

## Program Overview 2022-2023

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### Fees

Tuition for the SEMYO Chamber Strings Orchestra is \$195 per trimester (Season – \$585) and an additional one time registration fee of \$50 per family. The registration fee is due on July 15 (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.

**2022-23 tuition due dates are:** 1st Trimester – 9/10 (late fee after 9/17), 2nd Trimester – 11/19 (late fee after 11/26), 3rd Trimester – 3/4 (late fee after 3/11)

- Families with multiple children in SEMYO receive a 10% discount on tuition (\$175.50 per trimester with discount) and only need to pay one \$50 registration fee.
- Students travelling more than 40 miles from Rochester may receive a 40% discount on tuition (\$117 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 28.** 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/instrumental/>

### Rehearsals

The SEMYO Chamber Strings Orchestra rehearses Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Kellogg Middle School (503 17th St NE, Rochester) throughout the school year. Students will also have a sectional from 11:30 a.m. to Noon approximately once every four weeks and a sectional schedule will be sent out at the beginning of each trimester. There are no rehearsals during school breaks and holidays. Students should bring all sheet music, a pencil, and instrument to rehearsal. **The SEMYO year will be divided into three trimesters with a final performance at the end of each:**

- 1st trimester: Sept 10 – Nov. 12 (Fall Concert - Nov. 13 @ 3:30 PM)
- 2nd trimester: Nov. 19 – Feb. 25 (Winter Concert - February 26 @ 2:00 PM)
- 3rd trimester: Mar. 4 – May 20 (Spring Concert - May 21 @ 2:00 PM)

**Students are encouraged to participate for the entire year but may also sign-up for individual trimesters if conflicts exist with other activities.**

# Performances

Chamber Strings will perform three main concerts per year at the end of each trimester, a holiday performance, and day-long outreach tour. [Participation in these concerts is mandatory.](#)

## Performance dates include:

Fall Concert - Nov. 13 @ 3:30 PM

Community Performance - Dec. 11 @ 11:30 AM

Winter Concert - February 26 @ 2:00 PM

Outreach Tour - March 16 (During the school day)

Spring Concert - May 21 @ 2:00 PM

# Concert Dress

The dress code for performances is designed to be affordable and inclusive with gender-neutral options. **Please note that the dress code has changed from the previous season and is the same for ALL SEMYO ensembles.**

[For formal performances students must wear ALL black dress clothes:](#)

- Long sleeved (at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  length) black dress shirt OR black dress (ankle length or longer)
- Long black dress pants OR black skirt (ankle length or longer)
- Black Dress Shoes and Hosiery (no open toed shoes, sandals, or athletic shoes)

Please no exposed jewelry and no exposed shoulders, back, midriff, or cleavage. Dress pants and skirts should be loose fitting.

[For informal concerts and tour performances students will be asked to wear the following:](#)

- SEMYO t-shirt (provided – cost is included with tuition)
- Long black dress pants OR black skirt (ankle length or longer)
- Black Dress Shoes and Hosiery (no open toed shoes, sandals, or athletic shoes)

# Additional SEMYO Activities

Throughout the season SEMYO will offer additional activities outside of rehearsal including trips or social gatherings. Additional fees may be required to participate in some of these event.

[SEMYO Chamber Music Program](#) - SEMYO has limited opportunities to perform 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 \$150 per year. Contact Corey Henke at [chenke@semyo.org](mailto:chenke@semyo.org) if interested. Ensemble opportunities may be limited by available instrumentation and individual student's schedule and availability.

# Student Behavior

[Students are expected to do the following:](#)

- Demonstrate respect for their 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 their 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 rehearsals and concerts are mandatory and include the following dates:](#)

- **Dress rehearsal: Saturday, November 12 | Concert: Sunday, November 13 @ 3:30 PM**
- **Dress rehearsal: Saturday, February 25 | Concert: Sunday, February 26 @ 2:00 PM**
- **Dress rehearsal: Saturday, May 20 | Concert: Sunday, May 21 @ 2:00 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 their 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 their 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.](#)