



The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York

Choral and Orchestral Programs



Member Handbook
2025–2026 Season

Rob Davidson Media

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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 seven choirs, serving over 800 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 France in July 2024. MYO is excited to announce our next international performance tour to Greece in July 2026. 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	Stephanie Temple, Secretary	Andrea Somma, Trustee
Gene O'Brien, Vice President	Anissa Arnold, Trustee	Joslyn Thomas, Trustee
Brenda Zhang, Treasurer	Barbara Lyons, Trustee	Anthea Jackson, Executive Director



TABLE OF CONTENTS (Click to Navigate)

Contact Information	4	Concerts	18
Welcome Message	5	MYO Formal Concerts	18
Membership	6	National Anthem Performances	18
Programs	6	Digital Concert Programs	18
Registration	7	Concert Tickets	18
Tuition	7	Dress Rehearsals	18
2025-2026 MYO Tuition Fees	8	Concert Dress Code	19
Payment Methods	8	Concert Introductions	20
Tuition Late Fees	8	Audience Expectations	20
MYO Concert Ticket Prices	9	More About MYO	21
Financial Assistance	9	Summer 2026 Greece Tour	21
Senior Scholarships	9	Bring A Friend Night (Choirs)	21
Withdrawing Membership	9	Concerto and Vocal Competition	22
Promoting MYO Events and Auditions	10	Piano Concerto Competition	22
Annual MYO Design Contest	10	Fundraising and Donations	23
Policies and Expectations	11	Special Ticket Offers	23
MYO Code of Conduct	11	Alumni Relations	23
MYO Social Media Policy	11	Family Information	24
Bullying and Harassment Policy	12	MYO E-Notes	24
School Ensemble Participation	13	Family Meetings	24
Rehearsal Supervisors	13	Family Support	24
Attendance	13	Carpooling	25
Absences	14	Emergency Cancellations	25
Reporting MYO Absences	14	Lost and Found	25
Personal Property	14	Volunteer Opportunities	25
Personal Practice and Preparation	14	MYO Merchandise	25
Private Lessons	14	Island Harvest Donations	25
New Member Auditions	15	2025-2026 MYO Concerts and Events	26-27
Orchestra Seating Auditions	15		
Orchestra Sectional Rehearsals	16		
Sheet Music	16		
Rehearsal Reminders	16		
Recommended Items for MYO	17		



Contact Information

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10am - 5pm

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MYO Office Staff:

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

Follow us on Instagram: [@myoorch](https://www.instagram.com/myoorch)

Listen to us on SoundCloud: www.soundcloud.com/listentomyo/

See us on YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/myoorch/videos



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 we are thrilled to welcome you to the 33rd season of The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York!

MYO is proud to offer exceptional rehearsing and performing opportunities for all 14 of our ensembles, including seven choirs and seven orchestras in 2025-2026.

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:

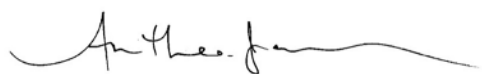
- Making music with Long Island's leaders in education and performance
- Performing at renowned concert venues on Long Island and in New York City
- Collaborating with talented and dedicated young musicians
- Building your musical skills from one MYO season to the next through our comprehensive training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

What to expect in 2025-2026: Each MYO ensemble will perform formal concerts at our esteemed Long Island performance venues including the Adelphi University Performing Arts Center and The Staller Center for the Arts, and the final concerts of the season will be held at Carnegie Hall. Be sure to check our website www.myo.org and your weekly MYO E-Notes for information about our Design Contest, Competitions for Instrumentalists and Vocalists, Collaborations, National Anthem performing opportunities, and more!

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 2025-2026 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!

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 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 14 performing ensembles across Long Island's Nassau and Suffolk Counties for the 2025-2026 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 Senior Treble 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 Sun Ah Choi

Doreen Fryling and Pianist Jeong-Hwa Park

Louise O'Hanlon and Pianist Soyoung Kim

Edward P. Norris III and Pianist Cara Verity

Michelina Sobolewski

Peggy Ho

Catherine Birke

Scott Stickley

Suffolk County

Suffolk Treble Choir (grades 4–7)

Suffolk Senior Treble Choir (grades 8–10)

Suffolk Symphonic Choir (grades 9–12)

Suffolk String Orchestra (*NYSSMA IV–V)

Suffolk Symphony Orchestra (*NYSSMA V–VI)

