



Youth COLORADO SPRINGS Symphony



2025 - 2026 Member Handbook



Table of Contents

What is the CSYSA?	1
Welcome Letter	2
List of Staff and Coaches	3
Conduct and Philosophy	4
Rehearsals, Concerts, and Attendance	5, 6
Camp	7
Music & Auditions, Communication	8
Concert Dress Guidelines	9
Tuition and Payment Plans	10, 11
Fundraising and Financial Aid	12
Required Fundraiser	13
Program Ad Fundraiser	14
Tours	15
Volunteers and Parent Council	16
Parent Volunteer Opportunities, Position Descriptions	17
Rehearsal Schedule and Breaks	18
Contact Information	19



What is the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association?

Founded in 1980 with the purpose of providing artistic and educational development of musically talented and dedicated junior high youth within Colorado Springs' School District #11, the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association (CSYSA) began with 70 young musicians and gave a single performance the first season.

Today, the Youth Symphony is comprised of ten individual groups, including 4 string orchestras, 2 wind ensembles, 2 jazz bands, and 2 full orchestras. We also provide a beginning strings program to students wishing to learn a string instrument and a beginning band program. Additionally, we have a Baroque Chamber Music Program and chamber ensembles for musicians looking to explore a different genre of music.

Approximately 500 young musicians are accepted every year to take part in one of these groups. Currently, students from over 60 schools from the Pikes Peak region participate in our programs.

Our ten youth ensembles connect families to the life-altering power of musical performance, both in the Pikes Peak Region and around the world. Whether they are playing at home in the Pikes Peak Center in Colorado Springs, or far afield in Haiti, St. Kitts, Berlin, and Prague, our students benefit from our comprehensive instrumental music program.

THROUGH MUSIC WE ARE ONE!

Our motto, adopted from a visit to a Maori tribe in New Zealand, came from a tour in 1998. "During our time on the north island of New Zealand, our tour organizer arranged for us to spend a night with a Maori tribe. Upon our arrival at the Maori community near Lake Taupo, in the center of the north island in the shadow of volcanic peaks, we learned the traditional Moari greeting, bumping noses twice while saying 'kiora'. After being greeted by our hosts, we were separated, male from female and seated facing the tribal council. A tribal elder gave an official greeting to us in his native Maori tongue which was subsequently translated for us. The tribal elders' Maori words, 'He kotahi tatou me nga waita' translated into 'Through music we are one' — which we learned to be true, as during the evening the Maoris shared their music with us, and we shared ours with them. Upon returning to the U.S.A., we adopted the phrase as our organizational motto, a motto that has guided our musical endeavors ever since."

-Gary Nicholson, Music Director

Welcome to the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association!

We are so excited for all of you to join us for our 45th season! We want to welcome all our returning musicians and their parents, as well as extend a very special welcome to all our new musicians and parents to the Association. Music is much more than beautiful art—it is a vehicle for learning essential life skills. By following a challenging musical curriculum, the students of the Youth Symphony Association learn teamwork, organizational and leadership skills, personal responsibility, and the value of hard work.

As part of an internationally acclaimed music program, the musicians of the Youth Symphony Association develop their musical skills, and they learn what it means to work together toward a common goal, to experience the thrill of accomplishment, and to feel the pride of a job well done. We look forward to having you join us for a tremendous season!

The CSYSA Handbook is provided for your convenience and should be referenced throughout your student's musical journey with the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association. It contains important information, guidelines, and expectations. You will be informed of changes and updates as they occur.

We look forward to sharing the 2025-2026 musical season with all of you!

Sincerely,

Gary Nicholson
Music Director

Deborah Liles
Executive Director

Music Staff

Gary Nicholson, Music Director, Youth Symphony Conductor
Dr. Alexander Magalang, Ovation Youth Orchestra Conductor
Jack Yonce, Pikes Peak Winds Conductor
Brian Margrave, Bravo! Winds Conductor
Jennifer Boylan, Vivace String Orchestra Conductor
Jesse Maurer, Allegro String Orchestra Conductor
Jennifer West, Amadeus String Orchestra Conductor
Linda Johnson, Wolfgang String Orchestra Conductor
Dan Bell, Ascent Big Band & Pinnacle Jazz Conductor
Jeri Jorgensen, Chamber Music Program Director

Mozart Strings Project

Renee Botton, Mozart Strings Project Director
Hilda Bernard, Mozart Teacher
Amanda Hessel, Mozart Teacher
Natasha Souder, Mozart Teacher
Emily Huntsman, Mozart Teacher

