



SSYO Handbook

2022 - 2023 Season

Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra

32 Erie Street

Stratford, Ontario N5A 2M4

Message from the Music Director	3
Expectations of SSYO Members	4
Commitment and Preparation	4
Concert Dress	4
Private Lessons	4
Harassment/Bullying/Discrimination Policy	5
SSYO Tuition Schedule	6
Fee Schedule	6
Scholarships	6
Refunds	6
SSO Benefits	7
Rehearsal Information	8
Rehearsal Expectations	8
What to bring to every rehearsal	8
Schedule	9
Covid Policy	10
Masks & Proof of Vaccination	10
Feeling Unwell	10
Consent for Photography & Audiovisual Recording	11
Acknowledgement	12

Message from the Music Director



Welcome to the 2nd season of the Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra. Firstly, I want to say how proud I am of everyone that was involved with the first season. As we were slowly returning to in-person activities, I want to thank the musicians, the coaches, the parents, the SSO board, and the various venues for being flexible and respectful of everyone's time and health.

My goal for this group is first and foremost to give musicians from different backgrounds, different studios, different schools a chance to gather together and learn to make music as an ensemble. With time I hope to see the ensemble grow and its ability to take on more repertoire expand and it is my wish that, with time, the SSYO will welcome musicians not only from Stratford but also from surrounding municipalities.

This season we will welcome a junior orchestra that will join the SSYO for one piece, rehearsing every other week for the first 30 minutes. This opportunity is meant for younger musicians that study an instrument privately but might not be ready to learn multiple pieces and attend full length rehearsals.

While priority will always be given to young musicians, if some adult students want to join the ensemble, as long as they are not taking the place of a young musician, they will be welcomed to join.

Our repertoire this year will continue to expand the SSYO's abilities, starting with an arrangement of Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride* which will allow for other instrumentalists to join us. Our larger work this year will be Peter Warlock's *Capriol Suite*. It's an exciting piece and I'm looking forward to hearing the musicians of the SSYO bring it to life!

Musicalement vôtre,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Eric Carbonneau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "C".

Expectations of SSYO Members

Commitment and Preparation

Dedication to the SSYO is largely demonstrated through regular attendance to all scheduled rehearsals, concerts, and events as well as consistent, individual musical preparation.

Through each of its members' individual investment in playing their part to the best of their ability, the quality of the SSYO will continue to grow each season. Every member makes an equally important contribution to the SSYO experience.

Concert Dress

Musicians shall choose dress options appropriate to their gender expression.

The dress of orchestra musicians should reflect the tone of the event, a professional demeanour and be suitable for the stage.

All garments must be of true black, without pattern or visible logos.

Tops: Black top, black dress shirt. Sleeve length should be $\frac{3}{4}$ to full length.

Bottoms: Black pants, Black skirt long (below knees)

Shoes: Formal Black

Formal one piece dress suits are also okay

Optional

Ties: If you do choose to wear, please wear a straight tie or bow tie.

Socks: Black socks or hose.

Black Suit Jackets optional

Private Lessons

Members are strongly encouraged to take private lessons as the aim of the SSYO is not to teach young artists how to play their instruments, but rather to learn how to play together as an ensemble. If you are having trouble finding an appropriate private teacher, please contact the music director who will be able to connect you with local teachers. We also recommend checking out the [Stratford Music Teachers online music directory](#).

Harassment/Bullying/Discrimination Policy

The Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra is committed to providing an environment free of harassment, bullying and/or discrimination, where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity, can contribute fully and have equal opportunities to learn and grow.

Under the Ontario Human Rights Code, every person has the right to be free from harassment and discrimination. Harassment and discrimination will not be tolerated, condoned or ignored at the SSYO.

As part of the SSO, their *Policy on Workplace Harassment and Violence* applies to the SSYO staff, members and volunteers.

