



The Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra is composed of talented young musicians from Chicago's south/southwest suburbs who present an annual subscription series as well as several other performances in the area. In addition to the orchestral concerts and ensemble performances, SYSO members benefit from coaching and sectionals with professional musicians and the experience of learning and performing orchestral music composed by both old masters and new

innovators. Weekly rehearsals on Saturdays from September through May offer the opportunity for student musicians to form close friendships as well as to grow musically. Attendance at all weekly rehearsals is mandatory, with two exceptions: illness, and music-related functions at which your attendance is required by your school.

Membership in the SYSO includes a two-month chamber music experience as part of the program, inspiring you to achieve a higher level of musical growth and responsibility. Each member is assigned to a small group of chamber players, based on compatible skill levels. The ensembles are given chamber music at the appropriate level and are coached by professional musicians during regular rehearsals. At the end of the unit, groups will give a public chamber music performance.



Meet Your Conductor

Doug Ackerson is a musical eclectic. He plays twelve different instruments, and has been called a "Renaissance man" who has worked in absolutely everything related to Music Education. "A delightful, inspiring, and highly gifted master teacher," his primary interest for thirty years has been to energize string ensembles in Minnesota, Illinois, and Colorado. A world traveler, he has collected many artifacts and stories to enrich his teaching.

Doug did his undergraduate work as a cellist up in the North Country of Minnesota at Bemidji State University, and did graduate work in String Development under Dr. Marvin Rabin at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Since then he has worked with string groups from elementary to high school and currently teaches in Lockport. He has written and arranged a number of excellent string solos and orchestral pieces, and loves to sit in with his guitar, fiddle, or bouzouki on session night at the pub whenever he gets a chance.

Please contact us at
(708) 744-0462
or email: asksyso@hotmail.com

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Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra



Enriching Life Through Music

Let us take you in a new direction

The Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra

Come be the Key to a New Ensemble



The Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra is a multidimensional program for young musicians in 6th through 10th grades. It is designed to provide a stimulating, high-quality musical ensemble experience, with instruction in orchestral technique, literature, ensemble and musicianship.

Come join your colleagues on this exciting adventure that will maximize every musical moment and develop your talents as an orchestral player, solo artist, and chamber musician.

As a member of the Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra, you'll have many opportunities to develop friendships with your fellow students, encouraging enlightened music making, increased knowledge of instruments in a different family of the orchestra, and sense of belonging in the diverse musical community of Chicago's Southland.



SYSO Can Teach You:

- Challenging orchestral repertoire
- Advanced orchestral training
- Coaching by leading professional musicians, many of whom perform with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra
- Guest appearances by nationally recognized soloists, such as Rachel Barton-Pine and Emil Chudnovsky
- Chamber ensemble training and performance opportunities
- Lasting friendships

Audition Requirements

At your audition, be prepared to play:

- Two 2-octave scales
- A prepared selection, auditionee's choice, lasting 3 minutes (*the selection should demonstrate contrast in both tempo and dynamics*)
- A brief sight-reading exercise, music provided by audition judge



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.



Auditions are held by appointment in June and September, and when seats become vacant. For additional information, or to schedule an audition, please contact the General Manager at **(708) 744-0462** or email: asksyso@hotmail.com