaborations, Competitions, and more!

MYO is touring Italy in July 2021! Registered MYO members entering 9th grade–12th grade in September 2020, as well as MYO Alumni, are eligible for the Summer Performance Tour to Italy. Please see our [Tours](#) page for more details.

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 2020-2021 season. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we navigate new technology and ways of staying connected during this pandemic.

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!

Thank you for making music with MYO,



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 October through the final concert in May. Please refer to your MYO ensemble schedule for specific rehearsal and performance dates and times.

Programs

MYO has 16 performing ensembles across Long Island’s Nassau and Suffolk Counties for the 2020-2021 season. Learn more about MYO Music Directors and Pianists on our [website](#).

Nassau County

Nassau Treble Choir (grades 4–6)

Nassau Concert Choir (grades 7–8)

Nassau Men’s Choir (grades 7–12)

Nassau Symphonic Choir (grades 9–12)

Nassau Chamber Chorale (grades 11–12)

Nassau String Orchestra (*NYSSMA IV–VI)

Nassau Concert Orchestra (*NYSSMA V–VI)

Nassau Symphony Orchestra (*NYSSMA VI)

Nassau Principal Orchestra (*NYSSMA VI)

Music Director

Craig B. Knapp and Pianist Naomi Aomori

Doreen Fryling and Pianist Jeong-Hwa Park

James Ludwig and Pianist Sarang Kim

Louise O’Hanlon and Pianist Kenneth Zagare

Edward P. Norris III and Pianist Cara Brown

Michelina Sobolewski

Peggy Ho

Patricia Koppeis

Scott Stickley

Suffolk County

Suffolk Treble Choir (grades 4–6)

Suffolk Concert Choir (grades 7–8)

Suffolk Women’s Choir (grades 9–10)

Suffolk Symphonic Choir (grades 9–12)

Suffolk Concert Orchestra (*NYSSMA IV–V)

Suffolk Symphony Orchestra (*NYSSMA V–VI)

Suffolk Principal Orchestra (*NYSSMA VI)

Music Director

Craig B. Knapp and Pianist Kaitlin Melker

Melanie Dominick and Pianist Brendan Sparks

Brad Drinkwater and Pianist Joseph Franzino

Shoshana Hershkowitz and Pianist Kenneth Zagare

Eileen Murphy

Scott Zarchy

Phil Preddice

**NYSSMA refers to the New York State School Music Association’s manual of graded solos for adjudication. Comparable solos are listed with New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut music educators associations. NYSSMA levels are provided as a guideline, and do not guarantee placement in any MYO ensemble.*

Registration

To register for the 2020-2021 season, you must submit the following:

1. Completed online Registration Form
2. Pay \$150 Tuition Deposit

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

Your 2020-2021 MYO Registration Form and Tuition Deposit must be received and processed before you can be enrolled as an active MYO member. Members will receive:

1. MYO 2020-2021 Handbook (emailed to members and available on www.myo.org)
2. Schedule of Rehearsals, Concerts, and Events*
3. MYO Music Folder – used to check in to rehearsals each week (once we return to live rehearsals)
4. Original sheet music – music is assigned to each MYO member and must be returned after each concert (MYO members will be asked to download and print out parts for online rehearsals)
5. Weekly E-Notes from the MYO Office

**These schedules are subject to change*

Tuition

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

- Instruction by MYO Music Directors, Pianists, Coaches, and Guest Performers/Composers
- Rental and security fees for MYO rehearsal spaces in 2020-2021
- Performances in renowned concert venues in Long Island and New York City
- Sheet music for rehearsals and performances

NEW: The 2020-2021 tuition has been updated to reflect our online rehearsals, applies to every MYO Ensemble, and is \$150/online concert cycle, \$200/in person concert cycle, and will be billed at the beginning of each new cycle. The \$150 tuition deposit will be applied to the third and final concert cycle.

