

CENTRAL ILLINOIS
YOUTH SYMPHONY 
IS EVOLVING TO
YOUTH MUSIC ILLINOIS

June 30, 2017

Greetings, CIYS Families -

Thank you for your support and involvement with Central Illinois Youth Symphony!
There are a number of significant changes in process, and we want to let you know what they are, why they are happening, and how they will affect you.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS YOUTH SYMPHONY TO YOUTH MUSIC ILLINOIS

CIYS has served outstanding student musicians for over 50 years under the name of Central Illinois Youth Symphony, through our orchestral and ensemble performance programs. This year we are evolving to “Youth Music Illinois” an institutional name change that reflects a broader vision and future new opportunities for the student musicians we serve. The core programs will remain, including Youth Symphony, Concert Orchestra, Prep Orchestra, and ensembles. “CIYS, YS, CICO, and PREP” are names that will live on – with us and with our alumni. What is new will be added to our great traditions, and not subtract from or replace them.

We are in process of creating a new logo and designing a new website to reflect the change. Please bear with us as we accomplish this work while continuing all the normal operations and communications you need and deserve from us.

YOUTH SYMPHONY REHEARSALS MOVING TO SUNDAY AFTERNOON
(CICO AND PREP SCHEDULES REMAIN UN-CHANGED)

As you well know, our student musicians are incredibly busy, with ever increasing time demands on their lives. Expanding obligations particularly burden YS students; demanding school coursework (often for AP classes), school music programs, athletics, and volunteer activities put huge pressure on their schedules. Many kids arrive at YS rehearsal Thursday night tired out from the day and the week, and anticipating homework and study following the rehearsal, because of Friday tests or papers. Recognizing these challenges, and the limitations to rehearsal length and format imposed by a weeknight schedule, the CIYS board of directors voted to move Youth Symphony rehearsals to Sunday afternoons. This decision became real last week, when we reached an agreement with First Federated Church, our host and landlord at the Life Together Center. We can confirm this move now, for YS only: Concert Orchestra and Prep Orchestra will remain at their traditional times on Thursday evenings.

The Sunday schedule will allow for more flexibility in rehearsal, including more focused and “sectional” rehearsal time. This will result in quicker progress and better performances at concert time. Here is how Sunday’s will work for YS musicians:

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There will be three basic Sunday schedules, all falling within the 3PM to 6 PM time frame:

- A. Triple Format: (Maestro Commanday)
 - a. Strings rehearse from 3 to 5 PM
 - b. Winds, Brass, and Percussion arrive for 3:50 to setup and warmup
 - c. Full Orchestra rehearsal from 4 to 5
 - d. Strings leave at 5, Winds and Brass and Percussion rehearse 5:10 to 6 PM

- B. Sectional Day (Sectional teachers)
 - a. Sectionals in various configurations from 3 to 4:20 (e.g. String sections)
 - b. Sectionals in various configurations from 4:40 to 6 PM (e.g. Wind, Brass, Percussion)

- C. Full Rehearsal (Maestro Commanday)
 - a. Full orchestra rehearsal from 3 to 5:30 PM.

YS families will be sent a detailed schedule of the Fall 2017 rehearsal schedule in July, indicating which rehearsal format from these three will be followed for each Sunday leading up to the Fall Concert. Practically speaking, a member of YS will generally have 2 to 2 and ½ hours of rehearsal on any Sunday, always between 3 and 6 PM.

Not every Sunday will have a rehearsal: this Fall there will be no Sunday rehearsal on Labor Day or Thanksgiving Day weekends.

We understand that change can be difficult. For some this change will be welcome, and for others it will pose a challenge. We hope that the challenges can be met, and adjusted to - and that everyone who qualifies to play in YS will be able to participate on late Sunday afternoon.

If your student has not auditioned for, or not committed to YS for this Fall Semester due to Thursday evening conflicts, please consider this and let us know if he/she can now participate. YS musicians from the Spring 2017 semester who fall into this category can sign up without separate entrance audition, and come straight to a seating hearing in August with all other members.

Another round of auditions will be offered on August 10th to accommodate new interest. So, if you know of other young musicians who have not played in YS in the past because of the Thursday problem but might now be able to, please tell them about this change. Please have them reach out to Carrie at carrie@youthmusicillinois.org with any questions, and/or to be added to the list for new auditions.

If you are a Youth Symphony student, or parent of one, for whom Sunday rehearsals do not work, please contact me at jeffmcsweeney@youthmusicillinois.org. We are working on ideas to accommodate students who are not able to participate in Sunday rehearsals.

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One final note on ensembles: Ensemble schedules are being worked out now following the resolution of the YS rehearsal day question. For Fall, 2017:

Woodwind and Brass Ensembles will be on pause for the Fall semester, due to low enrollments.

String Chamber Music schedule: TBA, most likely to be scheduled for Thursday evenings.

(Students who auditioned for Honors String Quartet will hear details on this at the earliest opportunity, and by mid-July at latest.)

Percussion Ensemble - time and day to be determined - a shift to Sunday for Fall Semester is possible. (If you are a percussion family, please tell us if Sunday rehearsals in Fall would open this up as a possibility for you during marching season.)

2017/18 SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 10, 2017 – pre-season auditions

Friday & Saturday, August 11 & 12, 2017 – seating hearings for YS & CICO

Sunday, August 13, 2017 – orientation, first rehearsal – parents are expected to attend part of this

Thursday, August 17, 2017 – first Thursday rehearsal

Sunday, August 20, 2017 – second Sunday rehearsal for Youth Symphony

Thursday, November 16, 2017 – CICO, Prep & Ensembles dress rehearsal

Sunday, November 19, 2017 - CICO, Prep & Ensembles at Metamora High School

Friday, December 1, 2017 – Youth Symphony Concert at ICC Performing Arts Center

Thursday, January 11, 2018 – first rehearsal

Sunday, January 14, 2018 – first Sunday rehearsal

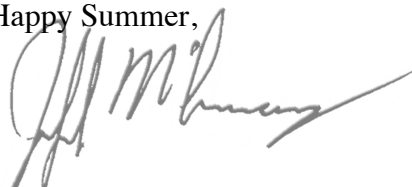
Thursday, April 26, 2018 – Youth Symphony Rehearsal at ICC Performing Arts

Friday, April 27, 2018 – Youth Symphony Concert at ICC Performing Arts Center

Sunday, April 29, 2018 – Prep, CICO & Ensembles at Metamora High School

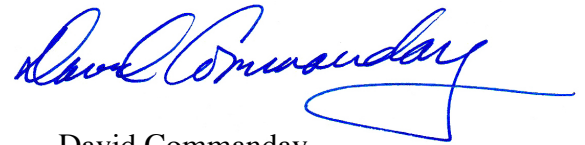
Please feel free to reach out with any questions or observations as this organization evolves to best serve our student musicians.

Happy Summer,



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Executive Director

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