Suffolk Principal Orchestra (*NYSSMA VI)

Music Director

Craig B. Knapp and Pianist Cara Verity

Rachel Nagle and Pianist James Nagle

Brad Drinkwater and Pianist Joseph Franzino

Felicya Schwarzman

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 2025-2026 season, you must submit the following:

1. Completed Online Registration Form
2. Pay \$250 Tuition Deposit or 2025–2026 Tuition in Full

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

Your 2025–2026 MYO Registration Form and Tuition Deposit (or full year tuition payment) must be received and processed before you can be enrolled as an active MYO member. Members will receive:

1. MYO 2025–2026 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
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 practicing at home)
5. Weekly E-Notes from the MYO Office

**These schedules are subject to change*

The next tuition payment of \$250 is due September 30, 2025 for all MYO ensembles, and a payment reminder and tuition payment form will be included in the weekly E-Notes. The final tuition payment is due January 5, 2026 and the remaining amount will vary by ensemble (see the next page for details).

Tuition

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

- Instruction by MYO Music Directors, Pianists, Coaches, and Guest Performers/Composers
- Rental fees for MYO rehearsal spaces in 2025–2026
- Performances in renowned concert venues on Long Island and in New York City
- Sheet music for rehearsals and performances

Please see the next page for detailed information on 2025–2026 MYO Tuition Fees.



2025–2026 MYO Tuition Fees

MYO Tuition Fees

Nassau/Suffolk Treble Choir: \$660

1.75 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau Concert Choir, Nassau/Suffolk Senior Treble Choir, Suffolk Symphonic Choir: \$670

2 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau Chamber Chorale: \$685

2.5 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau/Suffolk String Orchestra: \$685

2 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau Concert Orchestra: \$685

2 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau/Suffolk Symphony Orchestra: \$735

2.5 hours of rehearsal/week and three formal concerts

Nassau/Suffolk Principal Orchestra: \$735

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 MYO merchandise purchases.

Payment Methods

Tuition payments may be submitted online by credit card or through PayPal. The \$250 tuition deposit or tuition in full can be submitted online as part of the MYO Registration Form for 2025–2026.

Members will not be permitted to attend rehearsals without a tuition deposit and completed 2025–2026 registration form in place.

Tuition Late Fees

Tuition payments must be received by the deadlines established below, and MYO will notify parents/guardians of upcoming tuition payment deadlines by email in advance.

If a tuition payment is not received on time, a \$25 late fee will be applied to that tuition payment. Please help us to avoid this complication by making all MYO tuition payments in a timely fashion. If you paid the tuition in full when you completed the MYO 2025–2026 Registration Form, you do not need to make any further payments.

Tuesday, September 30, 2025: \$250 Tuition Payment #2 (or pay the balance of 2025–2026 season tuition)

Monday, January 5, 2026: Final Payment Due (amount varies by ensemble, see the above 2025–2026 MYO Tuition Fees)



MYO Concert Ticket Prices

MYO families are expected to purchase tickets to the formal concerts held during the 2025–2026 season. The ticket income offsets the cost of venue rental, labor, and other concert-related expenses. The concert ticket price for Long Island venues is typically \$30 per ticket. Concert ticket prices for New York City venues are higher (\$40–\$65 per ticket on average) because of the costs associated with renting internationally renowned concert spaces.

All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

Financial Assistance

Financial Assistance may be provided based on demonstrated financial need and the availability of MYO funding. The deadline for submitting the Financial Assistance Application for the 2025–2026 season was **Thursday, August 7, 2025**; however, MYO will accept applications on a rolling basis.

Senior Scholarships

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 by Wednesday, April 1, 2026:

Ramon Guerrero Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Gail and Molly Madigan Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Grace McDermott Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Genelle Taney Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Withdrawing Membership

We would like to reiterate that by accepting a position in MYO, you have made a season-long commitment from September 2025 through May 2026. However, should a situation occur where you need to withdraw your membership, you must email 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.

Tuition 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/their 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 2025-2026 season. A written petition for refund is required.



Promoting MYO Events and Auditions

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

- Invite your music teachers to a MYO concert
- Tag MYO in your rehearsal and concert photos and videos
- 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))
- “Check-in” to MYO rehearsals and performance venues

Annual MYO Design Contest

We are thrilled to announce our annual MYO Design Contest for all registered 2025–2026 MYO Members! The winning design will be prominently featured on the season t-shirt, MYO social media, our website, and on a MYO digital 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 shirt.

