



QUAD CITY SYMPHONY YOUTH ENSEMBLES



2020-21 SEASON

AUDITION GUIDE

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS | QCSO.ORG

OPPORTUNITIES FOR

**VIOLIN
VIOLA
CELLO
BASS**

**FLUTE
OBOE
CLARINET
BASSOON**

**HORN
TRUMPET
TROMBONE
TUBA**

**PIANO
PERCUSSION
HARP
UNCHANGED VOICE**

COVID-19 UPDATE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, QCSYE auditions will now be submitted electronically. Please register for an audition, and Chelsea Schwarzkopf, QCSYE General Manager, will reach out to you with directions for how to submit your audition.

ABOUT THE QCSYE

The **Quad City Symphony Youth Ensembles** (QCSYE) program consists of five performance groups (four youth orchestras and one youth choir) for students in grades two through twelve. Under the direction of the outstanding QCSYE conducting staff, members have the opportunity to perform great orchestral and choral repertoire with the most talented young musicians in the area and learn from the mentorship of professional musicians from throughout the region. Ensemble members come from the greater Quad Cities, as well as other communities in southeast Iowa and northwest Illinois.

Youth Symphony Orchestra (YSO) is a full symphony orchestra comprised of nearly 90 members and is the premiere youth orchestra in the region. Members perform several times throughout the year in a variety of rewarding performance settings, including the Side-by-Side concert with the Quad City Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Mark Russell Smith, where they perform advanced orchestral repertoire. YSO generally rehearses on Sundays from 5:45 - 8:15 PM.

Youth Philharmonic Orchestra (YPO) is an advanced orchestra whose members experience playing in a full orchestra with strings, winds, and percussion. The YPO performs original repertoire, as well as challenging arrangements of great orchestral masterpieces. YPO generally rehearses on Sundays from 3:00 - 5:15 PM.

Youth String Ensemble (YSE) is an intermediate string ensemble for young musicians. Participation in the YSE develops members' individual technique and prepares them for a full orchestra experience. YSE generally rehearses on Sundays from 5:15 - 7:00 PM.

Prelude Strings is an introductory-preparatory ensemble for young string musicians. Through participation in Prelude Strings, members improve individual playing technique, develop ensemble skills, and gain valuable performance experience. PS primarily serves students in grades four through eight and generally rehearses Sundays from 3:15 - 4:45 PM.

Youth Choir is a training choir open to students in elementary and middle school. Members must have an unchanged voice, be able to match pitch, and sing well in tune with others. Participants improve individual vocal technique, develop ensemble skills, and gain valuable performance experience in a variety of rewarding performance settings. Youth Choir generally rehearses on Sundays from 3:30 - 5:15 PM.

SEASON OVERVIEW

August 14-15, 2020	YSO Fall Retreat
August 15, 2020	YSO performance at Riverfront Pops
August 16, 2020	YPO Fall Retreat
September 12, 2020	Youth Choir, Prelude Strings, & Youth String Ensemble Fall Retreat
November 15, 2020	QCSYE Fall Concerts
December 6, 2020	YSO Concerto Competition
February 21, 2021	QCSYE Winter Concerts
February 23, 2021	YSO Symphony Day Concerts
April 25, 2021	QCSO & QCSYE Side-by-Side Concert
June 13, 2021	YSO Concert Tour of Germany Send-Off Concert

BENEFITS OF QCSYE MEMBERSHIP

- Perform spectacular orchestral and choral music with the most promising young musicians from throughout the region under the direction of inspiring, expert conductors.
- Rehearse with Michele Ottesen, Elizabeth Lundine, Catherine Lyon as well as QCSYE Music Director, Ernesto Estigarribia & QCSO Music Director, Mark Russell Smith.
- Work with QCSO musicians in specialized sectionals.
- Experience unique performance opportunities in the region’s finest indoor and outdoor performance venues.
- Receive complimentary student tickets and discounted companion tickets to QCSO Masterworks & Signature Series concerts.
- Earn scholarships awarded for musical development opportunities, such as summer music camps, new instruments, instrument accessories, and more.
- Audition for the YSO Concerto Competition to earn an opportunity to perform as a soloist with either the QCSO or YSO.

TUITION

Tuition for each ensemble is listed below. Need-based financial aid is available to all members. **No member will be denied participation due to an inability to pay the tuition amount in full.** The QCSYE continues to be committed to making its program accessible to all interested students, regardless of income.

Youth Symphony Orchestra, \$490/season

Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, \$430/season

Youth String Ensemble, \$320/season

Prelude Strings, \$255/season

Youth Choir, \$320/season

2020-2021 AUDITIONS

Each season, auditions are held for students who wish to be considered for QCSYE membership and for current members who wish to progress to a more advanced ensemble. The following information is intended to assist students in preparing for, scheduling, and performing a QCSYE audition.

PREPARING FOR A YOUTH CHOIR AUDITION

Youth Choir auditions will take approximately 10 minutes. Please bring a parent to the audition to meet the Youth Choir conductor and accompanist. All singers will perform a simple vocal audition that consists of the following:

- 1) Simple vocal warm-ups
- 2) Tonal and harmony exercises
- 3) Singing Row, Row, Row Your Boat

APPLYING FOR PRELUDE STRINGS

Students who wish to be considered for membership in Prelude Strings, the entry-level string orchestra, are not required to perform an audition. Instead, prospective members must:

- 1) Complete the Prelude Strings Membership Application.
- 2) Ask a school music teacher or private lesson instructor to complete the Prelude Strings Teacher Reference Form.
- 3) Pay the non-refundable \$10.00 application fee, which is submitted by credit or debit card as part of the online application form.

