



**Pittsburgh Youth
Symphony Orchestra
Handbook
2022-2023 Season**

**Heinz Hall
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This document has been produced for the reference and convenience of Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra members and their parents. The goal of the PYSO Handbook is to facilitate the operation of an artistically sound and smoothly run orchestra.

Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra

2022-2023 Season

Artistic and Administrative Staff

Jacob Joyce, Music Director
William Powers, Executive Director
Eve Goodman, Program Director/Music Librarian
Bridget McKenna, Manager of Marketing & Social Media

Sectional Coaches:

Violin 1.....Jeremy Black
Violin 2.....Dennis O’Boyle
Viola.....Marylène Gingras-Roy
Cello David Premo
BassJohn B. Moore
Woodwinds.....Jack Howell
Brass George Vosburgh
Percussion.....Shawn Galvin
Harp..... Gretchen Van Hoesen
Keyboard Rodrigo Ojeda

The **Mission** of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra is to teach and inspire musical excellence through orchestral training, to perform in premier venues, and to cultivate diverse audiences for classical music

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Membership

Membership in the orchestra is by invitation only, following highly competitive auditions. Maximum age for PYSO members is 20. If a student turns 21 during the season, they may remain in PYSO as a regular member until the end of that season. 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, seating auditions and concerts.

Diversity Statement & Policy (Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity)

The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra (PYSO) embraces diversity as a core aspect of the organization's mission. PYSO defines diversity as the inclusion of all groups and the exclusion of none. Since its founding in 1945, PYSO has been committed to making our educational programs and concerts accessible to a diverse audience, and we recognize that continued efforts must be made to ensure that our organization reflects the ideals of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility, both within the organization and externally.

- **Inclusion:** PYSO endeavors to foster a culture of mutual respect for all experiences, voices, stories, and contributions, and to create a culture of dignity, respect and belonging for all individuals. We aim to reflect this culture through our organizational structure and policies as well as in our interactions with our audiences and community.
- **Diversity:** PYSO recognizes that we do not equitably represent all our communities and we must continue our efforts to change this at all levels of the organization.
- **Equity:** The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra shall provide equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, physical characteristics and disabilities, or economic and social status.
- **Accessibility:** PYSO is committed to integrating accessibility principles at all levels, ensuring that those with visual, physical, sensory, or other accessibility needs can experience PYSO performances.

It is the policy of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra to afford equal employment opportunities to all individuals. PYSO will attempt to ensure that it recruits, hires, trains, transfers, and promotes persons in all job groups, without regard to race, creed, color, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, handicap or disability, perceived disability, citizenship status, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, marital status or veteran status, and any other protected category under the relevant federal or state laws.

COVID-19 Protocols

The safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, volunteers, guests, and the entire community are always our priority. All policies related to COVID-19 have been developed with consideration for recommendations and/or orders from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Allegheny County Health Department, and in accordance with Heinz Hall policies as well as best practices being developed in the performing arts industry. Only through the cooperative efforts of all of us in this organization can we establish and maintain the safety and health for all involved.

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PYSO's COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols are listed in Appendix A of this document. Protocols will continue to be updated and revised based on the circumstances of the pandemic and changes in Heinz Hall policies. Any significant changes to the policy will be relayed to students and parents via email. All PYSO students and parents should review and understand the PYSO Participant COVID-19 Waiver before signing the Membership Form. Please see Appendix B of this Handbook and carefully read the waiver explanation and release language.

School Music Programs/Private Study

All PYSO Members are strongly 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 ambassadors in their school ensembles.

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

Artistic Standards

The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra is dedicated to promoting and maintaining the highest artistic standards. It is our expectation that all members endeavor to attain their full musical potential. The Music Director, Executive Director, Program 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 Music Director, 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 Conductors.