- 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
- Maximum of three colors
- 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 an award of \$250!

The deadline for submission is **Friday, September 19, 2025**. Please use [this form](#) to upload your design. We accept high resolution Vector, JPEG, PNG and PDF file types.

It is free to upload your design, and you may submit more than one!

We look forward to seeing your creativity in action!



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, or other items, that do not belong to you
- **Cell phone use during 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 written warning to member's family from the Executive Director.

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

MYO Social Media Policy

Across social media (Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube), the official MYO account is @myoorch. In order to ensure clarity and uphold the reputation of MYO, we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines when managing member-run social media accounts:

- Clearly state in the account's bio or description that this is an unofficial account that is not affiliated with or endorsed by MYO.
- Keep all content appropriate and maintain a respectful tone. This means avoiding any explicit, offensive, or inappropriate language, images, or themes.
- Moderate comments and engagement to encourage a positive environment.
- Report any concerning content and/or comments to a MYO staff member immediately.



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:

- **Physical** (e.g. assault, hitting or punching, kicking, theft, threatening behavior)
- **Verbal** (e.g. threatening or intimidating language, teasing or name-calling, racist remarks)
- **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.

Reporting

See a MYO staff member immediately if you are experiencing verbal or physical harassment of any kind at a MYO event. Our MYO staff will assess the situation, and the member inflicting harassment may be asked to leave the event. The MYO staff reserves the right to notify the member's family. If this harassment continues after one verbal and written warning, the member will be asked not to return to MYO. Sexual harassment of any kind will result in 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). 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.

Every effort 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](#) 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 and other MYO items
- Monitoring our members before and after rehearsal and during breaks to ensure member behavior is consistent with the MYO Code of Conduct
- Responding to questions and concerns
- 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 10–15 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 two (2) absences per concert cycle. 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.

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 our [website](#).

You are expected to report any absences or late arrivals to the MYO Staff and your Music Director by using the absence report form. We also take your responsibility in reporting absences into account when considering any requests concerning future placement, financial assistance, and merit scholarship awards.

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.

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 by email to our current members only. 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.

New member auditions will be held in the spring for the upcoming 2025–2026 season, and in the late summer in the event of ensemble openings. Acceptance into the program is highly competitive, and based largely upon:

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

Orchestra Seating Auditions

All instrumentalists will be auditioned at the beginning and middle of the season to determine seating assignments. Video auditions have replaced in-person orchestra seating auditions.

If you do not submit a seating audition video by the deadline, you will be seated at the discretion of your Music Director. Late seating audition videos will not be accepted.

The Music Director 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, and Staff. The Music Directors 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

String, Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion sections in MYO orchestras may receive additional coaching from Long Island-based music educators, as required by their Music Director. These sectional rehearsals provide an opportunity for more specialized instruction in smaller group settings, and help build community within the ensemble.

Sheet Music

All members will be issued music at the beginning of each concert cycle and it 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 all music carefully, make markings lightly in pencil only, 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 be expected to pay for it.
- Copies of the concert music will be available where possible for download and printing through Google Drive and by email.

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

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 water damage, excessive markings, drawings, or with markings made in ink will be considered damaged and you will be charged a replacement fee.

Rehearsal Reminders

- Bring your music, music stand (Nassau Orchestras only), pencil, and water to every rehearsal
- All personal instruments must be in good working order



Recommended Items for MYO Members

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

General

- Pencil with eraser*
- Music stand* (Nassau Orchestra rehearsals only)
- Metronome (dedicated device or app on phone)
- Tuner (dedicated device or app on phone)
- Digital recorder (most smart phones offer this feature)

Strings

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

Woodwinds

- 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

Brass

- 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

Percussion (one pair of each)

- Snare drum sticks*
- Timpani mallets*
- Yarn mallets*
- Bell/xylophone mallets*
- Percussionists may be asked to provide a triangle, snare drum and stand, crash cymbals, or other portable instruments.



Concerts

MYO Formal Concerts

Each MYO ensemble will perform in three 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 [Concerts 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 audio recordings are available for free on [SoundCloud](#).

National Anthem Performances

MYO Choirs have performed the National Anthem for the Islanders, Long Island Ducks, Mets, NYC Football Club at Yankee Stadium, NY Liberty, and Stony Brook University Seawolves. MYO Choirs will continue to sing the National Anthem at sporting events in the 2025–2026 season based on opportunity and availability. Check your weekly E-Notes for details.

