

## PARTICIPATION IN OTHER MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

RSYO strongly encourages members to participate in other musical activities outside of the orchestra. Here are the most basic expectations:

- Participate in a band or orchestra program at school, or if homeschooled, in another music education program.
- Receive private instruction on the instrument they are playing in the orchestra.
- Attend RSO concerts (members and their parents receive complimentary tickets).
- Listen to classical music and attend concerts of all kinds.

## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

RSYO musicians are occasionally invited to perform for Rockford Symphony Orchestra events or pre-concert music. Pre-formed and ad hoc ensembles, as well as individuals, have been invited. If you are interested in participating in additional performance opportunities, please let Javier know.

## CONCERTO COMPETITION

The Rockford Symphony Orchestra invites young musicians up to 21 years of age to compete in this annual competition. Cash prizes are awarded for the top three competitors and the first prize winner is expected to perform with the Rockford Symphony Youth Orchestra at its spring performance at Belvidere High School.

The **2023/24 RSYO Concerto Competition will be held at the Music Academy on Saturday, October 7, 2023.** The application deadline is Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Information and applications are available on the RSO website at:

[www.rockfordsymphony.com/concerto-competition](http://www.rockfordsymphony.com/concerto-competition)

## RSYO ENSEMBLES

### SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA

The main ensemble consists of approximately 50 advanced young musicians, and performs standard symphonic repertoire. The orchestra rehearses weekly and has one concert per semester. The RSYO experience includes performances with student concerto competition winners, side-by-side performance opportunities with RSO musicians, and occasional sectionals coached by professional musicians.

### HONORS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

This ensemble is comprised of a select group of RSYO's most advanced students. Membership is available only to current Full Orchestra members by invitation of the conductor. The Chamber Orchestra rehearses weekly and performs one concert per semester.

### STERLING STRING QUARTET

Four exceptional string players are chosen each year to form the Sterling String Quartet. The Quartet receives separate coaching and performs as a representative of the RSYO at various venues throughout the Rockford area, including in the lobby of the Coronado Theater before RSO concerts. The Sterling String Quartet is named in honor of Bill and Marian Sterling whose gift to the RSO includes an annual contribution to fund coaching for the Quartet.



Rockford Symphony Youth Orchestra

2023/24 SEASON HANDBOOK

## WELCOME!

Welcome to RSYO! This handbook will outline important policies and information for the season. We are looking forward to a great season of making music together.

## COMMUNICATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Email is the primary means of communication. Please check your email regularly. Important season information is posted on the RSYO Member Info page of the Rockford Symphony Orchestra's website. You can access this page anytime at:

[www.rockfordsymphony.com/rsyo-member-info](http://www.rockfordsymphony.com/rsyo-member-info)

SCAN TO VISIT THE  
MEMBER INFO PAGE



<p><b>Linc Smelser, Conductor</b> Cell: 815.761.4685 cellincoln64@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Margo Stedman, Education and Community Engagement Director</b> Direct line: 815.972.2939 mstedman@rockfordsymphony.com</p>	<p><b>Javier Roman, Education Coordinator</b> Direct line: 815.972.2942 jroman@rockfordsymphony.com</p>
<p><b>Contact Linc directly about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehearsal/concert attendance and tardiness</li> <li>• Repertoire and musical questions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Contact Margo directly about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General questions or concerns</li> <li>• Financial question or concerns</li> <li>• Donations to the RSYO and fundraising opportunities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Contact Javier directly about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition questions</li> <li>• Concert ticket questions (for RSYO or RSO)</li> <li>• Schedule questions/clarifications</li> </ul>

## RSO TICKET BENEFIT

**You are encouraged to attend RSO performances!**

**RSYO members may receive up to 3 free tickets to Rockford Symphony Orchestra Masterworks concerts in the 2023/24 Season.** To request a ticket, fill out the online form (link on the RSYO Members Info page) or call the RSO box office at 815.965.0049 by noon on the Friday before a performance. *Seating is subject to availability.*

**If you reserve tickets and do not show up for 2 or more concerts without notifying the RSO office in advance of the performance, this benefit may be revoked.**