Facilities

PYSO 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:

- Arrive no earlier than ½ hour (30 minutes) to PYSO rehearsals at Heinz Hall unless otherwise scheduled to do so.
- When the backstage lobby as well as the 4th floor rehearsal rooms, green room and other rooms backstage are being used by the PSO during their Sunday matinees, PYSO is **not** permitted in those areas until the PSO is finished.
- **No food or beverages are permitted on stage, backstage behind the acoustical shell, or in the auditorium of performance facilities.**
- The tables with red felt tops behind the acoustical shell at Heinz Hall are for instruments only. **Absolutely no food or beverages should ever be placed on them.**
- Do not disturb the stage or rehearsal room set-up. If assistance is needed, inform a PYSO staff member.

Attendance Policy

A guiding philosophy of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra is that professional responsibility is critical to musical excellence. Absences may negatively impact the orchestra's progress as well as be counterproductive to your own personal growth. However, we understand that absences may be unavoidable and have developed the following attendance policy.

Students are permitted a total of 5 absences per season, not to exceed more than 3 in any one rehearsal cycle leading up to a major concert.

- All members are expected to attend all scheduled orchestra rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.
- Reasons for absences will be treated on a case-by-case basis.
- Conflicts with religious holidays and/or mandatory school activities will not be counted as an absence if we are made aware of conflicts in advance.
- [Absence Forms](#) are located on the "[For Members](#)" page of the website and need to be filled out and submitted **online** no less than two weeks before the scheduled activity. The PYSO Staff evaluates absence requests/notifications on an individual basis.
- The [PYSO Calendar](#) located under the "What's Happening" tab on PYSO's website includes the 2022-23 season schedule and has the most up-to-date information for programs and activities.
- Weekly reminders will be posted by Friday midday on the For Members' page of the PYSO website. Reminders and last-minute changes or cancellations will be sent out via **Remind.com** as well as emailed to students and parents.
- Outside musical engagements (paid or unpaid), attending concerts or sporting events that are not a required school activity, are not legitimate reasons to miss rehearsal.
- In the case of sudden illness or emergency, please notify the PYSO office via telephone (412-392-4872); leave a message on voice mail if no one is in the office.
- Missing a dress rehearsal or concert is grounds for dismissal.
- Excessive absences and/or missing a dress rehearsal may result in reassignment of parts, re-seating in the section, loss of principal status, not being permitted to play a concert, or in extreme circumstances, being asked to leave the orchestra.
- Continued "forgetfulness" on the part of members to notify PYSO office Staff of their absence(s) can result in reassignment of parts, re-seating in the section, loss of principal status, not being permitted to play a concert, or in extreme circumstances, being asked to leave the orchestra.

TARDINESS & LEAVING EARLY: Late arrival to a rehearsal is not acceptable. It is unprofessional, irresponsible, and extremely disrespectful to your colleagues. Significant tardiness or leaving early, or regular such occurrences, may count as an absence or partial absence.

SUBSTITUTES for Woodwind, Brass & Percussion Players: If you will be absent from a rehearsal, please ASK your section mates to cover your part in your absence. Get their contact information at the first rehearsal so you can set this up BEFORE the rehearsal date you will be absent.

Department & Etiquette

PYSO members should always conduct themselves in a professional manner 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 Music Director, Coaches, and Orchestra Staff.

Out of respect for your colleagues please **do not** wear any perfume or cologne to rehearsals.

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:

- Use of cell phones on stage (or rehearsal room) during rehearsal *is prohibited!* If you are seen using one during rehearsal, it will be held until the end of rehearsal.
- Excessive absenteeism especially in the weeks prior to the concert. Students should discuss any anticipated absence with Mr. Powers and Ms. Goodman.
- Repeated failure to comply with concert dress policy.
- Failure to comply with the instructions of conductors, staff, PYSO volunteers, or staff of rehearsal facility.
- Physical violence or threats of physical violence towards any staff 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.

If you experience or witness any form of bullying or harassment, please notify a member of the PYSO staff immediately.

