



SPRINGFIELD YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

**Springfield Youth Symphony  
Chamber Orchestra  
String Ensemble**



SPRINGFIELD CHILDREN'S CHORUS

**2019 - 2020  
HANDBOOK**

## The Springfield Youth Orchestras & Children's Chorus at a Glance

**History:** The Springfield Youth Symphony was formed in 1959 as an educational mission of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, giving young musicians an opportunity to perform challenging symphonic music. Since then, the SYS has provided an invaluable experience for hundreds of students. Many SYS graduates have contributed to music in our community as teachers, directors, and members of the Springfield Symphony. Other SYS graduates are serving our community and others as doctors, lawyers, CPA's, and more. The list of success stories is long! The Youth String Ensemble (SYSE) was formed in 2001, and the Youth Chamber Orchestra (SYCO) was formed in 2004, expanding the offerings of our program by providing orchestral ensemble experience at the beginning and intermediate levels. The Springfield Children's Chorus (SCC) was formed in 2011. The chorus rehearses weekly, with a focus on music literacy skills, knowledge of quality choral repertoire, and application of musicality and expressive techniques.

**Ensembles:** Springfield Youth Symphony (SYS) *Mr. Carlos Elias, director*  
Springfield Youth Chamber Orchestra (SYCO) *Mrs. Julie Ellis, director*  
Springfield Youth String Ensemble (SYSE) *Mr. Patrick Barrett, director*  
Springfield Children's Chorus (SCC) *Mr. Sean Hurley, director / Ms. Kristina Ahlstrom, accompanist*

Together, these groups form the Springfield Youth Orchestras & Children's Chorus (SYO & SCC)

**Location:** John Legend Theater (JLT)  
700 S. Limestone St.  
Springfield, OH 45505  
(Directions provided on Page 8)

Phone: 937-325-8100 Fax: 937-325-2299

Website: <http://www.springfieldsym.org/youth-log-in/>

Log-in: username: syouser / password: syouser

**Contacts:** Nomi Marcus  
*SSO Education & Outreach Manager*  
nomi@springfieldsym.org

**Members:** Over 100 elementary and secondary students, representing almost 50 area schools and home schools from eight different counties.

**Rehearsals:** Rehearsals for all the groups are held at the John Legend Theater

SYS: Mondays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm in John Legend Theater Auditorium

SYCO: Mondays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the Community Room

SYSE: Mondays, 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the JLT Commons

SCC: Mondays, 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the JLT Trust Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

Note: We periodically have a photographer take pictures during a rehearsal and/or concert. Photos are used for our various brochures, website, and publicity materials. If you or your child do not wish to have their image be used on promotional materials, please submit a request in writing to Nomi Marcus indicating these wishes.

## Attendance Policy and Membership Requirements

The conductor's goal is to make each rehearsal a meaningful experience for all involved. While performances often provide the most memorable highlights of the year, our rehearsals reveal who we are as an ensemble – our musical maturity and dedication, our respect for one another, and our ability to work together intensively.

Extraordinary responsibility is placed on each musician for preparation of individual parts. Musicians are expected to diligently prepare for rehearsals and arrive ready to contribute at their highest level.

It is very important that students and parents are familiar with and understand the policies set forth in this handbook. Failure to observe them could result in a reassignment of chair, denial of permission to participate in a concert, or dismissal from the orchestra.

