



Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra

2009-10 Season Orchestra Handbook

Lawrence Loh, Music Director
Craig Johnson, Executive Director
Eve Goodman, Program Coordinator/Personnel Manager

Heinz Hall
600 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-3259

Phone: 412-392-4872
Fax: 412-392-4820

Web Site: www.pyso.us

Email: info@pyso.us

2009-10 Season at a Glance...

September 5	String Seating Auditions
September 6	First Rehearsal Timpani Auditions
November 6-8	Brundibar CAPA High School Collaboration with Opera Theater of Pittsburgh
November 15	Fall Concert Heinz Hall
January 17	PYSO Concerto Competition
February 20	Winter Concert Heinz Hall
April 18	Outreach Concert State Theater in Uniontown
May 2	Spring Concert Heinz Hall
May 8-10	Auditions for New Members

For more details, see full schedule on page __

Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra

ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK

Table of Contents

I. Mission Statement, Purpose, and Fact Sheet.....	2
II. Board of Directors/Staff/Parents' Association.....	3
III. Biographies.....	7
IV. Policies & Procedures.....	12
1. Membership	
2. School Music Programs / Private Study	
3. Artistic Standards	
4. Facilities	
5. Attendance	
6. Deportment and Behavior	
7. Instruments, Music, Personal Belongings	
8. Arrival Procedure / Rehearsals	
9. Concert Attire	
10. Weather Emergency Cancellations	
11. Membership Dues	
12. Travel & Parking	

This handbook has been produced for the reference and convenience of Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra members. The goal of the policies and procedures outlined herein is to facilitate the operation of an artistically sound orchestra.

I. MISSION STATEMENT, PURPOSE, AND FACT SHEET

- *To teach and inspire excellence through orchestral training*
- *To perform in premier venues*
- *To cultivate audiences for classical music*

PYSO Fact Sheet

- PYSO was founded in 1946 for the purpose of providing educational opportunities and the finest orchestral training for young musicians in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area
- Is an independent youth orchestra in all governing, administrative, and financial matters
- Has enjoyed an association with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra since 1962
- Rehearses each week from September until May at its home, Heinz Hall
- Is comprised of approximately 85 young musicians, ages 12-21
- PYSO accepts members through highly competitive auditions
- Is conducted by the Staff Conductors of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
- Is coached by members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
- Presents concerts at Heinz Hall, Carnegie Music Hall, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and other outreach locations
- Is broadcast annually on WQED-FM
- Has won awards in national and international competition; most recently, was selected as one of the first youth orchestra ever to perform at the prestigious Smetanova Music Festival in the Czech Republic as well as the first American youth orchestra to perform at the historic Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Germany, both during the 2005 Central European Tour.

II. BOARD OF DIRECTORS/STAFF/PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Board of Directors is comprised of elected community leaders who govern the orchestra and set policy.

Board of Directors:

John Gisleson (President)
Kimberly M. Jackson (Vice President)
Melanie M. LaSota (Treasurer)
Timothy M. Slevin (Secretary)
Lawrence D. Breck
Nancy Lee Cochran
James Cunningham
Mrs. Morton B. DeBross
Deborah G. Dick
Jerry Gindele
Natalie Hoffman
Patricia Prattis Jennings
Mrs. Daniel Kamin
Robert F. Milspaw
Mrs. Edward J. Potocar
Steven Silberman
Elizabeth Simpson
Rachel V. Tabachnick
Antoinette Tuma
Susan Haggerson Utech
Peggy Smyrnes Williams
Michael Zeglinski

Board Emeritus

Mrs. James P. Kinard
Robert A. Walsh

Advisory Board

Mrs. Marjorie C. Greenberger
Gary P. Hunt

Dr. Michael L. Nieland
Mrs. Sylvia Robinson
Mrs. Eric W. Springer
Harry A. Thompson, II

Artistic & Administrative Staff:

Lawrence Loh, *Music Director*
Craig W. Johnson, *Executive Director*
Eve Goodman, *Program Coordinator/
Personnel Manager*

Sectional Coaches:

Richard DiAdamo, *Violin I*
Linda Fischer, *Violin II*
Peter Snitkovsky, *Violin II*
Meng Wang, *Viola*
David Premo, *Cello*
Donald Evans, *Bass*
Harold Smoliar, *Woodwinds*
Steve Kostyniak, *Brass*
Jeremy Branson, *Percussion*
Gretchen Van Hoesen, *Harp*

The PYSO Parents' Association (PYSOPA) is a volunteer support organization that assists in promoting activities and projects to benefit the orchestra members.