MYO Tuition Fees (For In-Person Instruction and Live Concerts Only)

Nassau/Suffolk Treble Choir: \$575

1.75 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau/Suffolk Concert Choir, Nassau Men's Choir, Suffolk Women's Choir: \$585

2 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau/Suffolk Symphonic Choir, Nassau Chamber Chorale: \$600

2.5 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau String Orchestra: \$600
2 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau/Suffolk Concert Orchestra: \$625
2.25 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau/Suffolk Symphony Orchestra: \$650
2.5 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau/Suffolk Principal Orchestra: \$650
2.5 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Please note the tuition does not cover the cost of concert tickets, special event performance opportunities, or any additional MYO merchandise.

Payment Methods

Tuition payments may be submitted online through PayPal or in the form of a check or money order. 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. The \$150 tuition deposit can only be submitted online through PayPal as part of the MYO Registration Form for 2020-2021.

Members will not be permitted to attend online or in person rehearsals without a tuition payment in place.

MYO Concert Ticket Prices

MYO families are expected to purchase tickets to the formal in-person concerts held during the 2020-2021 season. There is no charge to attend the online Zoom concerts held Sunday, December 13, 2020. 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 \$15 for Students (21 years and under) and Seniors (60 years and over). Concert ticket prices for New York City venues like Carnegie Hall are higher (\$18-\$55 on average) because of the costs associated with renting internationally renowned concert spaces.

All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

Sibling Discount, Financial Aid, and Senior Scholarships

We offer the following tuition discount:

- \$100 discount for each additional sibling who is an active MYO member throughout the 2020-2021 season (including all three concert cycles)

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 2020-2021 season was **Monday, August 3, 2020**.

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 Theater.

Applications for the following scholarships will be available by Thursday, April 1, 2021:

- Joseph Ferriso Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)
- Veronica Franco Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)
- Ramon Guerrero Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)
- Grace McDermott Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)
- Genelle Taney Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)
- Three 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 (October 2020 –May 2021) commitment. However, should a situation occur where you need to withdraw your membership after the season is underway, you must send MYO a written statement explaining the reason(s) for your withdrawal to admin@myo.org. A leave of absence will only be granted for medical reasons and a doctor's note must be provided. All assigned music must be returned to MYO or you will be charged a minimum 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 scheduled MYO rehearsal of the 2020-2021 season. A written 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](#).
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 will be asked to 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"** or **"Save"** button located on your screen.

Weekly MYO E-Notes will be sent to the email addresses listed in your Charms account. Please add CharmsEmailSender@charmsmusic.com to your contacts to avoid E-Notes being sent to your spam folder.

Promoting MYO Events and Auditions

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

- Please share our website address (www.myo.org)
- Listen and share MYO recordings on SoundCloud (www.soundcloud.com/listentomyo)
- “Like” our Facebook page ([Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York](https://www.facebook.com/MetropolitanYouthOrchestraofNewYork))
- Follow us on Instagram ([@myoorch](https://www.instagram.com/myoorch))
- Follow us on Twitter ([@myoorch](https://twitter.com/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

Annual Design Contest

We are thrilled to announce our eighth annual MYO Design Contest! In past seasons, our registered members have had an opportunity to show their MYO pride by designing an image for our official season t-shirt. This year, the winning design will be featured on our social media, our website, and on a MYO concert program cover.

Show us how creative you can be with your MYO design. The winning artist's signature will also be included on the design.

- Submissions must be original and include your signature (no use of copyrighted material, apart from the MYO logo)
- Submissions should be music-related, and appropriate for both our choral and orchestral members (feel free to incorporate our current COVID-19 situation)
- The design will be used on social media, our website, and on a MYO concert program cover
- The winner must provide MYO with high quality artwork for media use so computer-generated design formats are preferable

In addition to seeing your design splashed across MYO media, the winner will also receive a cash award of \$250!