1. **Tuition:** A non-refundable yearly tuition fee of \$275 will be charged to all members of the **SYO**. A non-refundable yearly tuition fee of \$200 will be charged to all members of the **SCC**. This tuition must be paid by the first full rehearsal of the season, **Monday, September 9, 2019**. Members may not participate until their tuition has been paid in full, or financial arrangements have been made. A discount is available for multiple family members; the first child pays the full fee, and each subsequent child will receive a 50% discount on the tuition. Checks should be made payable to the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. A limited amount of need-based financial aid is available. Applications for financial aid may be obtained by contacting the SSO office at 937-325-8100.
2. **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals and performances. Our attendance policies are strict to ensure the highest quality performance. Please evaluate your schedule to be sure that you are able to meet the commitment to our ensembles that we expect. **A student may miss two rehearsals in the fall semester and two rehearsals in the spring semester.** At the discretion of the Education & Outreach Manager and conductors, in the event of absences as a result of prolonged illness, family emergency, or such events, circumstances will be taken into consideration regarding such absences counting towards the allotted total allowed. **The annual Play and Sing-a-Thon fundraising retreat counts as a rehearsal; attendance is mandatory for this event, and absences from it would count towards students' allotted two absences per the spring semester.** Excessive absences or incidents of tardiness will result in the following: Possible seating reassignment or denial of permission to play for an upcoming concert, at the discretion of the conductor. Notification in advance of any absence or tardiness is expected, and should be made by calling the SSO office at 937-325-8100 or by emailing Nomi.
3. **Dress Rehearsal Attendance Policy:** Dress rehearsals are a critical component of the concert preparation process, and therefore all SYO & SCC students are *strongly advised* to not miss dress rehearsals. Dress rehearsal take place outside of the normal Monday-night rehearsal schedule, and instead (unless otherwise indicated) will occur on the Sunday prior to each semester's concert. Absences from dress rehearsals will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Education & Outreach Manager and the ensemble director, and will count towards a student's allotted two-absences per semester. **Please note: the SYS is the premiere, advanced ensemble of the SYO & SCC, and therefore, students are required to attend dress rehearsals. If they are unable to attend a dress rehearsal, they will not be permitted to perform in the concert.**
4. **School Music Programs and Private Lessons:** SYO members must be a member of a school music organization playing the same instrument as is played in the SYO. If there is no school orchestra or band, if there is a scheduling conflict, or if the student is home-schooled, an exception may be made. A "participation agreement" signed, where applicable, by your school music director, guidance counselor, principal, or private teacher is required for SYO participation and is included with the registration papers that are due by the first rehearsal. In addition, if there is not a school band or orchestra program for the student to participate in, the student is required to take private lessons on the instrument that he or she

plays in the SYO program. Our program is not designed to be a student's sole source of instrumental instruction. SYO members are expected to take private lessons on their instruments. SCC members are encouraged to take private lessons on voice and/or piano. The SSO office will be happy to provide recommendations for private lesson teachers in the area.

5. **Personal Injury or Damage to Instrument:** If a student sustains an injury that prevents him or her from playing an instrument, or if the instrument is being repaired, attendance is still required at rehearsals. It is still beneficial to sit in the section while following along with the music, making any notations given by the conductor.
6. **Punctuality:** Students must be in their seats and ready to play no less than five minutes before the start of each rehearsal. A call time will be specified for performances.
7. **Equipment:** Each musician is responsible for maintaining his/her instrument in top performing condition. Oil, rosin, mutes, shoulder rests and extra reeds should be brought to each rehearsal. Every musician is expected to come to rehearsal with a #2 pencil and eraser. There will be many musical suggestions and modifications to the music through the course of every rehearsal.
8. **Behavior:** SYO & SCC members are required to treat all rehearsal and performance venues and all equipment in the buildings with utmost care and respect. **Food and drink are not permitted in any area of the John Legend Theater, except for the JLT Lobby.** All members are required to behave appropriately while representing their orchestra. Disrespectful behavior of any kind during a concert or rehearsal may result in dismissal from the orchestra. The SYO program is privileged to be able to use the John Legend Theater facilities, and all orchestra members are expected to maintain a professional manner at all times.
9. **Rehearsal Etiquette:** All electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, etc. must be turned off prior to rehearsal. Cell phones are not permitted on music stands, and must be put away in purses or instrument cases during rehearsal, with the exception of the break time. Students who are texting or otherwise engaged with their phones or other electronic devices during rehearsal time are subject to dismissal from the rehearsal. Family members may attend rehearsals to watch and listen, but if doing so, are kindly asked to keep their phones on silent.
10. **Zero Tolerance Policy:** The Springfield Symphony Orchestra organization does not tolerate negative comments or behavior regarding race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religious preference at any time. Such negative comments or behavior *will result in immediate dismissal from the orchestra.* The use of any illegal substances including tobacco, drugs, and alcohol is also not permitted and subject to immediate dismissal from the SYO & SCC program.
11. **Withdrawal or Dismissal from the SYO & SCC:** Members are expected to make a full season's commitment to the Springfield Youth Orchestra program. Early withdrawal from the program must be done by letter, indicating the reasons and circumstances for withdrawal. **No refund of tuition will be extended.**