Regina Callahan, *President*
Maureen Stokan, *Vice President*
Alice Lee, *Secretary*
Essi Efthimiou, *Treasurer*

III. BIOGRAPHIES

Lawrence Loh, Music Director

Resident Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, Lawrence Loh is one of the most exciting young talents on the classical music scene today. He was brought to national attention in February 2004 when he substituted last-minute for an ailing Charles Dutoit with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Conducting Stravinsky's *Petrouchka* and Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*, Loh received enthusiastic acclaim from orchestra players, audience members and critics, alike.



Since his appointment as Music Director of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic in 2005, the orchestra has flourished artistically, defining its reputation as one of the finest regional orchestras in the country. His leadership has attracted such artists as André Watts, Anne Akiko Meyers, Jon Nakamatsu, Zuill Bailey and Sharon Isbin. A champion of early childhood exposure to music, Loh created a family concert series that is dedicated to the youngest of audiences. He is very active in the region as an arts leader and music advocate, and is constantly in demand as a guest speaker and clinician.

As Resident Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Lawrence Loh conducts a wide range of concerts including classical, educational and pops. He is active in the PSO's Community Engagement and Partnership Concerts, extending the PSO's reach into other communities. Recent notable concerts with the Pittsburgh Symphony include performances of Beethoven's 3rd Symphony, Mendelssohn's 4th Symphony and Beethoven's 7th Symphony on a concert featuring violinist Sarah Chang. Next season, he makes his debut on the main season conducting Handel's *Messiah* in December 2008. As the conductor of the enormously popular Fiddlesticks Family Series "Bringing Music to the Lives of Children," Lawrence Loh plays the part of host and conductor. He works closely with incoming Music Director Manfred Honeck as well as frequent guest conductors Yan Pascal Tortellier, Rafael Frübeck de Burgos and Marek Janowski, among others. In addition to his duties on the podium, Lawrence Loh is an audience favorite in the PSO's Concert Preludes lecture series, edits radio broadcasts, and makes many public appearances. His association with the PSO began as Assistant Conductor in 2005-2006. He was promoted to Associate Conductor in 2006-2007 and to Resident Conductor in 2007-2008. This season, he additionally takes on the position of Co-Principal Conductor of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Lawrence Loh was born in southern California of Korean parentage and raised in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He and his wife Jennifer have a son, Charlie, and a daughter, Hilary.

For a more complete bio on Lawrence Loh, go to:

<http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org/pghsymph.nsf/bios/lawrence+loh>

Craig Johnson, Executive Director



Craig Johnson has been Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra since November 2000, succeeding Willa Moriarty (1986-2000) and Marie Maazel (1946-1986).

Mr. Johnson was Executive Director of the McKeesport Symphony from 1986 to 2000, Financial Manager of Gateway to the Arts from 1985 to 1997, and served as Mrs. Maazel's assistant at the Youth Symphony from 1983 to 1985. Mr. Johnson graduated from Norwin High School in North Huntingdon, then earned degrees from Duquesne University and Carnegie

Mellon University. While a student at Duquesne, he played in the flute section of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony. He was Assistant Conductor and Librarian of the Three Rivers Training Orchestra (now Three Rivers Young People's Orchestra) from 1977 to 1984.

As a flutist, Mr. Johnson has played as a regular member of the Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh Ballet, Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, and Gateway to Music Woodwind Quintet. He has also played as a substitute with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He is President of the Board of Directors of the McKeesport Symphony Society, former President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society, and active in the Pittsburgh Flute Club.

Eve Goodman, Program Coordinator/Music Librarian

Eve Goodman grew up in Boston where she played violin in the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra. She received her BS in Music with a concentration in arranging and guitar from Berklee College of Music.

After ten years of songwriting and performing in Nashville, TN, Ms. Goodman moved to Pittsburgh to work with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra. In addition to working with PYSO, she still writes and performs at clubs and coffeehouses around Pittsburgh and beyond.



IV. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra program is administered in a manner that is as close as possible to the way in which a professional symphony orchestra operates. Your compliance with the organization's regulations is vital to the professionalism and musical integrity of the youth orchestra. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in the immediate dismissal from the orchestra.

