

Program Overview 2020-2021

Fees

Tuition for the Philharmonic Orchestra is \$200 per trimester (Season – \$600) and an additional one time registration fee of \$40 per family. The registration fee is due on July 31 (or upon acceptance if after that date). Tuition is due at the start of each trimester. A \$25 fee will be assessed for late tuition payments.

2020-21 tuition due dates are:

- 1st Trimester – 9/12 (late fee after 9/14)
- 2nd Trimester – 11/21 (late fee after 11/28)
- 3rd Trimester – 3/6 (late fee after 3/12)

Families with multiple children in SEMYO receive a 10% discount (\$180 per trimester with discount).

Students travelling more than 40 miles from Rochester may receive a 40% discount on tuition (\$120 per trimester with discount).

Need-based scholarships are available to assist with the costs incurred by participating in SEMYO. Application is available online at <https://www.semyo.org/experience/scholarships/>. There are also a limited number of instrument incentive scholarships for bass, viola, low brass, and bassoon.

Tuition can be paid by mailing a check to: SEMYO, 1001 14th St. NW, Suite 450, Rochester, MN 55901.

Tuition may also be paid online at <https://www.semyo.org/experience/members-page/payments/>. Please note that there is a small convenience fee added for online payments.

By design tuition represents half of the actual cost to participate; the remainder is subsidized by public and private grants along with tax-deductible contributions. **Therefore we ask that each family also consider making a donation to SEMYO or attending the annual *It's Instrumental* event scheduled for Friday, October 23.** This allows families to pay what they are able to afford for the program while keeping tuition affordable for the broader community.

To submit a donation online visit <https://www.semyo.org/support/>

To learn more about *It's Instrumental* visit <https://www.semyo.org/support-us/its-instrumental/>

SEMYO is currently planning for its regularly scheduled season, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, changes to the format and schedule are a strong possibility. SEMYO is committed to the well-being and safety of our students, family members, and staff. We will continue to follow state and local guidelines and implement a safety plan when organizing all in-person activities. In the event that we cannot hold traditional full orchestra rehearsals, our SEMYO staff are developing several back-up plans that may include small group instruction, additional chamber group opportunities, and virtual programming. Our goal is to continue to educate our students and provide opportunities for musical discovery. The price of tuition will be adjusted as needed to reflect the value and cost.

Rehearsals

The SEMYO Philharmonic Orchestra rehearses Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to Noon at Century High School (2525 Viola Rd NE) throughout the school year. Rehearsals may include both full orchestra and sectionals. There are no rehearsals during school breaks and holidays. Students should bring all music, a pencil, and instrument to rehearsal.

SEMYO Retreat

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic SEMYO is not planning for an annual fall retreat, however we plan to offer several enrichment and non-rehearsal activities throughout the year.

Performances

The Philharmonic Orchestra will perform three main concerts per year at the end of each trimester. [Participation in these concerts is mandatory](#). There will also be a holiday performance at the Apache Mall and a day-long outreach tour on March 9.

Fall Concert - Nov. 15 @ 2:30 PM

Apache Mall Performance - Dec. 12 @ 1 PM

Winter Concert - February 28 @ 2:30 PM

Outreach Tour - Thursday, March 9 (during the school day)

Mother's Day Concert - May 9 @ 2:30 PM

Concert Dress

For all formal concerts students must wear the following:

Girls: Solid black dress (below the knee or floor length) OR solid black skirt (below the knee or floor length) OR black dress pants. Solid black dress shirt (elbow length or longer).

Boys: Long black dress pants, long sleeved black button dress shirt, long solid black tie.

All students should wear black dress shoes with black hosiery. Please no open-toed shoes or sandals, no exposed jewelry, and no exposed shoulders, back, midriff, or cleavage.

For informal concerts students may be asked to wear a SEMYO T-shirt. A SEMYO T-shirt is provided and cost is included with tuition.

Student Behavior

Students are expected to do the following:

- Demonstrate respect for her or his peers, conductors, staff and volunteers.
- Be attentive during rehearsals.
- Follow instructions from SEMYO conductors and staff.
- Treat rehearsal rooms and equipment with care.
- Do not handle or play instruments other than your own without permission.

Attendance

The SEMYO attendance policy is in place to achieve a high level of performance for the entire season and to encourage responsibility for scheduling and time commitments. [We understand that at certain times of the year additional conflicts may arise and we will do our best to work with you and be accommodating, with enough advanced notice.](#) Please contact us prior to the start of each trimester if you have concerns.

Students are allowed up to two excused absences per trimester. An unexcused absence will count as two excused absences. [Absences should be reported no later than one week prior to rehearsal.](#)

Report all absences online at: <https://www.semyo.org/experience/members-page/absence-notification/>.

- **Excused absences** include 1) absences reported to SEMYO at least week one prior to the missed rehearsal or 2) illness, medical emergency, family emergency, inclement weather, or other unavoidable conflicts.
- **An unexcused absence** is a failure to report to rehearsal without at least one-week prior notification.
- Required participation in Honors Choirs and Bella Voce dress rehearsals that directly conflict with SEMYO rehearsals will not count as an absence but only if SEMYO staff are notified at least one week in advance.
- More leniency may be given if absences are for musical commitments such as honor band/orchestra and school ensemble trips but only if advanced notification is provided.
- Attendance at only part of a rehearsal (arriving late or leaving early) will count as half of an absence.
- Work commitments are not an acceptable reason to leave early or miss rehearsal and students should arrange time-off in advance.

Students who exceed the number of allowed absences will be asked to perform a short audition for her or his conductor and excessive absences may result in being dismissed from participation in the SEMYO concert. The final decision will be at the discretion of the conductor.

[Participation in the dress rehearsal and concerts are mandatory and include the following dates:](#)

Dress rehearsal: Saturday, November 14 | Concert: Sunday, November 15 @ 2:30 PM

Dress rehearsal: Saturday, February 27 | Concert: Sunday, February 28 @ 2:30 PM

Dress rehearsal: Saturday, May 8 | Concert: Sunday, May 9 @ 2:30 PM

[Permission to miss the dress rehearsal or concert may be granted in special cases if requested in writing no less than four weeks ahead of time.](#) Repeated failure to participate in SEMYO concerts and special events may result in dismissal from the program.

Tardiness

[All students are expected to be in his or her seat ready to play at the start of rehearsal.](#) Students who are late 2 or more times without prior notification will be asked to meet with her or his conductor and additional tardiness may result in being dismissed for the remainder of the SEMYO trimester.

[SEMYO reserves the right to dismiss any students without refund who are not meeting expectations for behavior or attendance.](#)

Additional SEMYO Opportunities

SEMYO Concerto Competition - SEMYO is once again offering a concerto competition for Philharmonic and Concert Orchestra students. Visit www.semyo.org/experience/concerto-competition/ to learn more.

SEMYO Chamber Music Program - SEMYO offers students the opportunity to play in small ensembles (strings quartets, trios, woodwind and brass quintets, etc.) and perform in the community. Students enrolled in the program will rehearse weekly and receive professional coaching. The cost for SEMYO students to participate is \$100 per year. Contact Corey Henke at chenke@semyo.org if interested. Ensemble opportunities may be limited by available instrumentation and student's schedule and availability.

New to SEMYO 2020-2021

Bravura Strings - SEMYO introduces a new ensemble this year titled Bravura Strings. This ensemble is aimed at students with approximately one year of playing experience and will help students prepare for participation in Chamber Strings. SEMYO welcomes Robyn Watts as conductor of Bravura Strings.