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ABOUT THE SAN LUIS OBISPO YOUTH SYMPHONY

The San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony (YS) was founded in 1965 by Dr. Wachtang Korisheli, and remains the only opportunity between the cities of Santa Barbara and Monterey for young musicians to receive a full orchestral experience. In June, 2006, the Youth Symphony voted to merge with the San Luis Obispo Symphony, a professional orchestra committed to artistic excellence and comprehensive music education.

To accommodate various levels of musical experience, the YS is comprised of four ensembles.

Concert Orchestra. This exceptional ensemble includes talented young people from the 7th to 12th grade. These committed musicians comprise the organization's most advanced string, woodwind, brass and percussion players; and perform the most difficult repertoire of the four ensembles. In 2003, the Concert Orchestra performed a European tour, as well as a concert tour in Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia in June, 2007. In honor of the Youth Symphony's 40th Anniversary Season, the Concert Orchestra performed a benefit concert under the baton of internationally-renowned conductor and Youth Symphony alumnus Kent Nagano.

Academy String Orchestra. This intermediate string orchestra consists of students with three or more years experience on violin, viola, cello or bass. The Academy Orchestra performs standard musical literature from Baroque through modern composers with an appreciation of musical styles for each period through sectional and full ensemble rehearsals.

Symphonic Winds. The Symphonic Winds ensemble consists of intermediate woodwind, brass and percussion musicians.

Preparatory Strings. Preparatory Strings is a string orchestra experience for musicians who have played two years or more. It requires note reading and counting simple rhythms. Listening and counting skills are stressed, providing a sound foundation for future string orchestra participation. The musical literature performed at three annual concerts is classical, popular and folk.

SuperBows! SuperBows! Is a first ensemble experience for students who have played their instrument for one year or more

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Auditions

Auditions are held by appointment only. Audition requirements vary between ensembles and are available on the YS website or upon request. All returning musicians re-audition annually. Auditions may not use accompanists. SuperBows! are not required to audition.

Community Music Involvement

The YS supports music in schools, and YS musicians are expected to participate in their school's music program. Private music lessons are also highly recommended. From time to time, the SLO Symphony may request Youth Symphony musicians for specific concerts and events, but it is the expectation of both the Symphony and Youth Symphony artistic staff that young musicians' first allegiance is to the YS until they are 18 years of age.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA ONLY

Concertmaster Auditions

If the Music Director(s) does not select a concertmaster by the first rehearsal, auditions for the position of concertmaster of the Concert Orchestra will be held shortly after the season begins. The audition will be on an invitation-only basis from the top candidates in the violin section. Leadership and service contributions to the YS organization will also be considered in awarding this position.

Concerto Competition

An annual concerto competition is held to allow Concert Orchestra members to compete for the opportunity to be featured alongside the Concert Orchestra at one of the major concerts. The Concerto Competition will take place in a recital setting, with an audience and invited adjudicators. The competition piece must be for soloist, or soloists, and orchestra. Each competing musician is expected to provide accompaniment for his/her concerto at the competition. Students are judged on projection/ tone quality, musicality, accuracy, tempo, dynamic contrast, articulation, and expression. Final decisions will be based on the recommendation made by invited adjudicators in consultation with the Music Director(s). If none of the competing musicians qualify, it is at the adjudicating team's discretion to withhold the award for the season. Competition participants are asked to also participate in Music at Two chamber concert.

Principals' Recital

This performance opportunity is offered to Concert Orchestra principal players, and is open to the public.

Use of SLO Youth Symphony Name

To use the Youth Symphony name for performance opportunities involving students outside of official Youth Symphony events, the event must first be submitted to the Youth Symphony Manager and then approved by Youth Symphony Conductors. Once approved, a YS coach or conductor will need to coordinate rehearsals and be on site for the performance. In publicity, students should be listed as "Members of the San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony".

Late-Additions

The YS welcomes new musicians after the season has already begun. The following steps will be taken to accept new musicians:

1. To join the YS, all musicians must either audition or must be invited by the Music Director(s). For an audition, please contact YS staff (contact info on inside back cover).
2. Upon acceptance, YS staff will supply the musician with a registration form to be filled out and submitted with a 25% tuition deposit before participating in any rehearsal. For safety reasons, all musicians (including those invited by the Music Director(s)) must be registered with YS staff to attend rehearsals at any time.
3. Upon receipt of registration materials and partial payment of tuition, musicians may then participate as a member of the YS.

