

CAPE  SYMPHONY

Youth Orchestra Program

2023|2024

Member Handbook

CAPE SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

The Cape Symphony Youth Orchestra Program (CSYOP) is a year-round program that consists of three levels of ensembles: Cape Symphony Youth Orchestra (Advanced), Repertory (Intermediate), and Debut (Adv. Beginner). Each ensemble focuses on varying levels of musicianship and technique and aims to place students with similar ability together. All members of CSYOP will learn to rehearse and perform, like the Cape Symphony, exploring the beauty and intricacy of history's greatest compositions while continuing to grow their musicianship and technical ability. We welcome all young musicians who play orchestral instruments (up to age 21, generally) to audition for placement in one of our ensembles. It is our mission to inspire joy and we achieve that goal by sharing our love for music performance and education with the next generation of Cape Cod musicians.

CSYOP faculty includes professional chamber, orchestra, and solo musicians who have dedicated their careers to music performance and teaching. Our instructors, and frequent guests from the Cape Symphony, will guide students in sectionals and provide support in rehearsals, often playing side-by-side with students while they learn to navigate the challenges of orchestral playing.

For all general questions or absence communication, please message the CSYOP Personnel Manager. Please only contact Artistic Staff for music-related questions.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Stacy Callahan

Personnel Manager
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Cape Symphony & CSYOP Music Librarian

ARTISTIC STAFF

Mark Miller

Music Director & CSYO Conductor
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David Gable

Strings Coordinator & Repertory/Debut
Strings Conductor
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Elizabeth Doriss

Winds Coordinator & Repertory Winds
Conductor
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Mark Prall

Percussion Coordinator & Repertory
Percussion Conductor
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CSYOP ENSEMBLES

CAPE SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA, Conductor: Mark Miller

Saturdays, 11AM-1:15PM

Alternates between Barnstable High School (BHS) and Cape Symphony Falmouth Campus

REPERTORY ENSEMBLES

These ensembles often combine together to form the Repertory Orchestra.

Repertory Strings, Conductor: David Gable

alternates between the Cape Symphony West Barnstable and Falmouth Campuses

*see RS calendar

Repertory Winds, Conductor: Elizabeth Doriss

Saturdays, 9:30AM- 10:30AM

Cape Symphony West Barnstable Campus

Repertory Percussion, Conductor: Mark Prall

Every other Saturday, 11AM- 1:15PM

Cape Symphony West Barnstable Campus

**All Percussionists will play in Repertory Percussion ensemble as well as assigned ensembles. CSYO Percussionists will also rehearse at BHS when not with Rep. Perc.

DEBUT STRINGS, Conductor: David Gable

Saturdays, 9:45AM- 10:15AM

Cape Symphony West Barnstable Campus

LOCATIONS

See master calendar for specific dates/locations of rehearsals. Most ensembles alternate locations week to week.

Rehearsals:

Barnstable High School (Band Room) *CSYO only

744 West Main St.

Hyannis, MA 02601

*parking by front entrance or right side of building (when looking at front entrance)

Cape Symphony West Barnstable Campus

2235 Iyannough Road

West Barnstable, MA 02668

Cape Symphony Falmouth Campus

60 Highfield Drive

Falmouth, MA 02540

Concerts:

Tilden Arts Center @ Cape Cod Community College

2240 Iyannough Road

West Barnstable, MA 02668

Barnstable Performing Arts Center (@ Barnstable High School)

744 West Main St.

Hyannis, MA 02601

AUDITIONS

Elegible Instruments:

- **Strings:** Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, and Harp
- **Winds/Brass:** Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Trumpet, Trombone, Horn, and Tuba
- **Percussion:** Must audition on Timpani, Snare Drum, and Mallets
- **Piano and Harp** (may be asked to play with multiple ensembles)

General Timing:

Live auditions usually take place in June and September at both CS campuses.

Mid-Season auditions for vacant positions may be offered in January.

Requirements:

Go to <https://www.capesymphony.org/education/youth-orchestra>

Click on Auditions for instrument specific requirements.

Current Members:

Members participating in the current season are automatically accepted into CSYOP for the following season, but must re-audition in June to guarantee their current ensemble placement for the next season. This also lets us know you are committed to returning and helps our team plan for the future.

New Members:

All new members must audition. This not only helps us place students in the appropriate ensembles, but helps our conductors choose repertoire that is both challenging and attainable for each group. We highly recommend that students have at least 1-2 years of experience (private lessons or school ensemble) before auditioning.

TUITION

Full tuition for Cape Symphony Youth Orchestra Program: \$1100* \$550

*This tuition has been reduced by 50% due to generous grant funding.

**special rate for Martha's Vineyard students: \$275

Tuition fee **waived** for any student enrolled in private lessons through Cape Symphony.

All accepted members will receive a link to our registration form for enrollment.

For questions about payment, contact our registration team: 508.362.2772

Includes:

- ~ Weekly instruction from Cape Symphony teaching artists and musicians.
- ~ Masterclasses with Cape Symphony musicians, guest artists, and conductors.
- ~ Free tickets to select Cape Symphony concerts, when requested through **Tix4Music**.
- ~ Special access to Cape Symphony dress rehearsals.