Administrative Staff

Deborah Liles, Executive Director
Kelly Kitch, Office Manager
Kathryn Vickous, Administrative and Music Librarian
Katie Green, Office Assistant
Lisa Godfrey, Bookkeeper

Our Coaches

Andrea Artley	Jason Crowe	Emily Huntsman	Paul Nagem
Dave Artley	Joe Darpino	Linda Johnson	Ben Paille
Karl Aston	Kristi Davis	Jeri Jorgensen	Helena Puhek
Andrea Austin	Butch Eversole	Andy Kolb	Ingrid Rodgers
James Bader	Karine Garibova	Matthew Langford	Melissa Shank
Braden Barrentine	Andrew George	Sarah Loyer	Aaron Turner
Joe Boylan	Shannon Hagan	Jesse Maurer	Jim Vaughn
Bernie Brink	Hunter Hawkins	Jay McGuffin	Jennifer West
Rich Brown	Joshua Head	Mike Mozingo	Kevin Whitelaw
Lauren Casto	Matt Horanzy	Martha Muehleisen	

Conduct & Philosophy

Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association Philosophy: The mission of the Association is to inspire young musicians in the Pikes Peak Region to become future leaders, to provide artistic and personal development as well as diverse musical experiences for young musicians, and to collaboratively create and share exceptional music that bridges cultures and communities.

Expected Conduct: Students, parents, and volunteers represent the goals and values of Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association (CSYSA) at all times. CSYSA provides students a quality experience and environment for safe travel, rehearsals, performance, music camps, and other activities. Drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, vaping, raucous behavior, profanity, inappropriate sexual contact or behavior, to name a few, whether or not during Colorado Springs Youth Symphony activities, will not be tolerated, and can result in discipline, suspension, or dismissal. This includes no females in males rooms and vice versa, at camps and on all tours. Please refer to the information that was mailed out with your acceptance letter.

Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association is a member of the League of American Orchestras, the Pikes Peak Arts Council, the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Colorado Non-Profit Association.

The Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association recognizes that public and private school music programs are essential to its existence as these programs help launch most students into their musical careers. The Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association expects all CSYSA musicians to participate in their school music programs. CSYSA students are important leaders in their respective educational institutions and it is expected that they contribute to their music programs to the best of their ability unless there are prohibiting circumstances or reasons.



Rehearsals, Concerts, & Attendance



Musicians are expected to attend rehearsals, including all dress rehearsals and concerts for their group. Missed dress rehearsals may result in the musician not being allowed to perform in that performance. Missed performances can result in possible dismissal from the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association. Updated rehearsal and concert schedules can be found at cysa.com on the CSYSA calendar.

Rehearsal Schedule

Ovation Youth Orchestra	Mondays, 4:30-6:30 pm
Youth Symphony	Mondays, 6:45-9:00 pm
Bravo! Winds	Tuesdays, 4:45-6:45 pm
Wolfgang String Orchestra	Tuesdays, 4:45-6:15 pm
Ascent Big Band.....	Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30pm
Vivace String Orchestra	Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30 pm
Pikes Peak Wind Symphony	Wednesdays, 6:45-8:45 pm
Amadeus String Orchestra	Thursdays, 4:45-6:45 pm
Allegro String Orchestra	Thursdays, 4:45-6:45 pm
Pinnacle Jazz	Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Weekly Rehearsal Attendance

- All rehearsals will take place at CSYSA Headquarters, 3113 Primrose Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80907.
- Musicians are allowed four absences from rehearsals per season. Submit your absences by e-mail to office@cysa.com as far in advance as possible. Last minute absences must be called in to the office before the rehearsal begins, if possible.
- Late arrivals and early leaves count as one-half of an absence.
- More than four absences may be cause for dismissal. Each absence is neither excused or unexcused, but dismissal is evaluated on a case by case basis. Conflicts are expected to be handled responsibly, with the appropriate conductor being contacted well in advance.

Cancellations

You will be notified via email by 2:00 pm that day if rehearsal is cancelled for any reason. Information will also be on the office phone message and website (csysa.com). Rehearsals are sometimes cancelled due to weather concerns. We understand weather conditions in Colorado Springs change throughout the day or vary from one area to another, so please use your own discretion for traveling. Safety is our primary concern.

Concerts and Tickets

The concert schedule is set at the beginning of the year, and all concerts are mandatory for our members. As part of your tuition costs, you will be given vouchers or an online coupon code to exchange for ticket discounts to each of the concerts in which your musician performs. Vouchers can be redeemed at the venue's Box Office and coupon codes at the venue's online ticketing portal. Additional tickets can be purchased at that time as well.