**Grounds for Dismissal:**

- Failure to honor conditions of membership as stated in the handbook.
- Failure to maintain a high level of performance appropriate to your orchestra demonstrated through private study, school involvement (if applicable), proper rehearsal behavior, and practice as determined by the conductor.
- Any criminal behavior within the SYO & SCC or the community at large.
- Repeated absences, tardiness, lack of practice, or disruptive or inappropriate rehearsal behavior.
- Disciplinary action will be taken via the following steps:
  1. First offense: verbal warning

2. Second offense: parental contact via phone, email, and/or letter
  3. Third offense: meeting with parent(s)/guardian(s), conductor, student, and SSO staff
  4. Fourth offense: dismissal from the group
- Please note that dismissal is ultimately the conductor's decision and is not one that will be made lightly. Severe misconduct may result in skipping one or more of these steps, but the parent(s)/guardian(s) will always be informed of issues before dismissal is considered.

12. **Inclement Weather Policy:** Generally, if Springfield City Schools are cancelled, there will be no SYO & SCC rehearsals. A group e-mail will also be sent to members if a rehearsal is cancelled. *Be sure to include accurate student and parent e-mail addresses on the registration form.* You may tune in to WHIO TV channel 7, visit Springfield Schools website at <http://www.spr.k12.oh.us/>, or phone the SSO office at 937-325-8100 after 12:00 p.m. on the day of the rehearsal for cancellation information. **You may also check the Google Calendar and SYO website for this information.**

13. **Remind:** Students *and* parent/guardians are strongly advised to sign up to receive notifications through Remind, a third-party text notification service. To sign up, simply text one of the following codes (based on the ensemble you/your child is enrolled in) to the number 81010:

**SYS:** @ssosys

**SYCO:** @ssosyco

**SYSE:** @ssosyse

**SCC:** @syochorus

14. **Community Service:** SYO & SCC members may earn community service hours for the following:

- Helping with set-up or tear-down of rehearsal chairs and stands
- Providing coaching and sectional help for younger students
- Helping the SSO Librarian with marking bowings in string parts
- Providing help at SYO & SCC auditions (check-in or leading students to audition rooms)
- Serving as student librarian of an ensemble
- Serving as editor or contributor to "Cadenza", the SYO & SCC newsletter
- Small ensemble or solo performances at community events

Contact Nomi Marcus at 937-325-8100 about these opportunities to serve. The SSO organization reserves the right to determine what student activities constitute community service that is deserving of the signature of SSO office staff.

15. **The SYO & SCC Website:** In an effort to reduce the amount of paper generated by the SSO office, all forms, handbooks, schedules, and audition repertoire can be found on the SYO & SCC's website, located at <http://www.springfieldsym.org/youth-log-in/>. To log in to this part of the website, enter syouser in both the username and password field and click submit. **Most importantly, the Google Calendar on this site is the official, final word on rehearsal and performance schedules, report times, etc. Please add this calendar to your phone or bookmark the page.** We will not be sending home multiple copies of the semester schedule.

## Concert Dress for SYS & SYCO

### **Women**

- \* Black formal skirt below the knee or black dress pants
- \* Black blouse (no sleeveless)
- \* Natural or black hose
- \* Black dress shoes (no boots)

### **Men**

- \* Black dress trousers
- \* Black dress shirt with collar (no polo shirts)
- \* Black suit jacket and black tie
- \* Black socks (long)
- \* Black dress shoes (no boots)

## Concert Dress for SYSE & SCC

### **Women**

- \* Black formal skirt below the knee or black dress pants
- \* Black blouse (no sleeveless)
- \* Natural or black hose
- \* Black dress shoes (no boots)

### **Men**

- \* Black dress trousers
- \* Black dress shirt with collar (no polo shirts)
- \* Black dress shoes (no boots)
- \* Black socks (long)

*This dress is REQUIRED for all students to perform. No exceptions will be made.*