In the case of dismissal, no refund of tuition will be made.
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Instruments, Music, Personal Belongings

Instruments:

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 or leave it on the floor. Instruments should be safely put into cases when not being needed or not being played. All instruments should be insured. Most homeowner policies can include an inexpensive rider to cover instrument insurance.

PYSO has a small collection of instruments that students may borrow. These can be borrowed for the season or if your personal instrument is under repair. Should you need to borrow an instrument contact Ms. Goodman at eve@pyso.org.

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 notify your section mates and be sure your part is covered for rehearsal.

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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, unless instructed otherwise.

Personal Belongings

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

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.

The [PYSO Calendar](#) located under the “What’s Happening” tab on PYSO’s website includes the 2022-2023 season schedule and has the most up-to-date information for programs and activities. Weekly reminders also will be posted each Friday afternoon on the For Members’ page of the PYSO website. Last minute reminders, changes and/or cancellations will be sent out via **remind.com** as well as emailed to students and parents. **It is your responsibility to check the “For Members” page of PYSO’s website each week.** Additional announcements may be made at full orchestra rehearsals.

Rehearsal Breaks

There will be at least one substantial break at every rehearsal. You may bring or purchase a snack or beverage, but please keep all food and drinks away from the facility stage, backstage and auditorium. Do not be late to rehearsal after break. You should be in your seats and tuned a few minutes before rehearsal begins again.

Concert Attire

Orchestra concert dress should include black dress clothing from head to toe, such as:

- Black suit, **or**, black trousers and black sports coat **or** tuxedo pants/jacket with Black long sleeve button down shirt (**no white shirts**). Black leather dress shoes and solid black socks. Open collar, no tie.
- Black dress with sleeves or long black slacks or black skirt and solid black blouse with sleeves. Nothing strapless, nothing low cut. (Skirt and dress must cover the knees when seated.) Black shoes with closed toe & heel - no sandals. Jewelry must be minimal

Out of respect for your colleagues please **do not** wear any perfume or cologne to performances. Please refrain from wearing pins, medals, or other adornments.

Weather Emergency Cancellations/Schedule Changes

In the event of a weather emergency, which necessitates the last-minute cancellation of a rehearsal, PYSO will email as well as utilize Remind.com about the cancellation. Members may also **call the PYSO office 412-392-4872** to check for an announcement. Every effort will be made to record an announcement as far in advance of the rehearsal as possible.

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

Membership Dues

Membership dues for the 2022-2023 season are \$650. An additional \$25 will be applied to the dues for the PYSO Parent’s Association (please see PYSOPA section below for more information). More information about dues payments and payment plans can be found on the Membership Dues Invoice.

PYSO Scholarship Information

The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra Scholarship program provides financial assistance ranging from full to partial coverage of annual dues payments, tour expenses, and other related membership expenses. Scholarships are determined based on financial need and/or merit, and distributions are based on the funding available each season. This program ensures that the financial barriers to participating are as limited as possible and students who are accepted to PYSO are able to participate without the burden of financial hardship.

Membership Dues Scholarships

Any student may apply for scholarship assistance for membership dues by submitting the PYSO Membership Dues Scholarship. Scholarships for membership dues are available based on financial need and/or merit. Applications are reviewed, and allocations are determined, by members of the PYSO Staff and members of the Scholarship Committee of PYSO’s Board of Directors

Undergraduate Music Fellowship Scholarships

PYSO’s Undergraduate Music Fellowship Scholarships are designed for advanced student musicians who are currently attending a college or university in the Pittsburgh tri-state area. Applicants must complete this application each season even if they have previously received a scholarship or Fellowship from PYSO.

Tour Scholarships (applicable during a Tour season)

It is a long-standing tradition that the PYSO international tour is an integral part of our season and as such all PYSO students involved during the “regular” season, in a year a tour is planned, are expected to participate in the tour. We believe that no student should be prevented from participating in a tour due to lack of finances. Scholarships and financial assistance are available to assist in covering the expense of the tour. Scholarships are both need based merit-based scholarships. Scholarship requests are evaluated by PYSO staff and the Scholarship Committee of PYSO’s Board of Directors.

