

# East County Youth Symphony



[www.ECYSymphony.com](http://www.ECYSymphony.com)

# Parent and Student Handbook 2022-2023

San Diego, CA

# Mission Statement

**Our Mission is to provide free, high quality orchestral education and performance opportunities to young musicians, and share the spirit of classical music with new audiences of adults and children.**

Founded in 2007, the East County Youth Symphony (ECYS) offers outstanding opportunities at every level.

### **Pre-Orchestra Division**

The Pre-Orchestra Division is a free 6 year program. It was founded in 2008 as a training group for the East County Youth Symphony. It was formed to supplement private lessons by introducing our young musicians to large ensembles.

### **Chamber / Symphony Orchestra**

The Symphony Orchestra is the primary orchestra of East County Youth Symphony. It is open to all musicians who have at least two years of experience playing their instrument.

### **Advanced Symphony Orchestra**

East County Youth Symphony Advanced Division was formed to provide pre-professional orchestra training for advanced players who have chosen music as a possible career choice. High school and College players are welcome. Every musician receives a stipend.

### **Summer Symphony**

East County Youth Symphony Summer Symphony was formed to provide pre-professional orchestra training for advanced players during the summer. This group is a summer extension of the Advanced Division.

### **String Quartet**

The String Quartet is an additional ensemble for the Advanced Division and Primary Symphony string players who would like to participate in ECYS community outreach activities and perform traditional String Quartet repertoire.

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# SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

## ECYS MAILING ADDRESS

East County Youth Symphony  
P.O. Box 25  
El Cajon, CA 92022

## ECYS WEBSITE

Website: [www.ecsymphony.com](http://www.ecsymphony.com)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: (310)766.4411

### Emails:

[ecysAudition@gmail.com](mailto:ecysAudition@gmail.com) – General questions.

[alexandra.keegan@ecsymphony.com](mailto:alexandra.keegan@ecsymphony.com) – ECYS Support and Community Relations.

[iriemoraesstudio@gmail.com](mailto:iriemoraesstudio@gmail.com) – to report an absence and for administrative questions.

## ARTISTIC STAFF

### Conductors:

Alexandra Keegan – Advanced Division, Chamber Orchestra

Irie Morales – Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Ensemble

### Pre-Orchestra Instructors:

Irie Morales – Violin, Viola, Cello

Samantha Hurtado – Violin, Viola

Alexandra Keegan – Violin, Viola, Cello

### Coaches:

Ryan Simmons (San Diego Symphony) - Bassoon

Beverly Dorcy – Percussion

Carina Voly (San Diego State University) – Cello

Ondrej Lewit – Violin

Mark Margolis – Clarinet

Jason Rossi – Flute

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

### Executive Director

Alexandra Keegan – [alexandra.keegan@ecsymphony.com](mailto:alexandra.keegan@ecsymphony.com)

### Assistant Executive Director

Irie Morales – [iriemoraesstudio@gmail.com](mailto:iriemoraesstudio@gmail.com)

## SECTION 2: REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Every NEW student must submit the Registration Form.

Every RETURNING student must submit the Registration Form before August 15 (once/year).

### Registration deadlines:

Spring Semester – January 15

Fall Semester – August 15

To register visit [www.ecsymphony.com](http://www.ecsymphony.com) – top (right) menu REGISTER

Step 1. Review HANDBOOK and REQUIREMENTS.

Step 2. Take PARENT/STUDENT ORIENTATION QUIZ.

Step 3. Fill out the Registration Form.

## **SECTION 3: PARENT INFORMATION**

Welcome to the East County Youth Symphony family. Parents of ECYS musicians provide much of the daily support and encouragement that contributes to the overall success of the organization. ECYS staff also depends heavily on parents when planning and running important events, looking for volunteers, and for providing financial support through contributions.

### **PARENT ORIENTATION**

It is Parent/Guardian responsibility to read Handbook, Requirements, Schedule and Media Release as their Orientation, and complete Orientation Quiz Online before registering for the semester.