QCSYE conducting staff will evaluate each Prelude Strings application in conjunction with the auditions for YSE, YPO, and YSO. Placement emails indicating acceptance status will be sent to each applicant after review.

PREPARING FOR YOUR ORCHESTRA AUDITION

String Players

1. String students should prepare a solo of 1 - 2 minutes in length. Solos may be school contest solos, excerpts from larger solos, or any solo selection which demonstrates your skill. Solos do not have to be memorized and should be performed unaccompanied.
2. Prepare the scale(s) indicated below for your instrument (and the orchestra level for which you would like to be considered for membership):

Youth Symphony Orchestra Scales

Violin: 3-octave C, G, D, A, and B-flat major scales

Viola and Cello: 3-octave C, G, D, and F major scales

Bass: 2-octave C, G, D, F, and B-flat major scales

Scales should be played at quarter note = 80, slurring two quarter notes per bow with a full and sustained sound, ascending and descending.

Youth Philharmonic Orchestra Scales

Violin: 2-octave D major and 3-octave G and C major scales

Viola and Cello: 3-octave C major and 2-octave D major scale

Bass: 2-octave G and F major scales

Scales should be played at quarter note = 80, slurring two quarter notes per bow with a full and sustained sound, ascending and descending.

Youth String Ensemble Scales

Violin, Viola, and Cello: 2-octave G and C major scales

Bass: 2-octave G major and 1-octave F major scale

Scales should be played with separate bows on quarter notes at a tempo equal to or faster than quarter note = 60, ascending and descending.

3. Download, print, and prepare the required excerpt for your instrument (and the orchestra level for which you would like to be considered for membership). **Audition excerpts are available as PDF downloads at qcso.org and must be brought by the applicant to the audition.**

Woodwind and Brass Players

1. Woodwind and brass students should prepare a solo approximately 2 minutes in length. Solos may be school contest solos, excerpts from larger solos, or any solo selection which demonstrates your skill. Solos do not have to be memorized and should be performed unaccompanied.

2. Prepare two major scales of your choice in 2 or more octaves, ascending and descending. The scales must be performed in **eighth notes** at a tempo equal to or faster than quarter note = 80 for YSO OR in **quarter notes** at a tempo equal to or faster than quarter note = 80 for YPO membership consideration. Scales should be performed all tongued in one direction and all slurred in the other direction.

3. Prepare a chromatic scale over the range of the instrument in which you can play using an excellent tone, ascending and descending. The chromatic scale must be performed in **eighth notes** at a tempo equal to or faster than quarter note = 80 for YSO OR in **quarter notes** at a tempo equal to or faster than quarter note = 80 for YPO membership consideration. No specific articulation pattern is required.

4. Download, print, and prepare the required excerpt for your instrument (and the orchestra level for which you would like to be considered for membership). **Audition excerpts are available as PDF downloads at qcso.org and must be brought by the applicant to the audition.**

Percussionists

1. Prepare a solo or etude on the percussion instrument of your choice (snare drum, timpani, or keyboard percussion) that demonstrates your greatest skill, talent, and confidence. The solo/etude should be approximately 2 minutes in length.

2. Download, print, and prepare the required excerpt for your instrument (and the orchestra level for which you would like to be considered for membership). **Audition excerpts are available as PDF downloads at qcso.org and must be brought by the applicant to the audition.**

3. Demonstrate the following techniques on the following instruments:

Snare Drum

Play a multiple bounce (orchestral) roll at the performer's maximum, controlled speed from soft to loud to soft.

Play a double stroke (rudimentary) roll from slow to fast to slow at a constant volume.

Keyboard Percussion

Play 2-octave C and D major scales, ascending and descending, in eighth notes at quarter note = 100.

Play a chromatic scale the full range of the instrument, ascending and descending, in eighth notes at quarter note = 100.

Timpani

Perform a glissando roll ascending and descending.

Tune to a required pitch.

Crash Cymbals

Perform crashes at various volume levels.

Tambourine

Perform shake and thumb rolls.

YSO CONCERT TOUR OF GERMANY JUNE 2021

International touring offers a singular and transformational experience for pre-collegiate students, and we are thrilled to provide this significant artistic and cultural opportunity to YSO. This tour will include performances and unique sight-seeing experiences exploring the music, history, and culture of Germany. The proposed tour cost per student is \$3,500 and will include the following:

- 3 concerts in 3 cities
- 8 nights of accommodation in tourist class hotels, sharing twin rooms with private facilities
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Guided sightseeing tours in all cities
- Paid entrances to museums, churches, etc.
- All air & land transportation (air-conditioned motor coaches)
- Tour couriers and guides
- Instrument truck and driver throughout

*Participation in the YSO Concert Tour of Germany is contingent on spring audition placements. Interest in the tour will not be a factor in placement auditions.

REGISTERING FOR AN AUDITION

Students interested in auditioning for the 2020-21 season should complete the QCSYE Audition Registration Form found at qcso.org. **Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, QCSYE auditions will now be submitted electronically. Please register for an audition, and Chelsea Schwarzkopf, QCSYE General Manager, will reach out to you with directions for how to submit your audition.**

CONTACT US



Chelsea Schwarzkopf

QCSYE General Manager

cschwarzkopf@qcso.org | (563) 424-7990