Digital Concert Programs

All MYO digital concert programs include the full name and school name of each member, as well as acknowledging their participation in the following festivals for the 2025–2026 season: All-State and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Honor Choirs. Digital concert programs are available at each MYO concert by scanning the QR code on the printed program, and accessible on our [website](#) following the concert.

Please complete our [online form](#) with your confirmed 2025–2026 honor ensemble participation.

Concert Tickets

Ticket information will be included in our concert E-Notes. We will sell tickets through CUR8 for Long Island concerts. Please consult the [Concerts and Events page](#) for specific information regarding concert date, time, location, and performers. Carnegie Hall concert tickets will be sold directly through the Carnegie Hall website, box office, and CarnegieCharge.

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 Code

All 14 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.

Concert Dress Items* Include:

- [Black long-sleeved dress shirt](#) OR [dress top](#)
- [Black dress pants](#) OR [pants](#)
- [Black dress belt](#) (optional)
- [Black ankle-length dress skirt](#)
- [Black long-sleeved, ankle-length dress](#)
- [Black dress socks](#) OR [tights](#)
- [Black closed-toe dress shoes](#) OR [flats](#)

Please note: the items linked above are suggestions only and may not be the correct size for your child.

*Concert dress items should be solid black without patterns or ornaments. Black jackets and ties are no longer required for concert dress. Black dress shoes must be all black, including the sole, and free of decoration.

The following will not be permitted onstage at MYO concerts:

- No jeans (including black 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, sequined, or mesh clothing
- No side slit skirts or dresses



Concert Introductions

There is a brief welcome message at the beginning of each of our MYO concerts before the music begins. For our November 2025 and March 2026 concerts, we want to offer this opportunity to our MYO members to provide valuable public speaking experience and add a personal touch to each concert. The application form to give an introductory speech will be included in E-Notes approximately one month before each concert. Current MYO members in good standing are eligible to introduce their concert.

MYO member speeches will be reviewed by the MYO staff during the application process and on concert day. We encourage you to include the following information:

- Introduce yourself to the audience
- Introduce the Ensemble(s) and their Music Director(s)
- Talk about your experience in MYO
- Mention anything else that you feel is appropriate to a concert welcome message

The above is not meant as an exhaustive list, but as inspiration while you write your speech. We look forward to hearing what you have to say!

Audience Expectations

MYO audiences are comprised primarily of family, friends, and teachers of MYO members and we expect you to follow these guidelines in support of our performers:

- Stay for the duration of the concert
- Please show your appreciation of the talented and hardworking musicians with your enthusiastic applause
- 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 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
- Please do not attend the concert if you are unwell



More About MYO

Summer 2026 Greece Tour

MYO is touring Greece in July 2026* with [GrandTours](#), our group tour provider! We are building a MYO Tour Choir and Tour Orchestra from across our membership to rehearse and perform together on Long Island June 29 – July 3, 2026, and then perform four concerts while in Greece! The Tour Choir will be led by Doreen Fryling and Louise O’Hanlon, and the Tour Orchestra will be led by Scott Stickley.

**Tour dates to be provided by GrandTours.*

The MYO 2026 Greece Tour Auditions are open to:

- Registered 2025–2026 MYO members in good standing entering 9th – 12th grade* in September 2025
- MYO Alumni and non-MYO members after December 1, 2025, by audition only, to fill available positions in the tour choir and orchestra

*The MYO Tour is for high school age students only because of the long tour days and late-night concerts.

Video auditions for the Tour Choir and Tour Orchestra open **Monday September 1, 2025** and are due by **Monday September 29, 2025**.

Please see our [Tours](#) page for more details.

Bring A Friend Night (For MYO Choirs Only)

MYO will host a **Bring A Friend Night** for our Nassau and Suffolk Choirs in November 2025. More information, including specific dates and a link to register, will be sent via E-Notes.

Please share this information with your friends who love to sing and are interested in joining MYO in 2025–2026.