1. Membership

Membership in the orchestra is by invitation only, following competitive auditions. Renewal of the invitation each season *is not automatically guaranteed*, but is determined by the music director, sectional coaches, and/or executive director.

The musical progress of all members will be evaluated on a continuing basis throughout the season. This will be done by way of observation during rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts.

2. School Music Programs/Private Study

All members of the youth orchestra are encouraged to participate in their school music programs, if and when they are available. Our program supports and cooperates with the music education community. We expect our members to be role models and musical emissaries in their school ensembles.

All members of the youth orchestra are expected to study privately. If help is needed, the youth orchestra can offer suggestions for choosing a private teacher. Suggestions are not necessarily endorsements.

3. Artistic Standards

The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra is dedicated to promoting and striving to maintain the highest artistic standards. It is our expectation that all members endeavor to attain their full musical potential. The Conductors, Executive Director, and/or members of the coaching staff may notify youth orchestra members of musical deficiencies that require improvement, particularly when it is perceived that improvement is possible. Orchestra members so notified must show improvement within these deficient areas within a reasonable time frame, as determined by the Conductors, Executive Director, and/or members of the coaching staff. Failure to demonstrate improvement in deficient areas within a designated time frame may result in dismissal from the orchestra, at the discretion of the Music Director.

4. Facilities

Youth orchestra members will respect the rules, premises, and the property of Heinz Hall or any other facility where rehearsals, concerts, or other activities take place.

Please observe:

- No food or beverages are permitted on stage or in the auditorium of performance facilities.
- Do not disturb the stage or rehearsal room set-up. Some halls are operated by union stagehands. If assistance is needed, inform the personnel manager or other youth orchestra staff member.

Visitors are welcome to rehearsals. Prior notification is requested, especially for groups. Visitors must sign in with the backstage security guard.

5. Attendance

A guiding philosophy of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra is that professional responsibility is critical to musical excellence. Absences from rehearsals are detrimental to the orchestra's progress and counterproductive to your own personal growth. All members are expected to attend all scheduled full orchestra rehearsals and performances, however, we understand that absences may be unavoidable and have developed the following attendance policy.

- The 2009-10 Season will follow a trimester format. Season schedule along with updates and changes posted at http://www.pyso.us/Weekly_Update.html
- Members will be allowed only two (2) absences per trimester, but not to exceed a total of five (5) for the entire year.
- In the case of unavoidable conflict, you must notify the PYSO office in writing (including email) at least one week in advance of your absence.
- In the case of sudden illness or emergency, please notify the PYSO office via email or phone.
- Absences may result in reassignment of parts, re-seating in the section, loss of principal status, or in the case of exceeding the limit of absences, expulsion from the orchestra.
- A student not able to meet the attendance requirement for any trimester may be asked not to play in the remaining rehearsals and performance(s) in that trimester.
- Missing a dress rehearsal or concert is grounds for dismissal.
- Personnel for chamber orchestra, chamber music concerts, and other smaller events may not require all players.
- In case of resignation or dismissal, no refunds will be made.

Substitutes

Woodwind, brass and percussion players: Your parts **must be covered** at rehearsal. Notify the PYSO office and let them know who in your section has agreed to cover your part. If the substitute is someone other than a fellow PYSO section member, provide their name, phone number and email. If you are having trouble finding a substitute, contact the PYSO office and they may be able to help you find a substitute.

Tardiness & Leaving Early

Late arrival to a rehearsal is not acceptable. It is unprofessional, irresponsible and extremely disrespectful to your colleagues.

In the case of illness or emergency, please leave a message on the office answering machine: 412-392-4872 or send email to info@pyso.us .

6. Deportment and Behavior

Youth orchestra members should conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times during rehearsals, sectionals, performances and other youth orchestra functions. This means alert, observant, and courteous attention; enthusiasm for activities; cooperation; respectful good manners; punctuality and dedication; attention to all directions given by the conductor, coaches, and orchestra staff.

Failure on the part of any student to behave in an appropriate manner may result in that student's dismissal from the PYSO organization. Behavior, which may result in dismissal include, but are not limited to the following:

- Excessive absenteeism especially in the weeks prior to the concert. Students should discuss any anticipated absence with the Personnel Manager.
- Repeated failure to comply with concert dress policy.
- Failure to comply with PYSO volunteers, instruction of conductors, orchestra staff, or staff of rehearsal facility.
- Physical violence or threats of physical violence towards any conductor or orchestra member.
- Acts of vandalism or theft from rehearsal or concert facilities.
- Repeated acts of disruption during rehearsals. Disruption to be determined by the conductors.
- Verbal, sexual, or any other form of harassment.
- Use of alcohol, tobacco or un-prescribed drugs.