Dress Rehearsal and Concert Attendance

Dress rehearsal and concerts are REQUIRED. Missed dress rehearsals may result in the musician not being allowed to perform in that performance. Missed performances can result in possible dismissal from the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association. Musicians must speak with their conductor to be excused from a concert; the conductor will give permission for emergency situations only. It is also necessary to inform the Parent Managers of absences. The contact information for conductors and Parent Managers will be sent at the beginning of the season.

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones should only be used during rehearsals for tuning and metronome purposes. Any additional use of cell phones during rehearsal time may result in the confiscation of the phone for the rest of that rehearsal.

Late Pickup Fee

All CSYSA musicians who are not driving themselves to and from rehearsals are expected to be picked up within 10 minutes after the scheduled end of rehearsal time or return time of any tours or off-site activities. After the 10-minute grace period, a fee of \$20 will be assessed for all or part of each 15 minutes until the musician is picked up in order to cover the cost to the organization for staff support.



Music Camp

Prior to the start of each new musical season, the musicians of the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association come together for an intensive Music Camp. Music Camp serves as the springboard for our season, bringing together new and returning musicians. Our plan is to move forward with holding camps in the mountains, but this may be subject to change.

This year's activities will include group rehearsals, sectional rehearsals, team building, professional performances, leadership training, games, crafts, and a live concert for friends and family.

Music Camp is an ideal way for our conductors to learn about their musicians and for our musicians to meet their conductor, coaches, and fellow musicians. Music Camp allows us to relay to our members the philosophy and expectations of the CSYSA in a fun and productive way.

Music camp is mandatory and cost is included in the cost of tuition for the following groups: Amadeus Strings, Allegro Strings, Vivace Strings, Bravo! Winds, Pikes Peak Winds, Ovation Youth Orchestra, and Youth Symphony.

Music camp information is emailed approximately one month prior to camp. Music for the band and orchestra camps will be available one week prior to their camps. Music for the strings camp will be distributed at rehearsals the week prior to camp.



Band Camp (Bravo! Winds and Pikes Peak Winds)

August 1-3, Quaker Ridge Camp & Conference Center

Orchestra Camp (Ovation Youth Orchestra and Youth Symphony)

August 4-6, Quaker Ridge Camp & Conference Center

String Camp (Amadeus, Allegro, and Vivace String Orchestra)

August 22-24, Quaker Ridge Camp & Conference Center

Wolfgang Camp at CSYSA

August 16-17, CSYSA Building 9am-4pm

Pinnacle & Ascent Big Band Day Camp at CSYSA

September 6, CSYSA Building

Music & Auditions

Music

Musicians are required to bring their music and equipment to all rehearsals and all concerts. In the event of an absence, woodwind, brass, and percussion players are expected to arrange for their music to be at the rehearsal.

Auditions

All Colorado Springs Youth Symphony musicians are required to audition every musical season. Audition guidelines and music will be distributed or may be downloaded from csysa.com/auditions approximately 30 days before auditions. This includes a packet of excerpts and directions for excerpt selection, scales, rhythm sight reading, and note sight reading. A two-minute excerpt from a solo of choice should be prepared for consideration for the top three groups.

Auditions are performed “live” before a panel of professional musicians and are judged on presentation, tone, musicality, accuracy, intonation, technique, and rhythm. There are fall and winter auditions for open positions only. Also, any musician who would like an assessment during the year can contact the Music Director for an appointment.

Private Instruction

The CSYSA recommends that all students take private lessons. Fundamental skills supporting musical achievement are greatly improved with private instruction. Please contact the CSYSA Office for a list of local private teachers.

Communication

We want to keep you informed! The CSYSA works to ensure all information is distributed to our members. It is your responsibility to stay informed even if the musician is absent. We use the following 3 methods to distribute communication:

E-mail: This is our primary means of communication with families. Notices about rehearsals, concerts, events, fundraisers, and all CSYSA activities will be sent to all e-mail addresses we have on record for your family. Often our messages get filtered by some e-mail platforms as spam, so please check your spam folder if you think you are not receiving CSYSA e-mails. It is essential we have your current e-mail address(es) for the entire season. Please notify the office of any physical address, phone, or email changes during the season!

Website: The CSYSA maintains a “Parent” page on our website, which will include links to important documents and information pertaining to the organization. The Parent page can be found at www.csysa.com/parents.

Note: Conductor and Parent Manager contact info can no longer be found on the Parent page. Your musician's conductor and Parent Manager info will be shared at the beginning of the year in an e-mail. If you need to request that information again, please contact the office.