The deadline for submission is **Wednesday, September 30, 2020**. Please use **this form** to upload your design. We accept JPEG, PNG and PDF file types with a maximum file size of 10 MB.

We look forward to seeing your designs!

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 in person MYO rehearsals and concerts is strictly prohibited**
- Gaming consoles, including handheld consoles, are not permitted at MYO rehearsals, concerts, or events
- 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.

Bullying and Harassment Policy

MYO strives to provide a safe, secure, and respectful environment for all of our members at our rehearsals, concerts, and events. Bullying has a harmful social, physical, psychological, and academic impact on bullies, victims, and bystanders. Therefore, MYO has defined an explicit policy banning bullying at all MYO-sponsored activities.

Definition

Bullying is deliberate or intentional behavior using words or actions, intended to cause fear, humiliation, intimidation, harm, or social exclusion. Bullying may be repeated behavior and involves an imbalance of power. The behavior may be motivated by an actual or perceived distinguishing characteristic, such as, but not limited to: age; national origin; race; ethnicity; religion; gender; gender identity; sexual orientation; physical attributes; physical or mental ability or disability; and social, economic, or family status.

Bullying behavior can be:

1. **Physical** (e.g. assault, hitting or punching, kicking, theft, threatening behavior)
2. **Verbal** (e.g. threatening or intimidating language, teasing or name-calling, racist remarks)
3. **Indirect** (e.g. spreading cruel rumors, intimidation through gestures, social exclusion and sending insulting messages or pictures by mobile phone or using the internet – also known as cyber-bullying)

Prohibition

MYO prohibits all bullying, whether it is physical; verbal; indirect; cyber-bullying; bullying by proxy; or between students and students, students and adults, or adults and adults. Bullying behavior is prohibited in all MYO sanctioned events and under MYO supervision. Suspension or expulsion from the organization are possible consequences for individuals found to have taken part in these behaviors.

School Ensemble Participation

As a MYO Member, you are expected to remain an active, positive role model in your school music ensemble (s). MYO supplements but cannot replace your school music program. 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.

If you do not participate in your school music program, you must notify the MYO Office at admin@myo.org and speak with your MYO Music Director.

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 note any and all conflicts by filling out our **Absence Report Form** and discussing the conflicts 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 family questions and concerns
- Accepting paperwork and payments, and transporting rehearsal materials to and from the MYO office
- Working with family 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 7:00 PM rehearsal. **Three (3) late arrivals or early departures 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 fill out our [Absence Report Form](#). The Absence Report Form can also be found on the main page of our [Website](#).

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 Property

Do not leave personal property unattended at MYO rehearsals, concert, or events. MYO is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen personal property.

MYO Members are responsible for their own instruments. Do not leave instruments or instrument bows unattended where they might be damaged accidentally. Do not leave your instrument on your chair during breaks. Instruments should be safely put into cases during breaks or when not needed. All instruments should be insured; most homeowner or renter's insurance policies can include a rider to cover instrument insurance.

Personal Practice and Preparation

Members are required to practice their MYO music outside of their weekly rehearsals. 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. 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).

Private Lessons

MYO members are actively encouraged to take private music lessons. Lists of private instrumental and vocal teachers in the Nassau and Suffolk areas will be available through Charms and by email 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

Returning Member Auditions

Returning Member Auditions are held in May and June for the upcoming season. There were no returning member auditions for 2020-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no fee for returning member auditions and MYO Staff will notify members 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 2021-2022 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. Members' level of singing or playing, ensemble participation, and attendance will be taken into consideration during placement. Not all of our returning members are required to audition for the 2021-2022 season. Please review the following information to see your specific ensemble's requirements.

PLEASE NOTE: there is a clear, musical progression from one MYO ensemble to the next and members are not permitted to skip over an orchestra or choir. No re-auditions will be granted and placement is final. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Nassau Orchestra Members

All returning Nassau Orchestra members will be required to audition for placement in the 2021-2022 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 2021 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 have the opportunity 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 2021-2022 season and 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. Members' playing level, orchestral experience, musical maturity, and age/maturity level will be taken into consideration during placement.