Concerto and Vocal Competition

MYO will host a Concerto and Vocal Competition for MYO instrumentalists and singers in 2025–2026: 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 first place winners of this competition, in either division, 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 accompaniment. (Recorded accompaniment will be accepted if booking live accompaniment is cost-prohibitive.) Please view your video audition before uploading to be sure it plays properly. 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 emailed to registered MYO members by **Wednesday, October 1, 2025**. Completed online applications and video audition recordings must be returned to the MYO office by **Wednesday, December 10, 2025**. All participants will receive feedback by email, and select participants from each Division will be chosen as Finalists by **Wednesday, January 7, 2026**.

Selected instrumental and vocal finalists will be invited to perform at the Finalists Concert on **Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 7:00 PM**. The Finalists concert is free and open to the public.

Piano Concerto Competition

MYO is excited to introduce the 2025–2026 MYO Piano Concerto Competition. This is a new event that will run concurrently with the longstanding Concerto and Vocal Competition (as outlined above). The MYO Piano Concerto Competition is open to any pianist grades 4–12 (MYO member and non-MYO member alike). Previous first place winners of a MYO Concerto Competition are not eligible to apply. The winner of the competition will receive a cash award and may be eligible to perform as a soloist with a MYO orchestra.

Video audition recordings should be no longer than 15 minutes in length and optionally performed with piano or orchestral accompaniment. (Recorded accompaniment will be accepted if booking live accompaniment is cost-prohibitive.) Please view your video audition before uploading to be sure it plays properly. Pianists should perform one movement of a concerto from the standard orchestral repertoire in the [public domain](#).

Online applications will be available through our website by **Wednesday, October 1, 2025**. Completed online applications and video audition recordings must be returned to the MYO office by **Wednesday, December 10, 2025**. All participants will receive feedback by email, and select participants from each Division will be chosen as Finalists by **Wednesday, January 7, 2026**.

Selected pianists will be invited to perform at the Finalists Concert on **Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Faust Harrison Pianos**. The Finalists concert is free and open to the public.



Fundraising and Donations

MYO tuition fees are not enough to cover our operational costs. We also rely on individual donations, digital concert program advertisements, as well as 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 in our digital concert programs and on our website during the 2025–2026 season by using this [advertisement form](#)
- 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 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 musical development. Details of these offers will be shared with MYO families by email as they become available.

Alumni Relations

The MYO experience doesn't have to end at graduation! We are fortunate to maintain strong relations with our alumni, and foster a community of musical minds across Long Island. Stay connected with MYO by:

- Reconnecting with old friends, and making new ones, at the [MYO Alumni Reunion](#) on May 30, 2026
- Informing the office of any new contact information by emailing admin@myo.org
- Sharing your news with the MYO community on our website's [Where Are They Now](#) page

The 2026 [MYO Alumni Reunion](#) is open to all MYO Alumni and graduating High School Seniors. Reunite with your friends and rehearse with your favorite MYO choir and orchestra conductors on Saturday, May 30, 2026 from 3:00 – 6:00 PM at the Congregational Church of Huntington!



Family Information

MYO E-Notes

E-Notes are MYO's weekly email updates for our families, with information about rehearsals, concerts, and other MYO events and news. E-Notes are sent to the email addresses you provided in your 2025-2026 MYO Registration Form. Weekly MYO E-Notes will be sent from ajackson@myo.org. Please add ajackson@myo.org and admin@myo.org to your contacts to avoid E-Notes being sent to your spam folder.

Family Meetings

Family meetings are scheduled at the beginning of every MYO season, and will be held on Zoom this fall 2025. These meetings are an opportunity to get to know your MYO Staff, learn more about the 2025–2026 Season, and ask questions. We look forward to seeing you!

- Nassau Family Meeting (for all Nassau ensembles) is on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 from 7-8 PM
- Suffolk Family Meeting (for all Suffolk ensembles) is on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 from 7-8 PM

The link for the Zoom Family Meetings will be in the MYO weekly E-Notes.

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 all of your child's MYO concerts
- Stay informed through our website and social media channels
- Ensure prompt arrival and pick-up at rehearsals and concerts
 - Members are expected to arrive 15 minutes prior to the rehearsal start time
 - Members must be picked up promptly at the designated conclusion of each rehearsal/concert
 - Members must 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
- 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 about your child's participation. The sooner we are aware of your concerns, the better chance we have of resolving them successfully.**



Carpooling

MYO Carpool lists will be emailed to registered members and families, and are divided by day and location of MYO rehearsals. Each list is ordered alphabetically by town, and includes member name, MYO ensemble, and primary contact number. We only list families who have given us express permission to do so on their 2025–2026 MYO Registration Form.