Applications for all PYSO Scholarships are located on the [Scholarships and Competitions](#) page of the PYSO website.

PYSO Parents’ Association (PYSOPA)

The main responsibilities of the Parents’ Association are: 1) to provide meals and/or snacks for students on concert days; 2) to raise funds to pay for these meals; and 3) to provide a yearbook for each PYSO Musician on the final concert of the season.

During seasons in which an international tour is planned, the PYSOPA, in collaboration with PYSO Staff, will endeavor to develop and implement fundraisers to assist in defraying tour expenses for the students.

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The Association is comprised of three leadership positions (President, Treasurer and Secretary) that are filled by parent volunteers. There are usually three meetings a year.

Parents wishing to participate in the Parents' Association should contact a PYSO staff member by calling 412-392-4872 or emailing info@pyso.org.

Travel & Parking

Members are generally expected to provide their own transportation to rehearsals and concerts, including outreach concerts, unless otherwise notified.

In general, please be prepared to pay to park in downtown Pittsburgh or in other areas of the city where rehearsals or performances may occur. Free street parking may be available on weekends in designated areas. Carpooling and/or public transportation is recommended. The PYSO office is happy to provide you with names and contact information of members who live near you and may wish to carpool, too. Please allow for additional travel time for such things as:

- Sports and other stadium events
- Parades
- Races, Walks
- Construction and Detours
- Inclement weather

For traffic conditions, you may want to check with google maps or other map/navigation system.

We will make our best efforts to warn everyone in advance of unusual or special events that will impact travel and parking (e.g. Steeler's games, parades, marathon, etc.).

For real time parking conditions (space availability) for downtown Pittsburgh parking garages (Pittsburgh Parking Authority) go to <http://parkpgh.org/>. You'll also find information on rates that will vary from garage to garage.

Appendix A:

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols

(as of July 22, 2022)

The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra is committed to providing a safe and healthy rehearsal space for all students, staff and volunteers. The following COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols for the 22-23 season are adopted by the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra in adherence with policies implemented by Heinz Hall and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. The measures are based on current CDC guidelines as well as on community case levels. In instances where PYSO utilizes outside venues for rehearsals or performances these policies will also apply, unless otherwise noted. PYSO will continue to revise and amend these policies as needed and notify students and parents of any major changes.

For more information about Heinz Hall’s audience policies, please visit their Strongly Together webpage which contains more information and FAQ’s: [STRONGLY TOGETHER](#).

Vaccinations:

All students and staff will need to be vaccinated in order to participate in all rehearsals and performances at Heinz Hall and other venues in which PYSO rehearses and/or performs. Heinz Hall policy indicates that being fully vaccinated includes any “additional vaccinations (e.g., boosters) as recommended by public health authorities.” Thus, all those eligible must consider getting their booster in order to be fully vaccinated under the policy. Boosters are currently available to students 18 and older.

Proof of vaccination and boosters (if applicable) will be required for all staff and student at Heinz Hall. Students may submit a picture of their vaccination card to Eve Goodman (eve@pyso.org). All documents will remain confidential.

If an exemption is necessary due to closely held religious beliefs or medical reasons, please bring this to the attention of the PYSO Staff immediately. Exemptions will be appropriately considered in accordance with the policies of Heinz Hall.

Students with vaccine exemptions will be asked to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test prior to each rehearsal and/or performance - either a PCR test taken within 72 hours of a rehearsal and/or performance, or an antigen test taken within 24 hours of a rehearsal and/or performance. A picture of the negative test must be emailed to Eve Goodman (eve@pyso.org) each week by 4:00 pm on Sundays, unless otherwise notified. All information will remain confidential.