****PLEASE NOTE:** Tuition for late-added musicians will not be discounted or pro-rated.

YS Discipline Policy

Professional behavior is expected of YS students at all times. Please see student agreement list. Disruptive behavior during any YS function may result in disciplinary action.

If disruptive behavior persists or the situation cannot be positively resolved, a musician may be dismissed from the YS organization. Parents will be notified in writing. Tuition will not be refunded.

Concert Attire

Concerts provide an opportunity for each ensemble to perform their best – and look their best – as a group. The purpose of a dress code for concerts is to help each musician blend in as part of his/her overall ensemble. Musicians who dress conspicuously or do not adhere to this dress code for concerts will be asked to change or be dismissed from the concert.

Concert Dress Code

Academy, Symphonic Winds, Preparatory Strings & SuperBoms! - **Black and White**

Gentlemen: black dress pants, black socks, white dress shirt, black bow tie, black shoes.

Ladies: dressy black 3/4 or floor length skirt or pants, 3/4 or long-sleeved white blouse, black socks or hosiery, black shoes.

Concert Orchestra - **All Black**

Gentlemen: black dress pants, black button down shirt, black socks, black shoes. NO TIE.

Ladies: dressy black 3/4 or floor length skirt or pants, 3/4 or long-sleeved black blouse, black shoes.

INAPPROPRIATE/UNACCEPTABLE CONCERT DRESS

- plunging necklines
- sleeveless clothing
- perfume/cologne
- white socks or hosiery
- loud or excessive accessories
- bare legs
- bare backs
- bare knees
- bare midriffs
- bare toes

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony believes that professionalism is as important as musical excellence. Attendance at every rehearsal and performance is mandatory. The Music Director(s) and coaches prepare their rehearsal schedules based on full attendance from every section. We realize, however, that a rehearsal absence may be unavoidable due to special circumstances. For this reason, we have developed a policy for absences per concert cycle. (A concert cycle is the set of rehearsals from one concert to the next.) **A maximum of two absences is allowed per concert cycle.** Accumulating more than two absences could result in dismissal from the Youth Symphony or other measures determined by the Music Director(s). All disciplinary action as concerns attendance is at the discretion of the Music Director(s).

Important family events such as weddings, vacations, etc. are excused only if YS administrative staff are notified no less than one month in advance of the event. To excuse any absences, please submit a “missed rehearsal request” (available on the YS website or by contacting staff) or e-mail to the Operations Director (rather than the Music Directors) at least one month prior to your absence. The earlier staff is notified of scheduling conflicts the better; therefore, you are urged to check your calendars and to ask your parents and teachers about possible conflicts early on.

****PLEASE NOTE**

- Unacceptable or unexcused absences may result in re-assignment of parts, re-seating in the section, loss of principal status, or dismissal from YS
- Absences from all performances and certain rehearsals, such as dress rehearsals, are unacceptable and will not be excused.

Tardiness Policy

In keeping with the YS philosophy of professional responsibility, students are expected to arrive at rehearsal with time to settle in and tune their instrument before rehearsal begins. Arriving late to a rehearsal or sectional impacts the entire ensemble. When students arrive on time and well prepared, it allows us to provide the best possible experience for all YS students. **Two tardies are equal to one absence.**

Definitions:

Tardy = not seated and ready to play promptly at the scheduled start of rehearsal or following rehearsal breaks.

Absence = over 20 minutes tardy, altogether absent from rehearsal.

Dress Rehearsal and Day-Of Rehearsal Attendance

A musician must attend the dress rehearsal and day-of-concert rehearsal and be on time in order to play the concert. Sometimes last-minute adjustments must be made, i.e. with equipment, seating, a new venue, etc. that make it necessary for all the performers to be available on time to ensure the highest level of performance efficiency. Your punctuality and flexibility are of the utmost importance.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURE

Musicians are expected to be ready to play (warmed-up, tuned, and seated) on time at every rehearsal and concert. Arrive 10-15 minutes early to allow time to help set up, tune instruments and warm up prior to the start of rehearsal. Parents: please do not drop your musician off any earlier. Please see the "List of Agreements" included in your folder.

