

Musique Sur La Mer



MUSICIANS' & PARENTS' HANDBOOK

In October of 2001, The Musique Sur La Mer Youth Symphony Orchestra and Honors Chamber Orchestra was founded by professional violinist, conductor and music instructor, Marcy A. Sudock in Seal Beach, California. Musique Sur La Mer Youth Symphony Orchestra and Honors Chamber Orchestra is part of The Los Alamitos Youth Center Music Program.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Musique Sur La Mer Youth Symphony Orchestra is dedicated to empowering young musicians to create peace in the world through the international language of music. Through the vehicle of music, Musique Sur La Mer creates positive musical experiences that develop character, self-discipline and achievement. This is accomplished in a nurturing environment that promotes respect, teamwork and a lifelong appreciation of music and its power to make the world a better place.

ELEGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Membership includes musicians in the age range of middle school through college, who have achieved a minimum of intermediate proficiency on an orchestral instrument - strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion. Younger members may be invited to participate, based on a demonstrated level of performance and maturity.

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM REQUIRED

All musicians are required to be enrolled in their school music program, if one is available, throughout their tenure in MSLMYSO. Exceptions are made for college students if their academic schedule does not allow for participation in the school music program or for home-schooled musicians. Verification of this requirement must be a signed statement by the parent and the school music teacher.

In rare instances students cannot fit music classes into their daily school schedule due to mandatory class requirements that conflict with school music. In that circumstance the parent must write a letter that states why their child/teen cannot participate in their school music program. The parent, student, school counselor and school music teacher must sign that letter.

Musique Sur La Mer Youth Symphony Orchestra and Honors Chamber Orchestra are strong supporters of school music programs. MSLMYSO and HCO are honors programs, but a daily school music program regimen is imperative to the musical growth every young musician.

AUDITIONS

All musicians who would like to be considered for membership in MSLMYSO must audition. Auditions are held twice annually – pre-concert season: August – mid September and mid-concert season: during the first two weeks of January. Current members in good standing are not required to re-audition unless they would like to be considered for a different seat in the orchestra.

MENTORS

Adult family members of the musicians may participate as a member of the orchestra with the prior permission of the Music Director if they perform at an acceptable level of competency and do not take the place of a qualified younger musician and can act as mentors to the younger orchestra members. All adult participants will go through a thorough background check.

SEATING

Seating will be based entirely on the performance at the audition. The musicians will be judged on: intonation, tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, technique musicianship, and sight-reading ability. Seating is never based on seniority, age or grade level. The goal is to create an excellent orchestra that is well balanced in all sections. The Music Director will be the sole arbitrator of seating assignments and will, at her discretion, rotate the seating so that the optimal orchestral sound is achieved.

PRACTICE POLICY

Practice does not always make perfect, but perfect practice does. For the benefit of performance both individually and as an ensemble, it is crucial that each MSLMYSO member practice their orchestral music thoroughly and be properly prepared. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that each musician practice her/his orchestral music immediately upon receiving it and plan to spend a minimum of 30 minutes daily (7 days a week) in practicing the MSLMYSO music. This practice time is over and above their personal practice time of scales, etudes, school music and solo repertoire.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are required for all MSLMYSO participants. The private teacher will assist the student in achieving his/her goals and help the student excel with the orchestral music along with their personal musical studies. If you are seeking a qualified professional private music teacher, the Music Director will be able to recommend many outstanding local instructors.

MUSIQUE SUR LA MER HONORS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (HCO)

Membership in HCO is by invitation of the Music Director only. Membership is open to qualified MSLMYSO members who perform at an advanced level of performance. Membership is not based on seniority, age or education level. Members who qualify for HCO will be responsible for additional rehearsals and performances throughout the concert season. (See rehearsal schedule) Additional tuition of \$199.