MASTERCLASSES

Members of CSYO (ensemble) will have priority to perform in these special events that give young musicians the opportunity to perform for Cape Symphony musicians and guest artists. The experience one receives performing in a masterclass can inspire incredible growth and often creates a greater sense of community within various instrument families of the orchestra.

CAPE SYMPHONY TICKETS

Members of the CSYOP will be first in line to receive free tickets to Cape Symphony concerts through our Tix4Music program. There will also be opportunities to attend Cape Symphony rehearsals throughout the season.

PRIVATE LESSONS

It is not required to enroll in lessons at Cape Symphony, but those who do may be eligible for financial aid and scholarship (please ask). Also, all students enrolled in private lessons with a Cape Symphony teaching artist will have their CSYOP tuition waived!

In-person and remote lesson offerings vary by instructor. Call: 508.362.2772

FINANCIAL AID

Call our registrars: 508.362.2772. Forms/information can be found on our website. Just select the Education sidebar tab and select: [Financial Aid](#)

CSYOP MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

Commitment:

As a member of the CSYOP, your personal progress as a musician and the collective progress/success of the ensemble depend upon your full participation. By joining the CSYOP, you make a commitment not only to yourself, but also to each of your fellow musicians to do the following:

1. **Attend all rehearsals** (see *Attendance Policy* on next page). Our time together is limited and the music we are preparing to perform will be challenging, we must value every rehearsal.
2. **Be on time:** be in your seat, ready to play at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start of rehearsal with all of your music and relevant equipment (mutes, pencil, reeds, etc.) within reach. Students are expected to arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal so that they can warm up and prepare to rehearse at the scheduled "down-beat".
3. **Prepare/practice ensemble music before and between rehearsals:** The primary purpose of rehearsal is to grow together as an ensemble, not to learn your individual part. *If there are issues observed with any student's preparation level, they may be asked on a week's notice to perform certain parts of their ensemble music for the conductor or a faculty member.*
4. **Engage in rehearsals:** pay attention, follow instructions, mark reminders and changes in your parts, and avoid distractions. Cell phones and other devices are to be turned off before rehearsal begins.
5. **Carefully read all emails** from the Personnel Manager or Conductor (communicate with parents). These emails contain essential information related to your ensemble. Respond to the emails in a timely manner!
6. **Regularly study with a private teacher.** Private study is essential to the development of all musicians and will greatly assist any technical challenges presented in our ensemble music. Information about lessons, as well as financial aid, can be found on page 8.
7. **Participate in school music programs** (if available). One rehearsal per week with CSYO is not enough to develop one's ear, ensemble skills, and musicianship to its fullest potential. Not to mention, you are the CSYOP's greatest ambassadors; be a leader in your school program and inspire others to join us!
8. **Be supportive of one another:** praise good work, offer assistance/encouragement when needed, and hold each other to high standards.

ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS POLICY

1. All CSYOP members* are allowed **no more than two unexcused absences per semester**. Attendance at Dress Rehearsals and Concerts (same day) is required for all members.
 - ***Martha's Vineyard members are allowed only one unexcused absence per semester.** Boat cancellation or concern for return travel cancellation due to poor weather conditions, will be an excused absence.
2. Weather events may interfere with rehearsals, we will do our best to communicate 24hrs before rehearsal to announce any cancellations or campus closures.
3. All members must notify CSYOP Personnel Manager of any upcoming absences from rehearsal. Email is the preferred method of communication.
4. Once a student has exceeded the allowed absences, they may be asked to play excerpts from their music for their conductor. This is to ensure that frequently absent members are keeping pace with the rest of the ensemble, and should not be considered disciplinary.
5. Excess Unexcused Absences could lead to loss of membership/demotion and is at the discretion of the CSYOP Artistic Staff.

Excused Absences must be communicated 24hrs in advance with the exception of sudden illness/injury (please call Personnel Manager in that case): Auditions, school music program performances (or required school rehearsals), college auditions, All-Cape Festival, and District Festivals are all examples of excused absences. In general, just communicate early!

Unexcused Absences include: planned absences that have not been communicated at least 24hrs before rehearsal (with exception of illness/injury/etc.), family vacations, homework, sports or other unrelated activities.

Lateness: Late arrivals are disruptive to the ensemble. Students who are repeatedly late will need to meet with the Personnel Manager. Students are expected to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal so they can be fully prepared and for rehearsal to start on time.

School Music Program Participation Policy:

As the CSYOP relies on its partnership with Cape school music programs, all CSYOP members are required to participate in their school music program, if one is offered. At all grade levels, when scheduling conflicts arise between the CSYOP and school music events (especially performances), participation in those school music events is given precedence, resulting in an excused absence.