The Rockford Symphony Orchestra is the proud parent organization of the RSYO.  
711 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103 | 815.965.0049

## 2023/24 SEASON TUITION DETAILS

- Symphonic Orchestra**      **\$475 for the entire year/\$238 per semester**
- Chamber Orchestra**      **\$100 for the entire year/\$50 per semester**  
*(Chamber Orchestra participation is by invitation only)*

Families will be mailed an invoice after the Camp RSYO day. You may choose to pay for the whole season, by semester, or set up a flexible payment plan (for a small additional processing fee). Flexible payment arrangements must be made in advance of tuition due date by contacting Javier Roman at 815.972.2942. You may pay by check or online (link on Member Info page).

Scholarship opportunities are available. To apply for tuition assistance, download the form from [rockfordsymphony.com/rsyo-member-info](http://rockfordsymphony.com/rsyo-member-info), or speak with Margo Stedman directly.

### TUITION REFERRAL DISCOUNT

A one-time \$50 rebate (\$25 per semester) can be earned for referring a musician who successfully auditions for the RSYO and who has not participated during the previous seasons. There will be space to indicate this on your Tuition Invoice.

## REHEARSAL PREPARATION AND EXPECTATIONS

- BE ON TIME
  - In your seat
  - Instrument out and tuned
  - Ready to play at start time
- COME PREPARED
  - Bring your music to each rehearsal
  - Have a pencil with you
  - Come having practiced and listened to recordings of the repertoire

- Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off during rehearsal
- Food or gum in rehearsal is prohibited. Water bottles are OK

**Gracie McMahan, oboist, is the 2023/24 RSYO Intern and is available during rehearsals to help with sheet music issues and to facilitate communication with the RSO Office.**

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Attendance is expected at all rehearsals and performances.
- A maximum of **three** excused absences per semester is allowed, for any reason, as long as no more than two occur consecutively. Excessive absence is detrimental to the orchestra's performance.

Members missing more than three rehearsals, or more than two consecutively, regardless of the reason, may be asked not to play the concert. Absence from the dress rehearsal will only be excused under extreme circumstances, and must be discussed in advance with the conductor. Unexcused absence at the dress rehearsal will result in the member being asked not to play the concert.

**If a musician is unable to attend a rehearsal, or becomes ill on the day of the performance, it is the musician's responsibility to notify the conductor personally and as soon as possible.**

## FUNDRAISING

Tuition only partially covers the cost of running RSYO for our student musicians. The true cost of participation in the RSYO is well over \$600 per member for symphonic orchestra alone. We depend on donations to supplement operational costs and cover this difference. **Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to RSYO with your tuition.** In addition, you can support RSYO through our Education Fundraisers throughout the year.

### CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, November 22, 2023 from 5:00 PM—9:00 PM, 751 S Perryville Road, Rockford, IL

### PORTILLO'S FUNDRAISER

Monday, March 18, 2024 from 5:00 PM—8:00 PM, 6090 State Street, Rockford, IL

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Members of RSYO are representatives of the organization, and the behavior of each individual reflects upon the whole. At all RSYO events, members will be expected to act in a professional manner and show respect and consideration for others. There will be no use of drugs, no smoking, and no drinking alcoholic beverages at any time during RSYO activities. Members may not participate in any RSYO activities under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Members who do not observe the Code of Conduct or are suspected to be under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol are subject to appropriate disciplinary action including: conference with parents, removal from an RSYO activity, and expulsion from membership.

## CONCERT DRESS

Personal appearance should be neat and professional at all RSYO concerts and events. **For performances, musicians are expected to wear professional concert all-black attire.**

This includes:

- Close-toed shoes
- Black socks or dark tights/hosiery (legs should not be bare)
- Top with long or 3/4 length sleeves

## ANNUAL AUDITIONS

Members of RSYO need to re-audition each spring for the next season. Membership and seating is not guaranteed from one year to the next, and requires a continued high level of performance and demonstrated commitment to the orchestra. Students are rarely removed from the orchestra and re-auditions should be seen as a time to meet with the conductor one-on-one and share goals for the upcoming season, as well as get feedback on areas for growth.