TUITION

The **MSLMYSO** tuition fee is \$399* for the entire season (September through June). This may be paid in one payment at the beginning of the season, payable by August 31st, or as two equal payments of \$199.50; the first payment due by August 31st and the second payment due by September 30th. **HCO** tuition is an additional \$199. HCO tuition can be paid as a singular payment of in two equal payments of \$99.50, due on or before August 31st and the second payment due on or before September 30th.

ADDITIONAL FEES

In addition to the tuition fees there will be instances when extra fees will need to be administered for tour costs, transportation fees, and required orchestra shirts and formal attire.

LOST MUSIC / FOLDER FEE

The musician will be charged a fee of \$5.00 for **each** music part lost, damaged or turned in late.

REFUND POLICY

Tuition is non-refundable unless requested prior to the first rehearsal or due to extreme circumstances (ex. illness).

REHEARSALS AND CONCERTS

The MSLMYSO and HCO concert season runs from September through May or June (July during tour years) and will consist of weekly rehearsals (see schedule.) There will be a minimum of 4 concerts throughout the concert season.

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL CONCERTS!

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The staff of MSLMYSO is aware of the demands that are made on the musicians' time with school, family, sports, scouts and other commitments. However, an orchestra is a team effort and needs the full participation of each team member to be fully effective. In a "team" situation, the good of the team comes before the individual. It is expected that every musician will attend all rehearsals and all performances. This is the obligation, responsibility and respect that must be given to the musician's fellow orchestra members.

A musician may be absent (for any reason including illness or school conflicts) a total of three (3) times per concert season, once per trimester. The last three rehearsals prior to a performance are mandatory. Due to the shortened months of December and May, all rehearsals are mandatory.

- Trimester I: September, October, November, December
- Trimester 2: January, February
- Trimester 3: March, April, May

Upon the 4th absence, the musician may automatically be put on probation and will be required to re-audition for the Music Director. It will be up to the discretion of the Music Director as to whether or not the musicians can maintain membership for the concert season or will be dismissed without benefit of tuition refund.

REGULAR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Rehearsals will begin in September and take place at The Los Alamitos Youth Center, 10909 Oak Street, Los Alamitos, CA. In general, MSLMYSO rehearsal will take place every week on Sunday afternoons from 1:30 pm until 4:30 PM. HCO rehearsals will take place on Sunday afternoons from 4:30 to 6 PM. Although MSLMYSO/HCO will try to adhere to the regular schedule as much as possible, it must be realized that, sometimes for various important reasons, changes to either the rehearsal day, time, or site may need to take place. Every effort will be made to keep any changes to a minimum and only when it is absolutely necessary. There may also be the rare occasion when it will be necessary to schedule additional rehearsals. Please refer to this year's "rehearsal and performance calendar" for complete details.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE OPPORTUNITIES

MSLMYSO and HCO is dedicated to giving young musicians as many musical experiences as possible. This includes solo and chamber music. Any student in the orchestra that would like to participate in a duo, trio, quartet or quintet, is encouraged to do so. Each ensemble will be given one or two coaching sessions at no additional cost and will be given one or more opportunities to perform.

Annually, MSLMYSO hosts a **Concerto Competition** with a trophy, tour cost defrayment of \$300, tuition scholarship for MSLMYSO for the following concert season, along with the opportunity to perform the solo in concert. Audition applications are due by November 15th. Adjudication will take place in early January. The solo needs to be at an advanced level of performance and be performed from memory at the time of the audition.

FUND-RAISING

Raising money for organizations be it schools, sports teams, scouts, musical groups, must be included in order to enable that group to succeed. Our orchestra is no different. There are many expenses involved in the running of the orchestra. Money is needed to have insurance, buy music, rent rehearsal space, rent concert venues, pay staff salaries, print programs, flyers, advertising, etc. In an effort to maintain our tuition fee, which doesn't come close to covering all of the orchestras' expenses, as low as possible, it is very important that Fund-Raising be an on-going year round activity. Grants, donations, and contributions are especially important means to raise funds. Each musician in the orchestra is required to generate a minimum of \$300 in donations for the MSLMYSO Guild memberships. Families with 2 or more musicians in the orchestra are required to raise a total of \$500 for the Guild (a \$100 saving.)