BEHAVIOR/REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

Reasonable standards of behavior and dress are expected while rehearsing, performing, or participating in any event or activity associated with the CSYOP. No set of rules can cover every possible situation. The list below, along with common courtesy and respect, offers a guide to appropriate behavior:

1. Demonstrate respectful and polite behavior with CSYOP staff, guest musicians, and fellow students
2. Put trash in the appropriate containers. We are guests in our rehearsal/concert spaces; leave no trace behind
3. During breaks from rehearsal, remain in the rehearsal space or in the area immediately surrounding the building
4. Everyone must take care to avoid damaging instruments or any property in the building. Members are responsible for their own instruments. Do not leave instruments or bows unattended where they might be damaged accidentally. Instruments should be safely put into cases during breaks or when not needed
5. Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off during rehearsals
6. Plan ahead and use the restrooms before the rehearsal or at the break. Leaving mid-rehearsal is disruptive, so please reserve this need for emergencies only.
7. Do not bring food or drink, except water, into rehearsal spaces. Refillable water bottles are recommended to prevent spills and reduce waste. Please eat your snacks in the hallway or lobby before or after rehearsal or during breaks, and remember to dispose of your trash properly
8. Talk among musicians should be kept to a minimum during rehearsals, and should deal directly with issues related to the music at hand.
9. Books, homework, and other materials are not allowed during rehearsal. Musical scores are acceptable and encouraged (especially, if you are tacet for a movement)

PARENT SUPPORT

For members to fully benefit from the CSYOP, we request that parents assist with their student's participation in the following ways:

1. Read all emails and materials from CSYOP staff. Respond in a timely manner.
2. Ensure prompt arrival and pick-up at/from rehearsals and concerts.
 - Students are expected to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the rehearsal start time.
 - Students should be picked up no later than 10 minutes following the end of a rehearsal or performance.
3. Support full attendance to all rehearsals and events by avoiding conflicts with family vacations/events.
4. Encourage private lessons, practice routine, and participation in school music activities.
5. Provide a snack and water bottle for rehearsals.
6. Introduce family friends to the CSYOP, especially parents of prospective students.
7. Communicate with CSYOP staff members regarding any concerns, questions, ideas. The sooner we are aware of your concerns, the better chance we have of resolving them successfully.
8. Attend all CSYOP concerts and invite your family!

Volunteering: At various points in each season, the CSYOP needs assistance from parent volunteers. Typically, this includes helping at concerts or special events, serving as a chaperone for Cape Symphony Tix4Music Concerts, or carpooling. Parents are always welcome to contact the CSYO Personnel Manager to volunteer or to add their name to a list of volunteers available for a particular task.

Donating: Please consider making a charitable gift to the CSYOP to support accessibility through scholarship and continue the growth of the overall program!

ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

CSYOP is committed to creating a safe and respectful environment for all participants, including students, staff, volunteers, and guests. Harassment, whether physical or verbal, is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated in any form. The following policy outlines our expectations for behavior and consequences for those who violate this policy.

Definition of Harassment:

Harassment includes any behavior that is unwelcome, intimidating, hostile, or offensive, and is based on a protected characteristic such as race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other legally protected status. Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to: verbal abuse, physical assault, unwanted touching, sexual advances or comments, or any other behavior that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Expectations for Behavior:

All participants in CSYOP are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of others and does not infringe upon the rights of others. Specifically, participants are expected to:

- Refrain from any behavior that may be considered harassment (as defined above).
- Treat others with dignity and respect, regardless of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other legally protected status.
- Report any incidents of harassment to the CSYOP Personnel Manager.

Consequences of Violating this Policy:

Any participant who violates this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate expulsion from the program. CSYOP reserves the right to take appropriate action to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants.

Reporting and Investigation:

Any participant who experiences or witnesses harassment is encouraged to report the incident immediately to CSYOP Personnel Manager. All reports will be taken seriously, investigated promptly and confidentially, and appropriate action will be taken to address the issue.

CONCERT ATTIRE

All black with shades of blue or purple ties (long) or scarves. Splashes of blue or purple color highly encouraged!

Top: black, collared button-down shirt or black blouse (black coat optional)

Bottom: black pants, slacks, dresses, or skirts. no yoga pants or jeans.

Black socks or leggings, Black shoes (no sneakers)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE TOOLS

1. **Tunable (app):** Tuner, Metronome, Drone (extremely valuable tool).
2. **Chet** or **Perfect Ear (apps):** ear-training (intervals, chords, scales, etc.).
3. **Rhythm Trainer (app):** specific and progressive exercises for building rhythm reading skills.
4. **Ella (app):** progressive sight-singing trainer.
5. **musictheory.net:** explore the lesson/exercises tab.
6. **imslp.org:** a website that contains all public domain sheet music/scores.
7. **Korg:** tuners and metronomes (no smart-device required).
8. **Smart Device Camera/Voice Recorder-** record and listen to yourself!
9. **Genius Scan (app):** quickly digitize parts.
10. **Apple Classical Music/Spotify/Youtube:** for listening to your orchestra music!
11. **Fourscore:** for anyone who wants to read their music from an iPad/Tablet.

I have read and agree to follow the expectations set by the CSYOP Student Handbook:

Print Student Name:

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:

Please sign and return to the CSYOP Personnel Manager at the second rehearsal.