Please approach the music director privately if you feel you, or others, are being harassed, bullied or discriminated against. If you are uncomfortable approaching the music director directly, please contact info@stratfordsymphonyorchestra.ca to speak with a staff member of the SSO, who can raise your concerns in a private manner to SSYO leadership.

SSYO Tuition Schedule

To encourage students who are taking private lessons to also attend the SSYO in order to further develop their musical skills, we will be offering a discounted rate for musicians with weekly private instruction.

Fee Schedule

With Private Instructor: Yearly fee \$300.

Payment 1: \$150 due September 19, 2022.

Payment 2: \$150 due January 9, 2023.

Without Private Instructor: Yearly fee \$350

Payment 1: \$150 due September 19, 2022.

Payment 2: \$200 due January 9, 2023.

Junior Orchestra: Yearly fee \$200

Payment 1: \$100 due September 19, 2022.

Payment 2: \$100 due January 9, 2023

* Please note that Junior Orchestra members must have a private teacher *

Scholarships

The SSYO is working towards building a scholarship fund as we do not want cost to be a barrier for anyone's ability to join. If you wish to donate to the scholarship fund, please go to https://www.stratfordsymphony.ca/Support_Your_SSO/ and select the scholarship fund when making your donation. Donations will receive a tax receipt.

If you are in a position where the tuition is creating a barrier for you or your child to join, please email us at ssyo@stratfordsymphonyorchestra.ca to see what options may be available.

Refunds

The Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra does not offer refunds for tuitions that have been paid following the member's first rehearsal with the ensemble. We offer a one week "trial" with the ensemble to see if it is a wonderful fit for the young musician, and will reimburse anyone who feels after their first week that it isn't a good fit.

If the year was paid in full, but the student must end after the first term for extenuating reasons, we are happy to offer a refund for the term they were unable to join.

SSO Benefits

Each member of the Youth Orchestra is invited to attend select rehearsals of the Stratford Symphony Orchestra (SSO).

Further, we are excited to offer \$10 student tickets to any of our performances for members of the SSYO.

Dates for invited SSO rehearsals will be announced in SSYO rehearsals, and emailed to the ensemble in advance. Please note, when attending SSO rehearsals, we expect SSYO members to be respectful of the rehearsal space, and maintain a quiet working environment for the professional orchestra.

Further, for the 2022/2023 season the SSO is requiring their members to show a proof of vaccination and mask during rehearsals. This requirement would be extended to SSYO members to join these rehearsals.

Rehearsal Information

Rehearsal Expectations

Playing in an ensemble with other musicians is one of the most important skills and rewarding aspects of music making. Part of our education in classical music is also rehearsal etiquette. The SSYO expects that all members following appropriate orchestral etiquette:

- Please attend all rehearsals, and notify the conductor in advance of any conflicts.
- Be ready to play on time. This likely means planning on arriving early.
- Prepare your music and practice in between rehearsals.
- During rehearsal, please raise your hand to ask questions, and always listen to the music director or your fellow musicians when they are speaking.
- A concert "A" will be provided for musicians to tune, please be respectful and do not talk while your colleagues are tuning. As well, once your instrument is ready, please sit quietly until all others have finished tuning.
- If you are not playing, or are not in a particular piece, please be quiet while your colleagues work. Feel free to bring a book, or leave the room if you would like until they have finished.
- Work collaboratively in sectionals, and treat everyone with respect.

What to bring to every rehearsal

- Instrument
- Pencil
- Music prepared in binder
- Music stand
- Instrument accessories (rosin, cello puck/strap, slide grease, reeds etc.)
- Positive attitude!