Billing: Statements of accounts are sent monthly as a courtesy to families. Through the software we use, we can send it to ONE email address only, so this should be the email address of the person financially responsible for the musician. Payments are due per the payment plan you select at enrollment and are expected to be made on time **whether or not you have received an emailed statement**. Accounts with a \$0 or less balance will not receive statements except by request. *Failure to pay on time will result in the student's suspension from their CSYSA group until payment is made.

Concert Dress

Requirements for All Groups

Long hair must be tied back completely out of the face in a neat hairstyle (i.e. bun, braid, ponytail, etc.). Natural hair colors only (no blues, pinks, etc.). No flashy jewelry or watches. Only one set of stud earrings in a neutral color is permitted. Students may wear the performance attire in which they are most comfortable.

Youth Symphony, Ovation Youth Orchestra, & Pikes Peak Winds

Option #1: Tuxedo (including female tuxedos if preferred) with black bow tie, black cummerbund, black dress socks, and black dress shoes. The CSYSA does not have a specific tux vendor. To save on cost, used tuxes can be purchased from tux rental shops all around Colorado Springs.

Option #2: Black tights (no opaque hose or leggings). Black dress flats (no open toe or heel), no sequins, glitter, buckles, or shine. Black Dress: Dresses should be ordered in black using the following link:

<http://www.formalwear-outlet.com/d761.html>

Musicians in Youth Symphony, Ovation Youth Orchestra & Pikes Peak Winds must also own a CSYSA polo shirt, black pants, and black shoes for informal concerts. CSYSA polo shirts can be ordered from Tees in Time: www.teesintime.com (hover over the “Team Stores” menu at the top, and find Colorado Springs Youth Symphony).

Ascent Big Band

Instrumentalists: black/charcoal suit or dress, black dress shoes, black belt, black socks, black tights, etc.

Vocalists: Director's discretion (skirts must stay at 1-inch above the knee or lower).

Bravo! Winds, Pinnacle, Vivace, Allegro, & Amadeus

Boys: CSYSA black polo with black dress pants, black leather belt, black dress socks, and black dress shoes. CSYSA polo shirts can be ordered from Tees in Time:

www.teesintime.com (hover over the “Team Stores” menu at the top, click “Your Team Store” and use the username: shop@csysa.com, the password: csysa (all lower case) to order your musician's polo).

Girls: CSYSA black polo, black dress pants, or long black skirt (no opaque hose or leggings). Black dress flats (no open toe or heel), no sequins, glitter, buckles, or shine.

Wolfgang

CSYSA camp t-shirt, black dress pants, or long black skirt, black leather belt, black dress socks, and black dress shoes.

CSYSA camp t-shirts will be distributed at String Camp in August.

Mozart Strings Project

CSYSA-issued MSP t-shirt with black dress pants or long black skirt and black dress shoes. MSP t-shirts are ordered by the office based on the shirt size indicated on each musician's enrollment packet. Teachers will distribute them to students before the first performance.

Concert uniform must be ready to wear by October 1. When ordering, please allow time for any necessary alterations.

Tuition & Payment Plans

**Rates for fall and winter auditions may vary*

The participation fee includes tuition, summer camp, any additional residencies or performance opportunities, any local touring, and ticket discounts for CSYSA concerts at the Pikes Peak Center, Ent Center, and other select concerts venues. Tuition discount is given to families with 2 or more musicians in our auditioned and non-auditioned groups, as well as musicians playing in multiple groups.

***ANY AND ALL NON-PAYMENTS WILL RESULT IN YOUR STUDENT BEING SUSPENDED FROM HIS/HER/THEIR PERFORMANCE GROUP UNTIL BALANCES DUE ARE PAID.**

Tuition does not include overnight tours and uniforms are purchased separately. Advanced groups (ABB, PPW, OYO, and YS) usually participate in overnight tours, and these tours are **MANDATORY**. In 2026, Youth Symphony will be doing an International Tour which is **MANDATORY** for all players. The cost varies, so please contact the office if you have specific tour budgeting questions. Fundraising opportunities are provided to help offset travel costs.

NOTE: All Credit Card Payments made to CSYSA will incur a 3% credit card processing fee.

Families may choose from the three payment options below, either as a participant or non-participant in the \$200 Required Fall Fundraiser:

Option 1: Full amount for the year due on June 15, 2025 – \$275 of tuition is nonrefundable

Option 2: Deposit \$275 due on June 15, 2025 – Non-refundable
Remaining payment due on August 15, 2025

Option 3: Deposit \$275 due on June 15, 2025 – Non-refundable
5 payments due on August 15, 2025; September 15, 2025;
October 15, 2025; November 15, 2025; December 15, 2025

****Option 3 includes a \$50 finance charge**, already calculated into the payments.
All credit card payments will incur the service charge of 3%.

