



Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony
Member Handbook
2007-08

Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony
420 S. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 753-8000
www.svys.org

Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony

Mission Statement

The mission of the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony is:

To provide quality, diverse, rewarding and challenging musical experiences to its members and to foster their total development by working with other youth of like talent and by active participation in the performance of the finest symphonic masterworks and chamber music of past and contemporary composers;

To stimulate an interest in music and musical participation in all young people of all levels and backgrounds;

To complement the music programs of their respective schools and communities by providing unique experiences to participating members;

The Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony seeks to fulfill this mission by providing:

- Rich musical, social, and cultural experiences for the students
- A sound financial base for the organization;
- Effective communications with students, parents, teachers, and community
- Strong outreach components
- A responsible governing structure.



Richard Arthur Haglund, Music Director

An accomplished educator, performer, and conductor, Richard Haglund is in his 5th year as the Music Director of the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony and Assistant Conductor for the Illinois Symphony Orchestra. Growing up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, he studied percussion and piano at the University of Minnesota. As a student and soon after school he founded the Riverside Chamber Orchestra conducted the Northeast Orchestra of Fridley and the Heartland Symphony of Brainerd.

Maestro Haglund studied conducting in such locations as St. Petersburg Russia and Kiev Ukraine until 2001 when he left teaching to attend graduate school at Bard College in New York . In June 2003, he completed his Masters of Fine Arts in orchestral conducting at Bard College under the tutelage of Harold Farberman, who is well known for his conducting teaching and his professional accomplishments, including a highly praised set of recordings of the Mahler Symphonies with the London Philharmonic. In addition to his conducting studies he was able to study composition with world-renowned composer Joan Tower. Mr. Haglund has a diverse conducting background as pops conductor of the Newburg Symphony (for the past 6

summers), assistant conductor to the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra and Bard Community Chorus (while in graduate school). From Light Opera, Wind Ensembles, Chamber Orchestras and Symphony Orchestras Maestro Haglund has conducted professional orchestras and choirs throughout the world, including the St. Petersburg Hermitage Orchestra of Russia, the National Symphony Orchestra and Radio Choir of Ukraine, and the Varna Philharmonic of Bulgaria. This past summer he was a guest of the Grabovo Chamber Orchestra where he presented a concert of all American composers to a completely sold out audience!

A talented percussionist and orchestral musician, Haglund has performed with several professional groups in Minnesota and in New York. He also worked as a percussion specialist at Orchestral Institute of America and coached youth orchestra percussion sections in Minnesota. You can often see Mr. Haglund playing in the percussion section of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra.

History of the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony

The Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony was created by concerned parents, music teachers and musicians to keep a student orchestra program alive in this community. In the early 1970's the Springfield area schools eliminated all school orchestra programs. Without intervention, a new generation of youth would have experienced a serious void in the arts. Known initially as the Springfield Area Youth Symphony, the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony has existed since then as a private, not-for-profit organization providing the only classical orchestral experience at the elementary and secondary levels in Sangamon and surrounding counties.

Governance and Administration

The Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony is governed by a Board of Directors, elected on an annual basis and charged with formulating and executing policies as provided for in the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony by-laws. The Board generally meets on the first Monday of the month at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 N. 6th Street, Springfield.

Board members not only contribute financially to the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony, but also volunteer their time and talents to further the purposes of the organization. Board members include music teachers, parents of current orchestra members, and individuals from the community

Board of Directors: 2007-08

Dennis O'Brien, *President*

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Kathy McGuire, *Vice President*

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Ralph Woehrmann

528-5601

Mary Anne Elson, *Illinois Symphony Orchestra Board Liaison*

529-6537 maelson@aol.com

Illinois Symphony Orchestra Affiliation

The SVYS and Illinois Symphony Orchestra have an agreement in which the ISO provides administrative services and artistic direction by Karen Lynne Deal, ISO Music Director, and the ISO staff.

Contacting SVYS

Requests for information should be directed to the SVYS office, which is located on the second floor of the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield, (217) 753-8000. The office is staffed part-time and a telephone answering machine is checked regularly. The SVYS web site, www.svys.org, is a valuable source for current information. Our mailing address is:

Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony
420 S. 6th Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Please address any concerns first to the Music Director, if possible. He may be reached at the SVYS office, or by e-mail at:

richardhaglund@netscape.net

You may also contact any member of the Board of Directors.