Returning members who wish to remain in the Suffolk Concert Orchestra, Suffolk Symphony Orchestra, or the Suffolk Principal Orchestra, as placed in the 2020-2021 season, will not be required to audition for placement in the 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 season that best suits the vocal abilities of their members.

The following returning members are required to audition for their potential 2021-2022 Choir Directors. The auditions will be scheduled on regular MYO rehearsal nights in May and June 2021 by the MYO office.

Treble Choirs (grades 4–6)

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

Concert Choirs (grades 7–8)

Concert Choir members going into the 9th grade and moving to the Symphonic Choir or Suffolk Women’s Choir will be required to audition for the respective Symphonic Choir or Women’s Choir Director.

Suffolk Symphonic Choir (grades 9–12)

Returning Suffolk Symphonic Choir members are not required to audition for placement in the 2021-2022 MYO season.

Nassau Symphonic Choir (grades 9–12)

Nassau Symphonic Choir members entering 11th and 12th grade in 2021-2022 will audition for placement in the Nassau Chamber Chorale. Members’ level of singing, ensemble participation, and attendance will be taken into consideration during placement.

Nassau Chamber Chorale (grades 11–12)

Returning Nassau Chamber Chorale members are required to audition for placement in the 2021-2022 MYO Season.

Please Note: Any members who are remaining in the Treble Choirs, Concert Choirs, Men’s and Women’s Choirs, or Symphonic Choirs in 2021-2022 based on their school grade and the grade requirement of the ensemble as listed above 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. Video auditions will replace orchestra seating auditions in the Fall 2020.

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.**

*****Please understand 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 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 based on the availability of the coaches and additional rehearsal spaces. Sectional dates are included in your rehearsal and concert schedule.

Sheet Music

All members will be issued music at the beginning of each concert cycle and must be returned to the MYO Office at the end of the 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 minimum 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 where possible for download and printing through Charms and by email.

**See [Personal Information Access](#) Section on page 9*

During rehearsals, members need a pencil with medium to soft black lead (No.2 or softer) and eraser available at all times. Do not use pens, markers, or colored pencils to mark your MYO music! **Only pencil markings are permitted on the music.** 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, pencil, and water to every rehearsal.**
2. **All personal instruments must be in good working order**

Recommended equipment/supplies for MYO Members

MYO members are required to have all applicable items with an asterisk(*) available for rehearsals and performances

General

- Medium to soft lead pencil with eraser*
- Folding music stand for tour performances
- Electronics tools/smart device apps for everyone
- Metronome (either dedicated device or app on phone; “Tempo” by Frozen Ape is suggested)
- Tuner (either dedicated device or app on phone; “Tunable” is suggested)
- Digital recorder (most smart phones offer this feature)

Strings

- Extra set of strings*
- Mute* (keep in instrument case; always bring to rehearsal area if your music calls for muting)
- Rosin*
- Rock stop or strap for cellists* (required at all times)
- End pin cover or rest for bassists*
- Spare bow (for emergencies)
- Cleaning cloth

Percussionists (one pair of each)

- Snare drum sticks*
- Timpani mallets*
- Yarn mallets*
- Bell/xylophone mallets*

Wind Players

- Instrument cleaning tools/supplies*
- Instrument stand (a small investment that can help avoid major repair costs!)
- Extra reeds*
- Cork grease
- Appropriate screwdrivers for minor repairs and adjustments
- Extra pads

Brass Players

- Instrument cleaning tools/supplies
- Valve oil*
- Slide grease*
- Slide lubricant and water bottle (trombones)*
- Mutes (as required by repertoire)*
- Instrument stand (a small investment that can help avoid major repair costs!)
- Spare mouthpiece

Brass players are reminded that inserting mouthpieces while making a twisting motion will keep them from becoming stuck in the lead pipe.