Choosing Option 3 does not automatically enroll you in Automatic Payments.

Please call the office prior to August 15th if you'd like to be sign up for Auto Payments.

Checks payable to CSYSA and mailed to:

CSYSA
3113 Primrose Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

CSYSA
P.O. Box 7846
Colorado Springs, CO 80933

Statements are emailed monthly as a courtesy to families. Payments are due per the payment plan you select at enrollment and are expected on time whether or not you have received an emailed statement.

**If the 15th falls Fri-Sun, the due date is the following Monday.*

*A late fee of 10% will be applied to any late payments on your selected payment plan. These fees do compound.

REQUIRED \$200 FUNDRAISER PARTICIPANT 2025-26

TUITION PAYMENT CHART

For those who will participate in the Required Fall Fundraiser. The \$200 invoices will go out November 1, 2025 and must be paid by November 15, 2025. ***ANY AND ALL NON-PAYMENTS WILL RESULT IN YOUR STUDENT BEING SUSPENDED FROM HIS/HER/THEIR PERFORMANCE GROUP UNTIL BALANCES DUE ARE PAID.**

Group	Payment Option 1 -Full Tuition with \$200 Required Fundraiser	Payment Option 2 - \$275 Deposit & 1 Payment with \$200 Required Fundraiser	Payment Option 3 - \$275 Deposit & 5 Payments with \$200 Required Fundraiser (\$50 Finance Fee Added)
YS	\$1,397	\$1,122	\$234.40
OYO	\$1,338	\$1,063	\$222.60
PPW	\$1,304	\$1,029	\$215.80
BW	\$1,172	\$934	\$189.40
ABB	\$888	\$613	\$132.60
PJ	\$888	\$613	\$132.60
VIV	\$1,304	\$1,029	\$215.80
ALG	\$1,209	\$934	\$196.80
AMA	\$1,054	\$779	\$165.80
WG	\$867	\$592	\$128.40

NON-PARTICIPANT IN REQUIRED FUNDRAISER 2025-26 TUITION PAYMENT CHART

For those who do not participate in the \$200 Required Fundraiser (RF) and wish to include it in your tuition payment(s). ***ANY AND ALL NON-PAYMENTS WILL RESULT IN YOUR STUDENT BEING SUSPENDED FROM HIS/HER/THEIR PERFORMANCE GROUP UNTIL BALANCES DUE ARE PAID.**

Group	Payment Option 1 -Full Tuition with \$200 Required Fundraiser	Payment Option 2 - \$275 Deposit & 1 Payment with \$200 Required Fundraiser	Payment Option 3 - \$275 Deposit & 5 Payments with \$200 Required Fundraiser (\$50 Finance Fee Added)
YS	\$1,597	\$1,322	\$274.40
OYO	\$1,538	\$1,263	\$262.60
PPW	\$1,504	\$1,229	\$256.80
BW	\$1,372	\$1,097	\$229.40
PJ	\$1,088	\$813	\$172.60
ABB	\$1,088	\$813	\$172.60
VIV	\$1,504	\$1,229	\$255.80
ALG	\$1,409	\$1,134	\$236.80
AMA	\$1,254	\$979	\$205.80
WG	\$1,067	\$792	\$168.40

***Mandatory Non-refundable Deposit of \$275 for all groups.**

*Mandatory Percussion Fee \$100 (must be paid before attending any rehearsals) - just like all instruments, we must take good care of our percussion. Percussionists MUST help load and unload instruments at from CSYSA to venues and from venues back to CSYSA. If Percussionists cannot do this, they must pay someone to do it for them.

All payments are expected in the office on-time. Failure to pay for extended periods of time will result in fines and can affect your enrollment and your student's suspension from their CSYSA group until payment is made. Enrollment is not confirmed until all paperwork (digital or hard-copy) is completed and returned, including the initial deposit. **Deposits are non-refundable.**

Musicians who drop prior to the end of the year are expected to pay the full tuition amount for their group. If the drop is due to extenuating circumstances, such as an unscheduled move or a health emergency, our office will work with you and may adjust tuition.

Value: Students pay approximately \$9-17 per teaching contact hour to be in our association. This includes music instruction/coaching from top music educators in the region, performance/outreach opportunities, and leadership training.

The Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association subsidizes all activities through fundraising, donor cultivation, and other marketing activities.