In the case of dismissal, no refund of tuition will be made.

7. Instruments, Music, and Personal Belongings

Instruments

Instruments belonging to PYSO must be handled with care. If any damage occurs to a PYSO-owned instrument while in the possession of an orchestra member, he or she will be responsible for the repair.

Members are responsible for their own instruments. Do not leave instruments or bows unattended where they might be accidentally damaged. Do not leave your instrument on your chair during breaks. Instruments should be safely put into cases during breaks or when not needed.

All instruments should be insured. Most homeowner policies can include a rider to cover instrument insurance.

Music

It is the responsibility of each musician to have his/her music at every rehearsal. If you are a member of the wind, brass, percussion, harp or keyboard section and will be absent from a rehearsal you are expected to make every effort for your substitute to have your music.

Markings to your music should be made neatly and legibly in **No. 2 pencil only**. Please bring pencils and an eraser to every rehearsal. Leave music **on your music stand** after the last concert that it is needed.

Personal Belongings

Please do not leave personal belongings or items of value unattended, particularly in public areas or at concerts. PYSO and Heinz Hall are not responsible for stolen or lost articles.

8. Arrival Procedure / Rehearsals

It is the responsibility of all PYSO members to be aware of all rehearsals, concert dates and times. Members should **arrive approximately 15 to 30 minutes early** to allow time to unpack and warm up. Five minutes prior to the start of rehearsal, each member must be seated, ready to tune.

Please check the PYSO website each week (www.pyso.us) and click on “Weekly Update” (http://www.pyso.us/Weekly_Update.html) (bottom right hand column of main page) for up-to-date schedule changes, announcements, etc. Information will be posted by noon on Friday. **It is your responsibility to check the website each week.** If you do not have access to the PYSO web site, please ask for a printed bulletin. Additional announcements may be made at rehearsal.

At each rehearsal, there will be at least one **15-minute break**. Feel free to bring or purchase a snack or beverage, but please keep all food and drinks away from the facility stage and auditorium.

9. Concert Attire

FORMAL

Gentlemen: Tuxedo or black suit. Black bow tie, white long sleeve button down dress shirt, black shoes and solid black socks.

Ladies: Long black dress with sleeves, or black slacks and solid black blouse with sleeves. Black shoes.

PLEASE NOTE:

- *All black shoes must be polished leather, shiny black.*
- *No sandals. No cologne or perfume.*
- *Ladies shoes should be closed heel and toe.*
- *Ladies blouses - nothing low cut.*
- *Jewelry must be minimal.*

10. Weather Emergency Cancellations

In the event of a weather emergency, which necessitates the last minute cancellation of a rehearsal, members may **call the PYSO office 412-392-4872** to check for an announcement on the office answering machine. Every effort will be made to record the announcement by 7:00 AM on the morning of the rehearsal.

We will try to notify you of last minute cancellations, but please call the PYSO office if you have any questions regarding cancelled rehearsals.

DO NOT ASSUME rehearsal cancellation based on Pittsburgh city schools or other area schools being closed.

11. Membership Dues and Scholarship

Annual membership dues of \$500 are payable no later than August 24, 2009. Members may be assessed additional fees for trips and/or tours, when applicable.

Some scholarships are available. Scholarship forms may be obtained from the PYSO office and must be submitted by August 24, 2009.

12. Travel / Parking

In general be prepared to pay to park in downtown Pittsburgh and in Oakland. Free street parking may be available on weekends in designated areas, such as meters. Car pooling and/or public transportation is recommended.

Please allow for additional travel time for such things as:

- Baseball and other sports games
- Parades
- Races, Walks
- Construction and Detours
- Inclement weather

A useful website for checking current traffic conditions is

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/PennDot/Districts/district11.nsf/District11TrafficCams?OpenPage>

You may also call Penn Dot District 11 Hotline at 412-429-6035.

We will try to warn everyone in advance of unusual or special events that will impact travel and parking (home Steeler games, parades, marathon, etc.).

Members are generally expected to provide their own transportation to rehearsals and concerts, including outreach concerts, unless otherwise notified. Maps and directions will be provided.