Masks/Facial Coverings:

Mask/facial coverings usage will be guided by Heinz Hall policy and based on community transmission levels as indicated by CDC guidelines. According to the CDC, community transmission levels are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in the area.

To determine the current transmission rates in Allegheny County please visit:

[COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)

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The following policies for masks/face covering will apply at Heinz Hall (and other venues utilized by PYSO) based on the current transmission rate in Allegheny County:

Low:

Masks are optional. If student experiences any COVID-19 symptoms they should get tested. Visitors are permitted backstage with proof of vaccination.

Medium:

Masks are required backstage and onstage. (winds and brass may remove mask when rehearsing/performing only). Students should make all effort to social distance. If student experiences any COVID-19 symptoms they should get tested. Backstage visitors are permitted with proof of vaccination.

High:

Masks are required (winds and brass may remove mask when rehearsing/performing only). Students should make all efforts to social distance. If student experiences any COVID-19 symptoms they should get tested. Backstage visitors are not permitted.

Under circumstances when masks are required, students are asked to bring their own masks/face coverings. All woodwind and brass instrumentalists should wear a musician's mask when rehearsing. Flute players may request to pull down their masks when playing. If you are not able to provide one, please inform a member of the PYSO Staff immediately.

At Home Health Screening

Students are asked to continue self-screenings for any COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, aches, nausea, diarrhea, sore throat, etc) and to check that their temperature is below 100.4°F **PRIOR** to coming to Heinz Hall or other venues utilized by PYSO. If you experience any of these symptoms on the day of a PYSO rehearsal, performance, or event, please notify a member of the PYSO staff. You will be asked to stay home. You will be allowed to return to rehearsals upon being symptom free and receiving a negative COVID-19 test.

In the event student tests positive for COVID-19:

- Student must not attend a rehearsal or performance for 5 days from the day they first started to experience symptoms or tested positive.
- Student must be fever and symptom free (w/o medication) for 24 hours before returning.
- Student will be requested to present a negative COVID-19 test before returning.
- If Student never had symptoms, they can return 5 days after the date of their positive test (the date the sample was taken). They must wear a mask for an additional 5 days whenever they are around people.

Close contact with COVID-19

Vaccinated students that experience close contact with COVID-19 should monitor for any symptoms for at least 10 days. Students may be allowed to attend rehearsals and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Students who attend rehearsals after a close contact (but experiencing no symptoms) will be required to wear a mask within a 10-day period of exposure. Students should get tested again after 5 days of the exposure. Any close contacts resulting from PYSO related activities will be notified immediately by phone and email.

Heinz Hall:

Hand sanitizer stations have been installed throughout the Hall and backstage areas. Heinz Hall is being cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis. Heinz Hall utilizes a Needlepoint bipolar ionization machine on stage to assist with ventilation and cleanliness. Bathrooms remain single use and are cleaned daily. Touchless sinks have also been added to the restrooms.

Rehearsal safety protocols:

PYSO reserves the right to increase the distance between seating for the safety and comfort of its students.

All woodwind and brass students should bring their own receptacle in which to empty their spit valves. Musicians should dispose of these at the end of rehearsal.

When community transmissions are at the low and/or medium levels, family members will be allowed to enter the building for rehearsals. When community transmission is at the high level, family members will not be allowed to enter the building for rehearsals.

APPENDIX B:

COVID-19 Waiver and Explanation

The safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, volunteers, and the entire community are always our first priority. For this reason it is important that we all understand and agree that while PYSO, and its home at Heinz Hall, have undertaken reasonable steps to lessen the risk of transmission of COVID-19, we understand that participation at in-person activities carries with it certain inherent risks related to COVID-19 transmission that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid such risks.