Parent Volunteers

The Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony succeeds only because of the volunteer support of all members and parents. Each member family is expected to provide volunteer support. Please complete the Parent Volunteer Form at the Family Orientation Meeting on the night of the first rehearsal of the season.

Some of the opportunities for volunteer service are:

- **Rehearsal Assistants**
One adult to stay through each rehearsal to assist conductor and students as needed. No musical experience required.
- **Program Ads Solicitation**
Solicit program advertising and concert sponsors.
- **Fund Raising**
Help develop a project or special event to raise community support.
- **Stage Crew**
Help transport equipment to and from concert site; help set up and tear down stage.
- **Concert Supervisor**
Escort orchestras to and from the stage and supervise students during off-stage time. Need to be available for the dress rehearsals as well as concerts.
- **Tour Chaperone**
Accompany and assist musicians on tours; attend to musicians' welfare. May involve paying same fees as musicians.
- **Social Committee**
Assist with concert receptions and social events. Help with planning; donate food/refreshments; serve and clean up.

Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony Orchestras

The Preparatory Orchestra

The Preparatory Orchestra is the entry-level ensemble providing beginning level musicians an opportunity to develop performance skills and experience group participation. Preparatory Orchestra members should have experience playing scales and repertoire in keys through three sharps and flats. Woodwind and brass players will be required to know the chromatic scale with a variety of articulations. String players in these groups will mainly work in first position but occasionally beyond.

The Concert Orchestra

The Concert Orchestra is the intermediate ensemble. Concert Orchestra musicians should have experience playing scales and repertoire in keys through four sharps and flats. Woodwind and brass players must display an intermediate level of proficiency in range and rhythmic complexity, as well as finger, breath and embouchure control. String players must be able to play in third to at least fifth position, as well as demonstrate vibrato and a variety of bow articulations.

The Symphony Orchestra

The Symphony Orchestra is the advanced ensemble. Symphony Orchestra musicians should have experience playing scales and repertoire in all keys. Woodwind and brass players must demonstrate advanced accuracy of scales, clef reading, and transpositions, where applicable. String players should be proficient in all scales through at least three octaves and play fluently through at least fifth position. They must also demonstrate advanced bowing skills and clef-reading ability, where applicable. Percussionists with a piano background are preferred; students must demonstrate snare and mallet techniques.

Entry Level Performance Skills

The following are approximate playing proficiency levels necessary for placement into each of the respective orchestras:

Preparatory Orchestra

- Scales (memorized) in major keys of C, G, D, A.
- Completed traditional method book 1 or playing Bach minuets from Suzuki Book 1.
- Rhythmic reading: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4 meters, whole, dotted half, half, quarter, eighth notes and rests and ties.
- Slurring groups of 2 or 3.
- Sight-reading: grade I orchestra literature.

Concert Orchestra

- Scales (memorized) in major keys of C, G, D, A, F, B-flat, E-flat (all instruments)
- Strings into traditional Method Book 3 or Suzuki Book 3, Intermediate positions and shifting.
- Winds: chromatic scales, 1 octave minimum.
- Rhythmic reading: add 6/8 meter and sixteenth notes.
- Sight-reading: Grade II orchestra literature.

Symphony Orchestra

- Scales (memorized) in major keys four flats through four sharps; and in minor keys of A, E, D (violins, basses and winds); A, G, D (violas, cellos).
- Strings completed Suzuki Book 5 or playing intermediate etudes and repertoire. Upper positions and shifting required.
- Winds: chromatic scale, full range on the instrument.
- Rhythmic reading: functional understanding of all simple and compound meters.
- Sight-reading: Grade III/IV orchestral literature.

Auditions

Auditions will be held each fall. Both new and returning musicians will be required to audition. New members entering the program in the second semester will be required to audition in January. A non-refundable fee of \$5.00 is charged for each audition (per student, per instrument).

The Music Director will conduct auditions, with, if he desires, assistance from qualified adjudicator(s) of his choosing. The Music Director will set the format of the audition, which may include scales, prepared performance pieces, orchestral excerpts, or sight reading. No accompaniment is allowed during the audition. The auditions will be in private. Applicants will be informed of their acceptance and orchestral placement by letter shortly following the auditions. The judge(s) comments regarding the audition will be provided to each student.

