

Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra

Earl Lee, Music Director

AUDITIONS for the 2019-2020 SEASON

Auditions for NEW members for the 2019-2020 season will take place in May 2019.

Advanced students up to and including college age can apply.

While there is no minimum age requirement, most members are in high school or college.

Auditions will be in two rounds:

Preliminary Auditions (due Monday, March 25, 2019) all applicants (except percussionists* and Harpists & Pianists**) need to submit a recorded audio audition (MP3 or audio equivalent). The preliminary round will be anonymous; judges will not know the identity of the players.

Guidelines for the recording:

- Fill out the online audition application and pay the \$10 audition fee [online](#) or by mailing a checking made out to PYSO to: Pittsburgh Youth Symphony, 600 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.
- Record up to 2 minutes of a first movement from a standard concerto in your repertoire that shows your technical abilities. Fast movements only, no slow movements are permitted. If you do not have a prepared concerto in your repertoire, you must get prior approval for your solo piece by emailing the composer and name of the piece to info@pyso.org.
- Record the first two orchestral excerpts listed on the PYSO audition excerpt list.
- Submit your audition by Monday, March 25th on an mp3 or audio equivalent (one file only with the 2 minutes of concerto and 2 excerpts) and email to info@pyso.org. Title the audio recording with instrument and full name as in, Violin – John Doe.
- Recording with personal or home devices is perfectly acceptable. Professional recordings are not necessary. ***Do NOT have accompaniment on the concerto.***

Live auditions will follow the preliminary auditions. No later than April 5, 2019, Applicants that pass the preliminary round will be invited to the live auditions which will not be anonymous and will consist of the same first movement from a standard concerto in your repertoire that shows your technical abilities as well as all the music excerpts on the PYSO audition list. There will not be any sightreading.

Exact dates for live auditions have not been finalized yet, but will most likely take place May 6-10, 2019 in late afternoons (after school) and evenings.

***Percussion players:** PYSO percussion auditions use a different audition procedure than the other instruments. Students interested in auditioning for percussion should submit a video audition (via DVD or youtube link) as per the [guidelines](#).

****Harpists & Pianists:** Please notify us if you are interested in a (possible) future audition by sending an email to info@pyso.us, typing “harp audition” or “piano audition” in the subject header, and include your full name and phone number in the body of the text. We will keep your information on file.

Benefits of Membership:

- * Performance of **Major Symphonic Works**.
- * Rehearsals and Performances on **Heinz Hall** stage.
- * Conductor and Sectional Coaches from the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**.
- * **Concerto Competition** for Members; Winner Performs at Heinz Hall.
- * Workshops and Masterclasses with visiting **PSO Guest Artists**.
- * **International Concert Tour** of the Baltics and Scandinavia in 2020!



PSO's Manfred Honeck drops in to conduct PYSO!

What makes PYSO unique?

- ✓ Over the decades, more international concert tours than any other local youth orchestra, including **Scotland, Switzerland, Monaco, Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Italy, Spain, and China!**
- ✓ PYSO members have been accepted into the **National Youth Orchestra of the USA (NYO-USA)** every year since its inception. More PYSO members go on to **professional orchestral careers** than from any other youth orchestra in western PA.
- ✓ PYSO is the **longest running youth orchestra program** in the Pittsburgh area; it began in 1945 and has had a long standing relationship with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra that began in 1954. It has made its home at Heinz Hall since it opened in 1971.
- ✓ More PYSO members go on to study at **Juilliard and Curtis** and many other top conservatories such as Colburn, Peabody, New England Conservatory etc. than any other local youth orchestra.



Clockwise from Top Left: PYSO in Beijing, China 2008; PYSO Poster in Leipzig, Germany, 2005, PYSO in Madrid, Spain 2017

What is involved with membership in PYSO:



2018-19 PYSO Members & Music Director Earl Lee on the Heinz Hall stage.

- Rehearsals normally take place on Sunday evenings September through May at Heinz Hall (downtown Pittsburgh).
- International concert tours take place every three years. The next tour should be to Scandinavia in June 2020.
- While there are membership dues, no student is ever unable to participate in PYSO due to lack of finances. Merit-based and need-based **scholarships** are available for membership dues and international tours

Need more information or have questions? Please call 412-392-4872 or email info@pyso.org.