Students going on international, national, or regional tours pay additional costs for that experience. The fee varies. The CSYSA is diligent in providing the best educational opportunity for the lowest cost. Fundraising opportunities are available to students who wish to earn money toward their tours. These opportunities will be discussed at the enrollment meeting. Single-day outreach tours are included in tuition costs.

Methods of Payment

In order to make payments as convenient as possible for our families, we offer the following options:

-By mail: Personal checks or money orders may be mailed to the addresses listed on the previous page.

-By phone: Payments may be made over the phone with a credit or debit card during office hours. A 3% credit card processing fee will apply.

-In person: Those wishing to make a payment by cash or any other means may stop by the office during office hours to be helped by one of our administrative staff.

-Online: Payments may be made 24/7 at our new online payment portal. This can be found at www.csysa.com/make-a-payment. Credit card payments are subject to a 3% processing fee. NOTE: Auditioned Tuition payments may not be paid here!

-Automatic Payments: Completing the online enrollment packet does not sign your family up for automatic payments. To set up automatic recurring billing to a credit card or bank account, please contact the CSYSA office prior to the first payment due date of August 15th.

*All credit card payments will include the 3% processing fee.

FAILURE TO PAY ON TIME WILL RESULT IN STUDENTS BEING SUSPENDED FROM THEIR CSYSA GROUP UNTIL PAYMENT IS MADE.

Fundraising & Financial Aid

We value music education and want to ensure that no musician has to decline a position because of finances. We work to support our musicians financially by providing support in two ways: fundraising and financial aid.

Fundraising

CSYSA Students may fundraise continuously throughout their tenure at CSYSA. If you begin in Allegro and continue to audition and perform all the way up to Youth Symphony, that is 3-5 years worth of fundraising! That is also 3-5 years of building your travel account, and you will be well on your way to traveling internationally! Per Colorado fundraising regulations, all funds raised are non-refundable and will be directed to a scholarship fund for those in need.

-Butter Braids & Holiday Plants: Required Fall Fundraiser - First portion of net proceeds is used to help offset tuition costs. Remaining net profit is applied to student's travel account.

-Adams & Sons: Get your oil changed at Adam & Sons or have your car repaired, and they will make a donation in your name to your travel account.

-Program Ads: Every year we publish advertisements for local businesses in our programs. Most of these ads are sold to local companies by musicians. For every ad sold, musicians earn at least 50% of the ad price for their accounts. A copy of the Program Ad Request form can be found on the Parent page of our website or picked up in the CSYSA office. See further details on the next page!

-Travel Fundraiser: Our optional travel fundraiser this year will occur throughout the season. All funds raised through this fundraiser will be credited to student travel accounts. These orders can earn a lot of money for our families. Details about this fundraiser will be announced later in the season. All fundraising for travel accounts are non-refundable.

-King Soopers Community Rewards: King Soopers and City Market Grocery Stores will contribute 5% of all of your grocery purchases made with your loyalty card to the CSYSA. In order to participate, you must create an online account at www.kingsoopers.com and enroll your loyalty card with our organization through that account. Once you register your loyalty card number with the CSYSA office, 5% of your grocery purchases will aid our organization in keeping tuition costs down and pursuing our mission. Note that KS cards can no longer credit student accounts.

**Funds raised for student travel accounts are carried over from year to year so that fundraising for regional and international tours can occur across many seasons. Students are encouraged to fundraise through CSYSA and on their own. Donations on behalf of students can be made; however, the donor is not allowed a tax credit for that donation. Those donations will go for tuition rather than tour accounts.*

Financial Aid

The CSYSA has increased available financial aid to ensure that all students can participate. We encourage anyone experiencing hardship to apply. An application is included in the enrollment forms, and you will need to attach your most recent 1040. Be sure to document special circumstances. Financial aid awards are sent in September. Students receiving scholarships are expected to participate in fundraisers to help offset the cost of any travel needs. Occasionally, CSYSA awards Merit Scholarships based on students' talents, leadership, passion, and discipline. Please see the Executive Director or group conductor for more information.

Required Fundraiser

Our required fundraiser this season will be Poinsettias and Butter Braids. Flyers will be distributed in September. ***NEW THIS SEASON - YOU MAY OPT TO PAY AS A PARTICIPANT OR NON-PARTICIPANT IN THE REQUIRED FUNDRAISER (REFER TO PAGE 11 OF THIS HANDBOOK).** ***NON-PAYMENT BY DUE DATES WILL RESULT IN YOUR STUDENT BEING SUSPENDED IN HIS/HER/THEIR PERFORMANCE GROUP UNTIL ALL BALANCES DUE ARE PAID.**

Requirement for auditioned groups: Families with one or more musicians in our auditioned groups are required to raise \$200 by selling \$500 in this fundraiser. This obligation is per family, not per musician! Musicians receive 40% of profits from holiday plant and Butter Braid sales. This means that you will need to sell \$500 in product to meet the \$200 obligation. If you choose, you may pay \$200 to avoid fundraising. All sales made past the requirement will go directly toward your student's travel funds. We very much appreciate the hard work that families and musicians contribute to this fundraising endeavor!