Audition Judging Criteria

- **Scales:** accuracy, range and number of octaves, evenness of tempo and tone
- **Prepared Pieces:** musicality, note and rhythmic accuracy, intonation, technique, tone and overall performance impression
- **Sight Reading:** note accuracy, musicality, intonation, rhythm and evenness of tempo

Orchestra Assignment and Seating

Assignment of each student to one of the orchestras, and seating within each orchestra, is the responsibility of the Music Director, whose decisions are final. SVYS encourages all musicians to take pride in how well they play, how much they learn, and in their contribution to the sound of the orchestra, regardless of whether they occupy the first or last stand of their section. The SVYS Board of Directors has full faith and confidence in the ability of the Music Director to seat the musicians based upon what is best for the orchestras.

The Music Director considers these factors when making seating assignments:

- Audition evaluations
- Creating the best educational setting for individual members and the SVYS program as a whole
- The need for strength and balance within the sections and among the orchestras
- The student's maturity and leadership ability

Preliminary seating assignments will be given at the first rehearsal. The Concertmaster will be designated by the Music Director, and may be changed for any concert. The Music Director may rotate seating for educational purposes at any rehearsal, and may change seating assignments at any time during the year. Concert seating order will be announced at the dress rehearsal. Significant concert solos may be awarded to any member of a section by the Music Director at a rehearsal.

Other section principal chair titles will not be assigned. The musicians' names will be printed alphabetically within each instrumental section in the concert program. Questions regarding seating should be addressed to the Music Director.

Membership

Membership is open to any young musician through college, including home-schooled students, who plays an orchestral instrument, including harp, piano, and advanced saxophone. To be accepted, students meet the entry level performance skills and qualify in the audition process.

Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony members spend a significant amount of time and energy in weekly rehearsals as well as individual practice and preparation at home. By accepting membership in the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony, each student is expected to attend all rehearsals, performances, and special events of the SVYS.

Tuition

Tuition fees from students help to offset the costs of administration and artistic direction and are due at the first Parent Meeting of the season. Tuition fees are:

- \$100.00 Preparatory Orchestra
- \$125.00 Concert Orchestra
- \$150.00 Symphony Orchestra

There is a 25% discount for each additional student in the immediate family. Members joining second semester receive a 50% discount. These fees cover only a portion of the total SVYS operating expenses. It is for this reason that we so highly value family and community contributions, both monetary and volunteer time, to keep the Youth Symphony thriving.

Sheet Music

Music for use in the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony is issued to students on loan. Members are responsible for the care, maintenance and return of their music. Members will be charged for any music that is not returned. Concert folders will be provided prior to each scheduled concert and they must be returned before leaving the concert.

Rehearsal Schedule

- **Symphony Orchestra**
Mondays 7:00 to 9:00 PM (Hoogland Center for the Arts)
- **Preparatory Orchestra**
Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30 PM (Hoogland Center for the Arts)
- **Concert Orchestra**
Tuesdays 6:45 to 8:15 PM (Hoogland Center for the Arts)

Rehearsal Procedure

Check in the lobby at the Hoogland Center for the Arts as you enter to confirm the rehearsal room location. In the event of schedule changes, including last-minute weather cancellations, every effort will be made to contact members in a timely manner. Please consult the web site (www.svys.org) regularly for updates, or contact the SVYS office, the Music Director, or a member of the Board of Directors.

Members should bring their music, a pencil, and any equipment that they need during the rehearsal. Musicians should give the conductor their full attention. Social conversation must be confined to the break period. No gum, food, or beverages are allowed in the rehearsal rooms. Musicians must remain in the building during breaks.

Attendance Policy

Maintenance of the traditional high standards of the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony requires conscientious participation of all its members. This means not only learning to play the music competently, but also regular attendance at rehearsals and concerts. Attendance is recorded five minutes before each rehearsal. To ensure fair and equitable treatment of all orchestra members in regard to absences, the Board of Directors has established the following rules:

- If you are aware in advance that you will miss a rehearsal, you must notify the SVYS and turn in an absence slip no later than the rehearsal prior to the one to be missed.
- In the event of illness or family emergency, notify the SVYS immediately by calling the office at 753-8000 (leave a message if no one is available to take your call), or by sending an e-mail to: richardhaglund@netscape.net. You must then provide an absence slip at the next rehearsal you attend.
- If more than two rehearsals are missed within a semester, or the rehearsal prior to a concert is missed, members must contact the Music Director to see if they will be allowed to perform in the concert. The Music Director may assign members to another part and another seat for that concert. Members excluded from performing at a concert, may return at the first rehearsal of the next concert period.
- All members are expected to arrive early for rehearsals to check in, warm up and tune instruments. Attendance is taken five minutes before rehearsal and members must be there or they will be marked absent or tardy.