Listed below is the procedure for every rehearsal, including policies to ensure the greatest enjoyment, efficiency, and progress of all participants.

1. **Prompt arrival and departure.**

Regular rehearsal times are printed below. Arrive 10-15 minutes before your rehearsal begins.

- SuperBows! 3:50 - 4:50pm
- Prep Strings 3:50 - 4:50pm
- Symphonic Winds 5 - 7pm
- Academy Strings 5 - 7pm
- Concert Orchestra 5 - 7pm

Musicians are to be picked up promptly as their rehearsal ends unless otherwise noted. Supervision on the school grounds after rehearsal is not the responsibility of the YS.

- 2. Make sure you are checked in at roll-call.** Roll call will be taken by YS staff at each rehearsal, for every ensemble. To be marked "on time" you must be in your seat at the very beginning of rehearsal (see times above) or you will be marked tardy. In the event of sectionals (held in several different rooms), musicians must still be seated, tuned, and ready to play at the very beginning of rehearsal, as staff will "make the rounds" and take roll.
- 3. Warm up and tune instruments 5 minutes prior to the beginning of rehearsal.** Parents: If your child doesn't drive themselves to rehearsal, it is your responsibility to bring him/her 15 minutes early so that they may have their instrument tuned and ready 5 minutes prior to the rehearsal.
- 4. Respect your conductors, coaches and fellow musicians.** Please also be respectful of all practice and concert venues.
- 5. Treat your instrument with care.** Instruments are the sole responsibility of the musician. The YS is not liable for loss or damage to instruments during attendance at any YS function.
- 6. Be professional during rehearsal breaks.** The mid-rehearsal break is a privilege. Students are expected to respect the facilities, authorities, and fellow musicians at all times. Disrespect of any of the above is grounds for expulsion. Musicians are welcome to bring a snack, but must eat outside during mid-rehearsal break as food and drinks are not allowed inside any facility used by the YS.
- 7. Return on time after rehearsal breaks.** Again, "late" means not tuned and/or seated when rehearsal begins again.
- 8. Help clean up after rehearsal.** It is the responsibility of students to assist in the clean up after rehearsal. At the close of rehearsal, please stack chairs, put away stands, throw away trash and gather your belongings.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Audition Fees & Tuition

All musicians are required to pay an audition fee at the time of audition. This fee does not apply toward tuition. Tuition is neither tax deductible, nor refundable. Yearly tuition is:

Orchestra \$575 · Academy Strings \$575 · Symphonic Winds \$520 Preparatory Strings \$405 · SuperBows! \$300

Tuition Agreement

The tuition agreement is part of the registration form that must be signed and returned at the beginning of the season. All families must be current with the previous year's tuition to audition. This agreement is a binding contract and obligation to pay the full tuition for the entire concert season. Tuition will not be reduced or pro-rated for concerts missed.

Payment Procedures

Tuition may be paid in trimesterly installments or in full. Those families choosing to make payments will receive a tuition voucher form to help track payments. It is the family's responsibility to make prompt payments. Late fees of \$5 per payment, per month late, may be added to the balance due. Payments should be mailed to:

SLO Youth Symphony P.O. Box 658 SLO, CA 93046

School Music Credit

Musicians participating in their school music program are eligible for a \$50 credit toward YS tuition. This can include band, choir, guitar, piano, etc. A signature from the students' school music teacher on the YS registration form is required. Private lessons do not apply.

Multiple Musician Discount

Tuition for families with more than one YS musician is automatically discounted 10%.

Tuition Scholarships

The San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony is committed to providing its services to all musicians, regardless of financial need. Scholarships are provided to families who need assistance. In order to be fair to all families, the following policies have been developed for granting scholarships:

- Each family is responsible for the first \$50 of tuition per child, regardless of the ensemble in which they play. This commitment fee should be submitted with the scholarship application.
- The tuition less \$50 commitment fee will be the maximum scholarship that can be awarded per year.
- The scholarship committee will review applications and scholarships will be determined based on individual needs and a sliding scale. Families will be notified of their scholarship award in time to make their first tuition payment by the deadline.
- Remaining tuition not covered by scholarship is payable in trimesterly payments due October 3rd, January 9th and March 19th.
- Each family wishing to apply for a scholarship must do so annually; applications and commitment fee are due at the Fall Parent Meeting.
- Families receiving scholarships are expected to volunteer throughout the year as requested.
- Scholarship recipients will be evaluated during the year for attendance, evidence of individual progress and attitude. If a musician exhibits lack of preparation, interest or motivation, the scholarship may be reconsidered.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Reaching the Youth Symphony's ambitious goals for the upcoming year will require a lot of time, effort, planning, and energy. Remember, the SLOYS is part of a non-profit organization heavily dependent upon parent volunteers. Each family is expected to contribute some time and energy to help make the season successful. You will be asked to sign the parent pledge below on a registration form at the start of the season. We appreciate your support in helping us to provide the best experience possible for all YS students.

Parent Pledge

"I / We recognize that the YS is largely a participatory volunteer organization. We understand that tuition payments cover only a portion of the cost of the program, and that without fundraising, tuition expenses would more than double. I/We will honor the request that each family sign up on at least one volunteer list (i.e. fundraising, concert organization, etc.) and be available to assist if and when requested."

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

A YS parent committee member will be appointed Volunteer Coordinator for the season.

Areas where we are often seeking support are:

- Rehearsal assistance, including set up, tear down, chaperoning
- Concert assistance, including chaperones, refreshments, and clean up
- Special events, e.g. chamber concerts, touring, fundraising, social functions
- Office / clerical help, merchandise sales
- Instrument / timpani transport
- Communications, flyer distribution, newsletter production

Season Finale Ticket Purchase

It is a YS tradition that prior to the annual season finale concert, each family is expected to purchase 6 (six) concert tickets to help fill the Performing Arts Center with a warm, receptive audience! A YS volunteer will be in touch to facilitate ticket purchases as the time grows closer.

Parent Responsibilities

- **Be supportive of your child's music studies.** Please refer to the document, "How Do I Keep My Child Involved in Music?" for ideas (on the website).
- **Be sure that your musician's instrument is in good repair for each rehearsal and performance.** For questions about the condition of an instrument, please ask the student's sectional coach before or after rehearsal. Remember: the YS is not liable for loss or damage to your child's instrument. If you are concerned, add a rider to your homeowner's insurance for the instrument.
- **Be punctual when dropping off and picking up your child.** Don't leave your young musician unattended.
- **Pay tuition promptly.** Feel free to use the provided tuition vouchers.
- **Keep in touch.** Contact Issy Roberts YS Manager or Andrea Stoner, Music Education Director if you have any questions or concerns (contact info on back cover).
- **Lend a hand.** Your flexibility and enthusiasm are appreciated when you are asked to help out at YS functions.

MUSICIAN SAFETY

Medical Emergencies

In the event of an accident or sudden onset of illness, the YS organization will not hesitate to seek proper care for a musician. An immediate attempt will be made to contact the responsible parent or designee, as detailed in the Medical Information and Release portion of the registration form. The YS organization will also make an attempt to contact the musician's physician for instructions. Failing this, the YS organization will notify the nearest hospital emergency room to prepare for the musician's delivery and care. The medical release form that the parent has signed will accompany the musician so that treatment can be given immediately in the absence of a parent. It is your responsibility to keep medical forms up to date. Please notify the Symphony office with any changes as soon as possible.

Child Safety

The San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony has adopted concepts and policies related to child safety, a summary of which will be distributed to all parents at the start of each season. In addition, all adult volunteers, chaperones, conductors, coaches, staff and board members will be required to review, acknowledge and sign a statement of YS policies and additional procedures prior to being allowed to participate in any YS sanctioned activities. A copy of the YS Child Safety Policy is available upon request.

San Luis Coastal Unified School District Facility Use Policy

The San Luis Coastal Unified School District has its own guidelines for the use of school facilities:

- No food or drinks should be consumed for non-school groups using the facilities unless the group has arranged for custodial overtime or has special permission of the principal.
- Children under the age of eighteen are to be supervised by an adult at all times.
- Running and/or sliding across the floor are not permitted.
- Leave the room as you found it (chairs and stands replaced to original position, trash discarded).
- No gum.
- Littering and/or using the premises for informal restrooms on either district or neighboring private property by your group and/or spectators will cause a potentially substantial cost to your group which can lead to the cancellation of your permit.
- Notify the custodian when you leave so the building can be secured.
- If there are any problems or accidents (spillage) notify the custodian immediately. Any routine problems, contact the property clerk at 543-2010.
- There is no smoking or consumption of alcoholic beverages on any school district property. If any of your group, including spectators, are found breaking this law, all uses of District owned sites by your group will be immediately canceled.