Requirement for Mozart Strings: Families with musicians only in Mozart are required to raise \$100 by selling \$250 in this fundraiser. This obligation is per family, not per musician! If the Mozart musician has a sibling in an auditioned group, the obligation is based on the auditioned musician. Musicians receive 40% of profits from holiday plant and Butter Braid sales. This means that you will need to sell \$250 in product to meet the \$100 obligation. If you choose, you may pay \$100 to avoid fundraising. All sales made past the requirement will go directly toward your student's travel funds. If you do not meet the



**Excess fundraising from the required fundraiser will go into student travel accounts.*

Program Ad Fundraiser

Performance Info:

October - Fall Concerts (2 concerts)

December - Holiday Concert

March - Winter Concerts (3 concerts)

April - Spring Concerts (3 concerts)

Size:	Cost of ad:	
Business Card (2" x 3.5")	\$275	<i>Students receive 50% of the cost of the ad!</i>
1/4 page (2.5" x 3.75" or 4.5" x 2.25")	\$330	
1/2 page (2.5" x 7.75" or 4.5" x 3.75")	\$475	
Full page (inside) (4.75" x 7.75")	\$925	
Full page (inside back cover)*	\$1,000	

*Not guaranteed until approved by the office
due to space availability.

Approximately 500-1,500 people attend each performance. Our program is booklet sized 5½ x 8½ with corresponding ad sizes. High-resolution artwork is needed. All ads and artwork must be e-mailed to office@csysa.com by October 1st, 2025. Musicians must collect the completed bottom portion of the program ad form and return it to the CSYSA office. Payment may be mailed to PO Box 7846, Colorado Springs, CO 80933 or taken over the phone at (719) 633-3901 with a credit card (3% credit card processing fee added). Payment must be received by the due date in order for the ad to be included in the season program.

Copies of the program ad form will be e-mailed to all families and can be obtained from the office upon request.

Tours

Every year, Amadeus Strings, Allegro Strings, Vivace Strings, Pinnacle Jazz, Bravo! Winds, Ascent Big Band, Pikes Peak Winds, Ovation Youth Orchestra, and Youth Symphony may go on tour (Wolfgang Strings does not tour). These tours are a **REQUIRED** part of participation, as community outreach is a huge part of our organization's motto and goal. Local tour travel expenses are built into the tuition. Overnight tours are not part of the tuition. CSYSA tries to release the tour schedule as early as possible. CSYSA tries to keep overnight tour costs and international tour costs to a minimum. International tours are expensive due to travel fees for everyone and instruments, staff, chaperones, food, and all other expenses associated with travel. But not to worry! There are so many ways to fund your TRAVEL ACCOUNT.

Amadeus Strings, Allegro Strings, Vivace Strings, Pinnacle Jazz, & Bravo! Winds Tours

Each of these groups may have a local day-long tour at schools or music festivals in the area. These tours WILL be during the school day. An absence request will be provided for submission to the school if you choose to submit it. Local tours are included in tuition costs.

TRAVEL ACCOUNTS: Every CSYSA student can build a travel account once they are in a CSYSA group. You can fundraise however you choose - through CSYSA or on your own - and all funds you raise go into your travel account.



Ovation Youth Orchestra, Pikes Peak Winds, & Ascent Big Band Tours

The Ovation Youth Orchestra, Pikes Peak Winds, and Ascent Big Band groups may travel regionally. These tours are NOT included in tuition. Costs for regional tours are announced soon after the beginning of the season.

Youth Symphony Tours

The Youth Symphony travels regionally or nationally/internationally on a two-year cycle. This year, they will travel internationally. These tours are NOT included in tuition. Costs for regional tours will be announced soon after the beginning of the season. Estimated costs for national/international tours are announced at the Enrollment Meeting in May.

Volunteers & Parent Council

Volunteers in the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony

The Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association would not be able to fulfill its mission without the support of the entire organization, including our wonderful volunteers. An active level of parent participation also makes an immense impression on the youth who see their parents taking part and supporting them through these activities. The volunteer help we receive each year from parents and musicians alike assists the acceptance of application for grants and donations from foundations and corporations. We have volunteer opportunities throughout the year, from occasional help with office needs to year-long commitments for Parent Council. Position descriptions are listed on the next page. A volunteer form is included in your enrollment packet if you would like to sign up to help with specific volunteer opportunities. Emails will also be sent regarding additional volunteer opportunities as they arise.