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 approximately 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. Look for more information in the MYO Concert E-Notes.

MYO no longer produces CD or DVD recordings 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 have recommendations for additional performing opportunities, please let us know at admin@myo.org, thank you.

Sporting Events

In recent seasons, MYO Choirs have performed the National Anthem for the Long Island Ducks, NYC Football Club at Yankee Stadium, NY Islanders, NY Liberty, 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 2020-2021 season based on opportunity and availability. Check your weekly E-Notes for details.

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 2020-2021 season: All-State, All-Eastern, All-National, and the American Choral Directors Association Choirs.

Please complete our online form with your confirmed 2020-2021 festival participation.

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 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.

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 who miss their dress rehearsal will not be permitted to perform in the concert.

Concert Dress

All 16 MYO ensembles are required to wear all black concert dress.

Members are required to wear MYO concert dress to all dress rehearsals and concerts.

We expect our MYO ensembles to look as professional and as unified as you sound. Please make sure your concert dress clothing is clean, ironed, and fits well. MYO provides a list of suggested stores for purchasing concert dress items on the Charms student database and at the Family Meetings.

***Concert Dress Items Include:**

- Black long-sleeved dress shirt or blouse
- Black dress pants
- Black dress belt (optional)
- Black ankle-length dress skirt
- Black long-sleeved, ankle-length dress
- Black dress socks or tights
- Black dress shoes

*Concert dress items, including shoes, should be solid black without patterns or ornaments. Black jackets and ties are no longer required for concert dress.

The following will **not** be permitted onstage at MYO concerts:

- No jeans or leggings
- No t-shirts or tank tops
- No sport socks or running shoes
- No perfume, cologne, or aftershave
- No large or colorful hair ornaments or jewelry
- No sheer, lace, or mesh clothing
- No side slit skirts or dresses
- No bare legs or exposed shoulders

Audience Expectations

MYO audiences are comprised primarily of family and friends of MYO members and we expect you to follow these guidelines in support of 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
- 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

Summer 2021 Performance Tour to Italy

MYO is touring Italy July 6 – 19, 2021 with GrandTours, our group tour provider. We will be recruiting talented musicians as needed for the MYO Tour Choir, led by Music Director Shoshana Hershkowitz and Pianist Kenneth Zagare, and Tour Orchestra, led by Music Director Scott Stickley, to rehearse and perform on Long Island, and then perform five concerts while on tour in Italy. We are holding places for all registered 2020 MYO Tour Choir and Orchestra Members and Family & Friends Tour Participants through December 1, 2020.

Online auditions for the Tour Choir and Tour Orchestra will reopen December 1, 2020 to fill any openings. Please see our [Tours](#) page for more details.

Concerto and Vocal Competition

MYO will host a Concerto and Vocal Competition for MYO instrumentalists and singers in 2020-2021: Division I for 4th–8th grade MYO Members and Division II for 9th–12th grade MYO Members. The winners of each Division will receive a cash award and may be eligible to perform as a soloist with their MYO orchestra or choir. Previous 1st place winners of this competition are not eligible to apply.

MYO singers and instrumentalists are eligible to submit a video audition recording via YouTube (unlisted video) or Google Drive. Audition recordings should be no longer than 15 minutes in length and performed with piano accompaniment. Instrumentalists from Division I and II should include one movement of a concerto from the standard orchestral repertoire. Singers from Division I should include one art song or a song from a Broadway musical, and should refer to the NYSSMA manual as a guide for song choice. Singers from Division II should include one song/aria from the art song, opera, operetta, and oratorio repertoire. The Concerto and Vocal Competition is open to our MYO members including all singers, string players, woodwinds, brass, percussion, and harp players. Online applications will be available through our website by **Wednesday, October 6, 2020**. Completed online applications and video audition recordings must be returned to the MYO office by **Wednesday, December 16, 2020**. All participants will receive feedback by email, and select participants from each Division will be chosen as Finalists by **Wednesday, January 6, 2021**. Finalists will be invited to perform at the Finals Concert on **Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Congregational Church of Huntington (pending availability)**. The Finalists concert is free and open to the public.