## Seating Audition Policies (SYO Only)

The purpose of seating auditions is to determine a seating arrangement that is for the good of the entire orchestra. The following are standardized policies that will be followed for SYS and SYCO seating auditions (SYSE does not require seating auditions):

1. Seating auditions will take place prior to the start of each season. Excerpts from the season's repertoire will be sent in advance to students. All students must audition unless otherwise instructed. Seating auditions will also serve as your audition for membership for the upcoming season.
2. Auditions are conducted by the SYO conductors, section coaches, or other professional musicians from the SSO hired to work with the conductors.
3. If a student cannot be present on the date the audition is held, he or she must notify Nomi Marcus at least two weeks prior to the audition date. The SSO office cannot guarantee that a make-up date will be able to be scheduled. Seating will then be determined at the conductor's discretion.
4. Based on the audition, violinists will be assigned to the Violin I or Violin II section, and may remain in that section for the entire season. Any exceptions to this will be determined by the conductor.
5. **The conductor has the final say in all seating decisions. The goal for seating is not to foster competition, but to find the optimum placement for each student that will ensure the success of each individual, and the group as a whole. String players can expect to sometimes change seating as the conductor sees fit in order to benefit the entire ensemble. Principal players may change between semesters if more than one student demonstrates the necessary skills for a principal position.**

## Move-Up Audition Policies (SYO Only)

Students in the Youth String Ensemble (SYSE) or Youth Chamber Orchestra (SYCO) may audition to move up to the next group in August, prior to the upcoming season. **We will no longer conduct move-up auditions at any other time during the season.** All audition music will be made available in PDF on the youth orchestra website. **Hard copies of audition music will only be sent to those musicians who email Nomi Marcus and request it.**

This is done in order to keep expenses down, and therefore keep tuition down. It also helps the environment for the SSO to not have to generate many copies of music. Please help us in this endeavor!

## **SCC Part Assignments**

Part/voicing assignments for the SCC will be determined at the initial orientation meeting of the spring semester on **Monday, August 26 from 7:30 – 8:00 PM.**

## **John Smarelli Scholarship Concert and Scholarship Award**

Former Springfield Youth Symphony Conductor Emeritus John Smarelli (1926-2005) was active as a performer and educator in a five state area for over sixty years, and performed with the SSO for 42 years, many of those years as concertmaster and personnel manager. In his eight years as conductor of the SYS, John Smarelli is fondly remembered by SYS alumni for his passionate approach to the music, and his demand for hard work and perfection from each and every orchestra member. His legacy lives on in the annual John Smarelli Scholarship Concert and Scholarship Fund.

Each year the John Smarelli Scholarship for \$500 is awarded to a graduating senior who has been a member of the SYO program for at least two years and is planning to continue his or her music education at the college level by majoring or minoring in music. Applications are available through the SSO office beginning in January and are due back to the SSO office by the date listed on the season schedule.

## **Project Protégé**

Project Protégé is a program that offers outstanding Springfield Youth Symphony string players the opportunity to perform with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra on selected works at selected concerts throughout the SSO concert season. Project Protégé musicians will be selected by the SYS conductor, the SSO music director, and SYO string coaches after the fall seating auditions. This program gives young string players the opportunity to perform in a professional environment and experience mentoring and guidance from the professional musicians of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. Limited opportunities as determined by the SSO music director may be available for outstanding wind players, based on the repertoire of the SSO concert season and discretion of SSO section principals.

## **Live Wire**

Live Wire is a chamber music program consisting of a Brass Ensemble, Woodwind Quintet, two String Quartets, and a Percussion Ensemble. This unique performing opportunity for Youth Orchestra members encourages artistic excellence and personal achievement through the vehicle of chamber music. Since the program's inception in 2006, Live Wire ensembles have performed in over 250 concerts in a wide variety of community settings.

Participants are chosen by audition and other criteria. The ensembles rehearse a minimum of five times per semester, and receive professional coaching from members of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. A small tuition fee is charged, and Live Wire participants receive a handbook specific to that program. Ensembles depend upon the availability and skill of student performers. If there are not enough available students of sufficient skill, we may not have the full complement of LiveWire ensembles each season.