Parent Council

The Parent Council is comprised of CSYSA volunteers holding key positions in the organization. Parent Council meetings are open to all CSYSA parents/guardians. Meetings are held monthly. Please fill out the volunteer form in your musician's enrollment packet if you are interested in joining the Parent Council, or you can contact parentcouncil@csysa.com for more information.

Parent Council Mission Statement: The Parent Council of the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association is a volunteer parent organization committed to supporting the success and growth of the Association by focusing on behind-the-scenes details, enabling its staff members to focus on student music, responsible citizenship, and leadership. We aspire to be positive role models, work cooperatively as a group, and perform committee duties responsibly. The Parent Council organization supports and encourages positive parent involvement.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

Position Descriptions



Parent Council Chair: Chair monthly Parent Council meetings. Attend monthly board of director meetings to be a voice for parents and musicians. Provide support for parent managers and their groups. Coordinate the functions of the various parent volunteers.

Parent Manager: Two per group (three for OYO and YS). Assigned to a specific string, winds, or orchestra group to support the musicians and the conductor during rehearsals, concerts, and tours. Acts as a communication link to parents. Parent in charge of musicians at concerts and on tour. Enforces uniform requirements, proper behavior, and provided guidelines for seating and stage presence. Take attendance at each rehearsal, report absent musicians, maintain record of absences, provide guidance to musicians, assist conductor. Parent Managers will receive a 20% discount for tuition.

Volunteer Coordinator: One needed. Organize and contact volunteers for upcoming events and for various tasks during the season.

Parent Council Secretary: Attend monthly Parent Council meetings, take minutes, submit minutes to the Parent Council Chair one week after monthly meeting, maintains a record of all minutes taken.

Fundraiser Coordinator: Organizes, researches, and assists with all fundraisers.

Fundraiser Assistant: Four needed. Assists Fundraiser Coordinator to collect order forms and money.

Audition Coordinator: One needed. Assists the CSYSA office in organizing September, December, and May auditions. Assists with Young Artist Solo Competition in January.

Yearbook Coordinator: Organizes creation, sales, and distribution of yearbook. Oversees Yearbook Committee.

Parent Yearbook Assistant: Two needed. Assists the yearbook coordinator in the creation, sales, and distribution of the yearbook. Provides leadership and guidance to student yearbook committee members.

Stage Crew: At least 3 needed per concert, requested on a case-by-case basis. Assists with the set up and tear down for concerts and special events. Sign-ups will be sent at least 2 weeks prior to each event.

Camp Chaperone: Many needed. Attend designated summer camp, supervising and supporting musicians.

Please contact the office at office@csysa.com if any of these positions interest you! Thank you in advance!

Rehearsal Schedule

Ovation Youth Orchestra: Mondays, 4:30pm-6:30pm

Youth Symphony: Mondays, 6:45pm-9:00pm

Wolfgang String Orchestra: Tuesdays, 4:45pm-6:15pm

Bravo! Winds: Tuesdays, 4:45pm-6:45pm

Ascent Big Band: Tuesdays, 7:00pm-8:30pm

Vivace String Orchestra: Wednesdays, 4:30pm-6:30pm

Pikes Peak Wind Symphony: Wednesdays, 6:45pm-8:45pm

Allegro String Orchestra: Thursdays, 4:45pm-6:45pm

Amadeus String Orchestra: Thursdays, 4:45pm-6:45pm

Pinnacle Jazz: Thursdays, 7:00pm - 8:15pm

Breaks

Thanksgiving Break: November 24-28

Winter Break: December 22-January 2

Spring Break: March 23-27

For the most updated calendar, please visit our website at
cysa.com/events



The Colorado Springs Youth Symphony in 1984

Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association

Contact Information

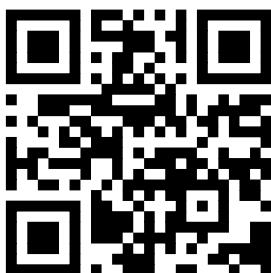


Rehearsal & Office Location

3113 Primrose Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Phone
719-633-3901

Email
office@csysa.com



Website

www.csysa.com

Scan the QR code above to visit our site on your phone!

Through Music We Are One!



Season Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10:00 am-6:00 pm

Friday: hours vary

Saturday & Sunday: Closed