While rules, guidance, adherence to agreed protocols and personal discipline may reduce the possibility of contracting COVID-19, the risk of serious illness and death does exist. Participation in PYSO carries with it certain “inherent risks” related to COVID-19 transmission (“Inherent Risks”). Inherent Risks may include, but are not limited to:

- The risk of coming into close contact with individuals or objects that may be carrying COVID-19;
- The risk of transmitting or contracting COVID-19, directly or indirectly, to or from other individuals;
- Injuries and complications ranging in severity from minor to catastrophic, including death, resulting directly or indirectly from COVID-19 or the treatment thereof;
- The risks are not fully understood, and that contact with, or transmission of, COVID-19 may result in risks including but not limited to loss, personal injury, sickness, death, damage and expense, the exact nature of which are not currently ascertainable, and all of which are to be considered Inherent Risks.

The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra (PYSO), and Heinz Hall, have implemented protection protocols to heighten personal protection and reduce the incidence and spread of communicable diseases in accordance with the recognized continuing guidance from health officials. PYSO cannot completely mitigate the transfer of communicable diseases like COVID-19 especially when performing artists are involved in approved performance venues, including Heinz Hall, and other approved performance or musical public activities. Participation in these activities includes possible exposure to and illness, injury, or death from infectious diseases including COVID-19. By signing this document, the participant voluntarily accepts and assumes all risk of loss, personal injury, sickness, death, damage, and expense arising from such “Inherent Risks.” Furthermore, the participant represents and warrants that they do not suffer from any medical condition or disease that may in any way hinder or prevent them from participating in PYSO, including, to their knowledge, COVID-19.

**PYSO Participant Waiver, Release,
Indemnification of All Claims & Covenant Not to Sue**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. THIS DOCUMENT AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND IS LEGALLY BINDING. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT YOU ARE RELEASING PITTSBURGH YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (PYSO) FROM ALL LIABILITY AND FOREVER GIVING UP ANY CLAIMS THEREFORE

Assumption of Risk

I, in my legal capacity as parent/guardian of the minor named below (“Minor”), acknowledge and agree that any use of **PYSO** facilities, services, equipment and premises (“Facilities”) and any participation in **PYSO** programs and activities (“Programs”) comes with inherent risks including, but in no way limited to: (1) moderate and severe personal injury, (2) property damage, (3) disability, (4) death, and (5) sickness or disease including, without limitation, COVID-19. I voluntarily, for myself and Minor, accept and assume full responsibility for these risks as well as any and all other risks of the use of Facilities and participation in Programs. I agree that I have full knowledge of the nature and extent of all such risks and am not relying on all such risks being described in this document.

Waiver, Release, Indemnification & Covenant Not to Sue

In consideration of Minor’s use of Facilities and participation in Programs I, in my legal capacity as parent/guardian of Minor, agree on behalf of myself and Minor that **PYSO**, its officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers, insurers and representatives (“Releasees”) will not be liable for any personal injury, property damage, disability, death, sickness or disease incurred by Minor, however occurring including, but not limited to, the negligence of Releasees. I understand that Minor and I will be solely responsible for any loss or damage, including personal injury, property damage, disability, death, sickness or disease sustained from the use of Facilities and participation in Programs.

I further agree, in my legal capacity as the parent/guardian of Minor, on behalf of Minor, myself, and any and all legal successors and proxies, to release and **HEREBY DO RELEASE, WAIVE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE** Releasees from any causes of action, claims, suits, liabilities or demands of any nature whatsoever including, but in no way limited to, claims of negligence, which Minor, myself, and any and all legal successors and proxies may have, now or in the future, against Releasees on account of personal injury, property damage, disability, death, sickness, disease or accident of any kind, arising out of or in any way related to the use of Facilities or participation in Programs, whether that participation is supervised or unsupervised, however the injury or damage occurs, including, but not limited to, the negligence of Releasees.

In further consideration of the use of Facilities and participation in Programs, I, in my legal capacity as parent/guardian of Minor, agree on behalf of myself and Minor to **INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS** Releasees from any and all causes of action, claims, demands, losses, suits, liabilities or costs of any nature whatsoever, including claims of negligence, arising out of or in any way related to the use of Facilities and participation in Programs.