## **Annual Concerto Competition for Seniors**

An annual Concerto Competition is held for Springfield Youth Symphony seniors. The winner will be selected through a live audition in front of a panel of select SSO musicians, staff, and local music educators.

Auditions must be accompanied, and will result in one winner being selected to perform at the annual John Smarelli Scholarship Concert at the John Legend Theater. A list of suggested repertoire will be provided to all those interested. A solo opportunity at the first semester concert in November may be extended to runners-up. Students are expected to perform the same selection that they performed on the audition.

Applications may be obtained from the SSO office, and the audition date and application deadline are listed on the season schedule.

### **Fundraising**

Student tuition covers approximately 30% of our total youth orchestra budget, and fundraising is essential to help provide a quality program while still offering an affordable tuition fee. In order to ensure the financial stability of the SYO, it is necessary for students and families to participate in our annual Play-a-thon fundraiser, an event similar in concept to a “walk-a-thon”. Our event is a fun educational and social experience that also raises necessary operating funds. The Play-a-thon is listed on the season schedule and is usually held the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in January. Detailed information will be sent to all students mid-way through the first semester. ***An early portion of the evening of Play-a-thon is scheduled as rehearsal time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, and attendance is mandatory for that block of time. Missing that rehearsal will count as one absence toward the two absences allowed per semester.***

### **Springfield Symphony Orchestra Concert Tickets**

We highly encourage youth orchestra members and their families to attend a minimum of one Springfield Symphony concert per year. The value of attending a live performance of professional orchestral groups is an enhanced appreciation and understanding of music. Live performances, in addition to being educational, also provide inspiration to young musicians.

All SYO members may receive a complimentary ticket to any Springfield Symphony Orchestra concert, and their immediate family members may purchase tickets for 50% off the single ticket price. To obtain tickets, call the Clark State Performing Arts Center Ticket Office at 328-3874 *prior to* the day of the concert and tell them you are a Springfield Youth Orchestra member or family member. They will make sure you get the complimentary ticket and the discount. SYO families are also encouraged to purchase season subscriptions, available as complimentary for the orchestra students and at 50% off the single ticket price for family members.

**Please keep scrolling for directions & maps to the John Legend Theater.**

# JOHN LEGEND THEATER DIRECTIONS:

## FROM I-70 EAST:

Come to Springfield on I-70E and take exit 54 for OH-72/Limestone St. Head north on Limestone St .approximately 1.5 miles. Although the address is listed at 700 S Limestone, you will need to come to the John Legend Theater entrance on Clifton Ave. Turn right at E Liberty St and left at Clifton Ave.

## FROM I-70 WEST:

Come to Springfield on I-70W and take exit 54 for OH-72/Limestone St. Head north on Limestone St .approximately 1.5 miles. Although the address is listed at 700 S Limestone, you will need to come to the John Legend Theater entrance on Clifton Ave. Turn right at E Liberty St and left at Clifton Ave.

## FROM 68-NORTH:

Take 68-North towards Springfield. After passing the I-70 junction, continue for another two thirds of a mile on S Yellow Springs St and turn right on to W John St. Continue for 1 mile and turn left on to S Limestone St. Turn right at E. Liberty St. and left at Clifton Ave.

## FROM 40-EAST:

Take 40-E W National Rd towards Springfield. Turn slightly right at the fork on to W Main St and continue for a half mile. Turn right on to S Bechtle Ave and turn left at the next intersection for W High St and continue for 1.5 miles. Turn right and continue on S Spring St for a quarter mile. Turn left on to Selma Ave and right at Clifton Ave.

## PARKING:

The parking lot for the Theater is on the north side of the building. Do not use the parking lot adjacent to Global Impact Stem Academy and tennis courts. Contact the SSO Office at 937-325-8100 or [ssoyouth@gmail.com](mailto:ssoyouth@gmail.com) for any further assistance.

## BUILDING ENTRANCE:

If parking or dropping off, use the ramp to the John Legend Theater entrance on the east side of the building. Do not use the CareerConnectED entrance as we do not have access to those doors. Do not look for E Clark St as that road has been filled in with grass. There will be signage directing students to their designated areas.



West-facing photo of the John Legend Theater.



Ramp Entrance from Parking Lot



JLT Entrance (Ramp from Parking Lot to the right)