### **PARENT SUPPORT & ENCOURAGEMENT**

In addition to providing the highest quality musical experiences, East County Youth Symphony strives to teach students about professionalism, responsibility, and personal integrity. ECYS asks our parents to help their children fulfill their commitment to ECYS programs by encouraging 100% attendance, prompt arrival at rehearsals and concerts, private lessons and at-home preparation.

### **PRIVATE INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENT**

East County Youth Symphony is a supplemental music program designed to motivate and encourage young musicians to continue their private lessons, practice at home, as well as to give our students an opportunity to rehearse and perform in large ensembles/orchestras. Private instructor is required for all ECYS musicians except Pre-Orchestra Division beginners (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> semester).

### **CLASSROOM REQUIREMENT**

1. Parents of Zeta and Epsilon (Pre-Orchestra Division) level students must be present in class and take notes. It is family responsibility to make sure musicians are practicing at home exactly the way they were instructed in class.
2. Every musician must arrive at least 10 min before the class starts to tune the instrument and prepare his/her music. The classroom door will be locked at the beginning of each class to avoid any distractions. Those who arrive late will not be allowed in class and will be marked as "Absent".
3. Children (siblings of musicians who are not enrolled) who will distract the class in any way will be asked to leave the classroom immediately.

### **ENROLLMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES**

Pre-Orchestra Division students are expected to advance to the next level after every 2 semesters. Those who will not pass the audition for such transition will be dismissed from the program. The third semester in the same level class can be arranged in exceptional cases, but will require a fee of \$400 payed in full before the first class. No students will be allowed to stay in the same level class for the fourth time. To avoid any undesirable situations on this matter we strongly recommend to have a private instructor and firmly setup schedule for practicing at home during and between ECYS sessions.

### **PARENT GIVING**

ECYS asks all families involved to make an annual financial contribution in an amount with which they are comfortable. We know the current economy provides challenging circumstances for many – all the more reason we need to ask for contributions to provide support for our free program. Because ECYS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, all gifts are tax deductible. Many companies also match their employee's gifts. Check with your employer for matching programs/grants.

## SECTION 4: OTHER INFORMATION

### MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION

Acceptance of your position in any ECYS program is a semester-long commitment. Reasons for any student's decision to terminate their membership mid-season will be reviewed by the Artistic Staff on a case-by-case basis, and may result in ineligibility to return the following semester. ECYS recognizes, however, that unavoidable situations may arise where you are no longer able to continue your participation, such as serious illness in the family, or relocation due to a parent's job. In such cases, exceptions may be made to allow the student to re-audition in the future.

### INSTRUMENT LIABILITY

All East County Youth Symphony students/families are responsible for their instruments. Lost, stolen or damaged instruments or instrument accessories are not the responsibility of ECYS. We strongly encourage all members to have their instruments insured. Should any damage occur to your instrument while you are participating in an ECYS activity, please notify an ECYS staff member immediately.

### PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

ECYS recognizes the importance of school music programs in their communities and highly recommends and encourages its members to be active participants in those programs. ECYS and the schools share a common goal of educating future musicians. However, because ECYS Advanced Division provides pre-professional academic training - we do not accept French Horn and Trumpet players to Advance Orchestra who are currently enrolled in their school marching band. Outdoor environment and additional motion while playing these instruments may prevent student from developing high quality tone and stable intonation which are required to perform professional level symphony orchestra repertoire.

### ENTRANCE AUDITIONS

All students must pass the entrance audition to become a member of the East County Youth Symphony. **Current Advanced Division and Symphony Orchestra members do not have to re-audition to continue.** Bi-annual entrance auditions are held each August/September and January/February.

### CHAIR COMPETITIONS

Chair competitions are conducted in all divisions/programs as requested to assess the level of the orchestra and as a means to encourage and track improvement. There is generally a degree of rotation which varies by section. Chair competitions are typically held in March and October. Music for Chair competitions is chosen from the season repertoire and is distributed to the students in advance. Please refer to the schedule for specific dates, times and locations.