Schedule

*Junior joins 7PM-7:30PM

Fall 2022

1. Sept 19*
7:00-8:30 Reh #1, Falstaff
2. Sept 26
7:00-8:30 Reh #2, Falstaff
3. Oct 3*
7:00-8:30 Reh #3, Falstaff
4. **Oct 10**
Week off (Thanksgiving)
5. Oct 17
7:00-8:30 Reh #4, Falstaff
6. Oct 24*
7:00-8:30 Reh #5, Falstaff
7. **Oct 31 - Halloween**
Voluntary sectionals
8. Nov 7*
7:00-8:30 Reh #6, Falstaff
9. Nov 14
7:00-8:30 Reh #7, Falstaff
10. Nov 21*
7:00-8:30 Reh #8, Falstaff
11. Nov 28
7:00-8:30 Reh #9, Falstaff
12. Dec 5*
7:00-8:30 Dress Reh (Reh #10),
Falstaff
13. Sunday Dec 11, Holiday Recital
At Avondale United Church
(including Junior Orchestra)
5:30 PM call, 7:00 PM Recital

Holiday Break

Winter 2023

1. Jan 16*
7:00-8:30 Reh #1, Falstaff
2. Jan 23
7:00-8:30 Reh #2, Falstaff
3. Jan 30*
7:00-8:30 Reh #3, Falstaff
4. Feb 6
7:00-8:30 Reh #4, Falstaff
5. Feb 13*
7:00-8:30 Reh #5, Falstaff
6. **Feb 20**
Week off (family day)
7. Feb 27*
7:00-8:30 Reh #6, Falstaff
8. March 6
7:00-8:30 Reh #7, Falstaff
9. **March 13**
Week off (Spring break)
10. March 20*
7:00-8:30 Reh #8, Falstaff
11. March 27
7:00-8:30 Reh #9, Falstaff
12. April 3*
7:00-8:30 Reh #10, Falstaff
13. **April 10**
week off (Easter Monday)
14. April 17*
7:00-8:30 Reh #11, Falstaff
15. April 24*
7:00-8:30 Dress Reh (Reh #12),
Falstaff
16. Sunday April 30, Spring Recital
At Avondale United Church
(including Junior Orchestra)
5:30 PM call, 7:00 PM Recital

Covid Policy

Masks & Proof of Vaccination

The Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra **strongly encourages** members to wear 3 ply “surgical” masks, or (K)N95’s to all rehearsals, and remove them only when necessary for playing their instrument (i.e. wind instruments). The SSYO will not be requiring, or responsible for, members wearing masks, nor will there be a requirement to show proof of vaccination, unless government, public health, or the SSO board changes the requirement due changes in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Should masks or proof of vaccination become required by government, public health or the SSO board mid-season resulting in the inability for the member to continue their participation with the group, refunds will **not** be offered. A partial refund will be considered for future terms if the year’s tuition has been paid in full should the mandate not be lifted by that time. Please note, exemptions will be considered following governmental/public health guidelines, and must be provided from a doctor.

The SSYO rents their rehearsal hall and performance venues and will share any masking or proof of vaccination policies required by the venue. These are subject to change, and are not under the control of the SSYO.

Feeling Unwell

The Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra asks any members who are feeling unwell, have been a close contact to a confirmed case, or who begin to feel unwell during rehearsal, to stay home or go home. We will be sure to bring a laptop with zoom to each rehearsal so that members can listen in and practice along in the event that the member cannot attend in person.

Consent for Photography & Audiovisual Recording

As a Member/Parent/Guardian, I hereby give consent to the Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra to take and use photographs/videotape of me/my child taken during the 2022-2023 season for publicity, promotional and/or educational purposes (including publications, presentation or broadcast via newspaper, internet or other media sources).

I do this with full knowledge and consent and waive all claims for compensation for use, or for damages.

___ **Yes**, I give consent for the Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra to photograph/record as outlined above.

___ **No**, I do not give consent for the Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra to photograph/record as outlined above.

Member's Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18): _____ Date: _____

Acknowledgement

As a member/parent/guardian of the Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra, I have read, understand and agree to follow the guidelines, terms and expectations set out in this SSYO Handbook.

I agree to actively participate in activities/events in support of the SSYO, such as ticket sales, fundraising, logistics, direction and/or other, whenever possible.

Member's Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____