CONCERT DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Formal Concert Attire – Concert Halls, Auditoriums, Special Concert Events:

- Men: Black Tuxedo / Black Cumberbund White Long-sleeved wing-tipped Tuxedo Shirt with black studs and links, Black Bow-Tie Black Dress Shoes and Black Dress Socks
- Women: Official Black top and full length skirt or palazzo pants, Black Dress Shoes, black Stockings, stud earrings (optional)

Casual Performance Attire – Disneyland, Malls, Park Concerts, etc.

Official MSLMYSO Polo Shirt neatly tucked into Black Dress Slacks with Black Belt, Black Socks, Black Dress Shoes

ATTIRE NOT ALLOWED

Baggy Pants, baggy shirts, low-cut blouses or dresses, bare midriffs, high slits on skirts, sandals, athletic shoes and open-toed shoes. No jeans, even if they are black. Jewelry, chains, or hair accessories that could be distracting to the audience.

SOCIAL EVENTS – TEEN LEADERSHIP CLUB (TLC)

Social activities are fun and lend to developing closer friendships within the orchestra. The Teen Leadership Club (TLC) will plan parties and activities throughout the year. Meetings will take place within the rehearsal time. All MSLMYSO in good standing are automatically members of TLC.

PARENTS ACTION and LEADERSHIP (PAL)

All parents are encouraged to attend the bi-monthly PAL meetings. The purpose of this group is three-fold:

1. the fund-raising arm of the orchestra
2. keeping informed and lending support to our young musicians
3. concert organization – ushers, sales, programs, set-up, tear-down, etc.

All parents of MSLMYSO members in good standing are automatically members of PAL.

TOURS

In support of the MSLMYSO mission statement of “creating peace through the international language of music” and “empowering young musicians”, we strongly believe that the opportunity to travel is very important in the educational, cultural, and social experience of young people. Annual or semi-annual tours abroad are a crucial component to MSLMYSO. Payment for tours will be made both through family contributions and group fund-raising efforts. Musicians ages 15 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All unaccompanied musicians over 15 will be assigned a chaperone for the duration of the tour. Legal documentation will be mandatory for all persons traveling with the orchestra (passports, visa – when applicable, and minors traveling without parents forms.) All chaperones who travel with the orchestra will need to undergo a background check prior to be accepted on the tour. Tour participants will pay an additional fee of \$50 per person directly to The Youth Center to cover the costs of additional audit and bank fees associated with the tour.

BEHAVIOR / CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

To be a member of MSLMYSO/HCO is considered an honor and is to be treated with all due accord. The following rules lend to being considered a member in good standing. A member's decision to disregard any portion of this Code of Conduct may result in suspension or dismissal as deemed appropriate by the Musique Director.

- Arrive early enough to help with the set-up and then be seated and warmed-up and ready when the Music Director starts to begin the rehearsal
- RESPECT – for the Conductor, fellow musicians, parents and other adults, all personal property, and the rehearsal and concert venues.
- Appropriate Dress Attire
- Bring your instrument, music folder with all the music, a soft black pencil / eraser
- Use and/or possession of drugs, alcohol or tobacco will be grounds for immediate terminations of membership with no refund of the Participation Fee.
- Failure to learn your music to the standards of the Musique Director may be cause for suspension from performing in that particular concert. Consistent neglect will be cause for termination of membership with no refund of tuition.
- Talking and/or any distractions during the rehearsal are strictly prohibited.
- Stop playing and give full attention to the Conductor when she is talking and giving instructions.
- Immediately mark your music appropriately when given instruction by the Conductor or Section Leader – Mark your music with soft pencil only.
- All music must be returned in excellent condition. The musician will be charged \$5.00 for any part lost or in damaged condition.

WEBSITE

Every effort is made to keep the website current. The MSLMYSO website address is: www.mslmyso.org