Concert Schedule

The Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony's season consists of the following principal events:

- Winter Concert, December 8, 2007, 1:30 pm, First United Methodist Church, West Location (all SVYS Orchestras)
- Holiday Pops side-by-side concert with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, December 15, 2007, Sangamon Auditorium (all SVYS Orchestras)
- K-12 Elementary Educational Concert side-by-side with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, February 14, 2008, Sangamon Auditorium (SVYS Symphony Orchestra and selected members of the Starter Strings)
- Elementary School Tour, May 7, 2008 (SVYS Concert Orchestra only)
- Spring Concert, May 10, 2008, 1:30 pm, location to be announced (all SVYS Orchestras)

Please consult the web site (www.svys.org) for updates. There may be special concerts in addition to those listed above. The conductor will discuss the concert schedule with the musicians at rehearsals.

Extra-Curricular Performances

Small ensembles are often requested for promotional events, fund-raisers, service organizations, civic functions, etc. At no time will any group represent Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony publicly without the prior approval of the Music Director and the Board.

- Small ensembles will be chosen and prepared by the conductor.
- An appointed Board designee coordinates scheduled events.
- SVYS members will be notified in advance of all engagements.
- If a donation is received for the performance, it will be deposited in the SVYS account.

Concert Dress Code

Our concert appearance reflects upon our respect for ourselves, our audience, and the music we play. Concert attire is as follows, except when otherwise specified by the Music Director:

For women:

- Black or white blouse with $\frac{3}{4}$ or long sleeves and a collar or high neckline
- Long black skirt or black dress slacks with black belt
- Black hose
- Black dress shoes

For men:

- White long sleeved button front dress shirt
- Black bow tie (*except Starter Strings and Preparatory Orchestra members, who wear no tie*)
- Black dress pants with black belt
- Black dress socks
- Black dress shoes
- Black jackets (*Symphony Orchestra members only*)

It is inappropriate to wear the following to any concert: jeans, denim, leggings, white socks, casual or sports sandals, turtlenecks, sneakers, tennis shoes, athletic shoes, jewelry or accessories, or sleeveless blouses.

School Participation and Credit

Participation in the school band program is expected of SVYS members wherever such ensembles exist at their schools. The Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony program is designed to supplement public and private school instrumental music programs.

School Academic Credit

Springfield School District 186 and Sacred Heart-Griffin High School give one course credit to string students only for participation in the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony.

Credit requirements are:

- Minimum home practice time of five hours per week
- Attendance at each rehearsal (a maximum of two excused absences are allowed)
- Performance in scheduled concerts
- Completion of one successful year of SVYS participation

Starter Strings Program

The SVYS Starter Strings program was formed by a group of parents, educators, and the SVYS Music Director to return basic string instrument instruction to the local school system. This one-year program provides an introduction to violin, viola, cello, and double bass, and gives the students an opportunity to perform with the Youth Symphony at some of its concerts. We hope that, after completing the program, the students will study privately and soon join the SVYS Preparatory Orchestra. SVYS has expanded the program from its beginning at Farmingdale Elementary School into other Springfield and area schools, and has set as a high priority on its continued growth.

SVYS Youth Soloists Competition

The Youth Soloists Competition is open to all current Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony members. Entrants may perform on any regular orchestral instrument, including piano, and voice.

The winner will have the opportunity to perform as a soloist at the Spring concert with the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony.

The previous year's winner will not be eligible to compete.

Selection of Performance Piece

Each entrant must receive approval from the Music Director prior to the preliminary audition as to whether the selected piece is appropriate for the orchestra. Works featuring a soloist or soloists that are non-traditional concerto repertoire will be considered. Additional considerations include the availability and cost of sheet music for the orchestra. The total playing time of the piece should be limited to approximately 10 minutes.

Preliminary Auditions

At a preliminary round of judging the Music Director will hear the entrants in private and select candidates to perform in the finals competition. Accompanists are permitted, but not required, at the preliminary audition. The number of finalists will be determined by the Music Director.

Finals Competition Recital

The final judging will take place in a public recital. Independent judges will adjudicate the competition. Performers must supply **one original** and two additional copies of the concerto music with the accompaniment to the judges. Entrants must provide their own accompanists for the performance. There may be one or more winners based upon the decision of the judges.