Emergency Cancellations

Please check your email, MYO Facebook or Instagram pages for emergency cancellation of a rehearsal or performance due to venue 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. 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 2025–2026 season. Thank you!

MYO Merchandise

MYO Merchandise will be available for sale at Long Island concert venues throughout the season. Proceeds go towards our MYO Scholarship Fund. Thank you for your support!

Island Harvest Donations

MYO is proud to give back by continuing our annual charitable collaboration with [Island Harvest](#) to collect donations of food and toiletries for Long Island families in need. During the final rehearsal week of 2025 before the Holiday Break (the week of Monday, December 1, 2025), there will be collection bins at all rehearsal sites for non-perishable food, toiletries, and household cleaning items. Please check your weekly E-Notes for more information as the collection date nears. Help us surpass our 2024 donations and make the holiday season a little brighter.



2025–2026 Concerts and Events

Thursday, November 6, 2025 - Staller Center for the Arts

7:30 PM - Suffolk Treble Choir, Suffolk Senior Treble Choir, and Suffolk Symphonic Choir

Craig B. Knapp, Rachel Nagle, and Brad Drinkwater - Music Directors

Cara Verity, James Nagle, and Joseph Franzino - Pianists

Monday, November 10, 2025 - Staller Center for the Arts

7:30 PM - Suffolk String Orchestra, Suffolk Symphony Orchestra, and Suffolk Principal Orchestra

Felicja Schwarzman, Scott Zarchy, and Phil Preddice - Music Directors

Sunday, November 16, 2025 - Adelphi University Performing Arts Center

7:00 PM - Nassau Treble Choir, Nassau Concert Choir, Nassau Senior Treble Choir,
and Nassau Chamber Chorale

Craig B. Knapp, Doreen Fryling, Louise O'Hanlon, and Edward P. Norris III - Music Directors

Sun Ah Choi, Jeong-Hwa Park, Soyoung Kim, and Cara Verity - Pianists

Sunday, November 23, 2025 - Adelphi University Performing Arts Center

3:00 PM - Nassau String Orchestra and Nassau Concert Orchestra

Michalina Sobolewski and Peggy Ho - Music Directors

7:00 PM - Nassau Symphony Orchestra and Nassau Principal Orchestra

Catherine Birke and Scott Stickley - Music Directors

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

7:00 PM - MYO Concerto and Vocal Competition Finalists Concert

Sunday, February 8, 2026 - Faust Harrison Pianos

2:00 PM - MYO Piano Concerto Competition Finalists Concert

Sunday, March 1, 2026 - Staller Center for the Arts

2:00 PM - Suffolk String Orchestra, Suffolk Symphony Orchestra, and Suffolk Principal Orchestra

Felicja Schwarzman, Scott Zarchy, and Phil Preddice - Music Directors

7:00 PM - Suffolk Treble Choir, Suffolk Senior Treble Choir, and Suffolk Symphonic Choir

Craig B. Knapp, Rachel Nagle, and Brad Drinkwater - Music Directors

Cara Verity, James Nagle, and Joseph Franzino - Pianists



Sunday, March 15, 2026 - Adelphi University Performing Arts Center

7:00 PM - Nassau Treble Choir, Nassau Concert Choir, Nassau Senior Treble Choir,
and Nassau Chamber Chorale

Craig B. Knapp, Doreen Fryling, Louise O'Hanlon, and Edward P. Norris III - Music Directors

Sun Ah Choi, Jeong-Hwa Park, Soyoung Kim, and Cara Verity - Pianists

Sunday, March 22, 2026 - Adelphi University Performing Arts Center

3:00 PM - Nassau String Orchestra and Nassau Concert Orchestra

Michalina Sobolewski and Peggy Ho - Music Directors

7:00 PM - Nassau Symphony Orchestra and Nassau Principal Orchestra

Catherine Birke and Scott Stickley - Music Directors

Saturday, May 9, 2026 - Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall

1:00 PM - All MYO Nassau Ensembles

Saturday, May 16, 2026 - Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall

1:00 PM - All MYO Suffolk Ensembles

Saturday, May 30, 2026 - Congregational Church of Huntington

3:00 PM - MYO Alumni Choir and Orchestra Reunion

Community and anthem performances are listed on our [In the Community page](#)

This schedule is subject to change by the concert venues and/or the MYO Executive Director.