Please see our [Concerto and Vocal Competition page](#) for more details.

Emerging Composers Competition

MYO will host an Emerging Composers Competition, open to all unpublished composers under the age of 25 as of July 1, 2020: Division I for composers ages 8 - 17 and Division II for composers ages 18 - 24. This national competition will also have a Choral Division and an Orchestral Division for each age group. Composition categories include SATB Youth Choir (High School students) and Symphony Orchestra (High School students). Compositions will be judged on the basis of their overall artistic merit, including creative vision, originality, and clarity of notation. Special consideration for the relative age and experience of the composer will also be factored into the judging process. Online applications will be available through our website by **Wednesday, October 6, 2020**. Completed applications and scores in PDF form must be returned to the MYO office by **Wednesday, December 16, 2020**. The winning compositions will be announced by **Wednesday, January 13, 2021**. All finalists in each Division will receive a cash award and may have their composition performed by one of our MYO ensembles.

Please see our [Emerging Composers Competition page](#) for more details.

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, Coaches, and Guest Performers, support our outstanding performances, and continue building our music library.

You can help support MYO by:

- Advertising your place of business on our website during the 2020-2021 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
- Using the link smile.amazon.com, searching for “Metropolitan Youth Orchestra Society of New York” and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to MYO

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

Special Ticket Offers

MYO encourages our members to take advantage of student ticket offers at Long Island venues like the Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, Staller Center, and the Tilles Center and at Manhattan venues like Carnegie Hall (\$10 student tickets!) and Lincoln Center, in order to experience high-quality live performances, which is a critical aspect of your musical development. Details of these offers will be shared with MYO families by email as they become available post-pandemic.

Family Information

Family Meetings

Family meetings are scheduled at the beginning of every MYO season on each of the rehearsal nights, and will be held on Zoom this fall 2020. 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 2020-2021 Season, and ask questions. We look forward to meeting you!

Family Support

For our members to benefit from everything MYO has to offer, we need our families to assist with their children's participation as follows:

- Read all emails and materials from MYO and respond in a timely manner when requested
- Plan for your family to attend each of your child's MYO concerts
- Stay informed through our website and social media channels
- Ensure prompt arrival at rehearsals and concerts and pick-up at the end
 - Members are expected to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the rehearsal start time.
 - Members must be picked up no later than 15 minutes after the rehearsal/concert ends.
 - We request that members age 10 and younger not be left unsupervised.
- Support full attendance of your child at all rehearsals and events by avoiding conflicts between family plans and MYO activities whenever possible
- Support your child's private lessons, practice routine, and participation in school music activities
- Provide a nut-free snack for your child at rehearsals
- Introduce people to MYO, including families of prospective students, and help grow our audience base by bringing friends to your child's concerts
- Speak to the MYO Staff regarding any concerns surrounding your child's participation. The sooner we are aware of your concerns, the better chance we have of resolving them successfully.

Emergency Cancellations

Please check our website, Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter pages 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.

Lost and Found

A lost and found bin is located in the MYO Office and contains items collected at MYO rehearsals, concerts, and events. Please contact admin@myo.org or 516-365-6961 to request misplaced items as soon as possible. Unclaimed items are donated to [The INN](#) at the end of each season. Be sure to label your music-related property (tuners, rock stops, instrument stands) so they can be recovered easily if left behind at rehearsals or concerts.

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 email the MYO Office at admin@myo.org if you are interested in volunteering during the 2020-2021 Season. Thank you!

MYO Merchandise

[MYO Merchandise](#) items including hoodies, jackets, pajama pants, long-sleeved red or blue MYO 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!