Groups not abiding by these guidelines will not be permitted to continue use of the San Luis Coastal Facilities.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE YOUTH SYMPHONY

The San Luis Obispo YS is part of the San Luis Obispo Symphony, which is a non-profit organization supported through ticket sales, community donations and grants. Tuition covers less than half of YS operating expenses each year. Outside contributions are vital to the success of this organization, which is the very foundation of future orchestras.

Donations may be sent to

SLO Youth Symphony ◦ P.O. Box 658 ◦ San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

General Contributions

All donations in any amount are gratefully accepted and appreciated, and are tax-deductible. Donation levels are:

Prelude (\$50+)	Sonata (\$100+)	Supporter (\$250+)
Patron (\$350+)	Inner Circle (\$600+)	Bronze Circle (\$750+)
Conductor's Circle (\$1,250+)	Silver Circle (\$1,500+)	Gold Circle (\$2,500+)
Platinum Circle (\$3,500+)	Diamond Circle (\$5,000+)	Magnum Opus (\$10,000+)

Scholarship Fund

The scholarship fund is made up of donations, which are tax-deductible. When you donate specifically to the YS scholarship fund, your donation is put into a general operating scholarship fund. These funds are allocated to the families who have applied for scholarship funds and whom the Scholarship Committee has approved to receive financial assistance. If you would like to donate to a specific child, you must donate to that child privately, per IRS policies on scholarship gifts.

Youth Symphony Endowment

To secure the future of the San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony, the Youth Symphony has two separate endowment funds managed by the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation. The General Endowment contributes to annual operations and helps the YS maintain artistic excellence, and the Korisheli Scholarship Endowment Fund ensures that every qualified musician is given the opportunity to play, regardless of economic circumstances.

CONTACT INFORMATION 2011-2012

Music Education Committee

Comprised of parents and community members, the Music Education Committee is a committee of the SLO Symphony Board of Directors comprised of SLOS Board Members, YS Conductors, YS Parents, Staff and Community Members

Maureen Eyerman, *Co-Chair*
E-mail: maureeneyerman@gmail.com
Phone: 547-1946

Paul Kwong, *Co-Chair*
Email: kwongchef@hotmail.com
Phone: 547-9049

Aaron Baker, MD
Barbara Blanke
Bill Jacot

Diane Heath, Parent Committee Chair
Karen S. Kolba, MD
Valarie Koos

Kathryn Rogers
Bettina Swigger
Dr. Tom Tatton

Youth Symphony Artistic Staff

Randy Garacci, Conductor
SuperBows!
superbows@seashoresoft.com
489-6158

Carol Kersten, Conductor
Preparatory Strings
Academy String Orchestra
carolsnote@aol.com
528-5030

Bruce Knowlton, *Conductor*
Symphonic Winds
bknowlton@mypowerpipe.com
489-2813

Nancy Nagano, *Conductor*
Concert Orchestra
nancynagano@gmail.com
772-8348

Concert Orchestra Coaches

Jane Swanson,
Assistant to the Conductor & Brass
Randy Garacci, Violin
Rossllyn Thorp-Clauson, Cello
Ken Hustad, Bass
Linda Ashworth, Woodwinds
Marshall Granger, Percussion

Symphonic Winds

Claude Albanese, Winds
Marshall Granger, Percussion

Academy String Orchestra

Ginette Reitz, Violin
Tanya Streder, Violin
Rossllyn Thorp-Clauson, Cello
Ken Hustad, Bass

Preparatory Strings

Tanya Streder, Violin
Ken Hustad, Bass

San Luis Obispo Symphony Staff

Symphony staff handles all administrative aspects and needs of musicians and their families.

Note: Questions about attendance, tuition, and scheduling should be directed to the Operations Director

Michael Nowak
Music Director
nowakslo@msn.com
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Jim Black
Executive Director
jimblack@slosymphony.com
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Andrea Stoner
Music Education Director
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