

Peabody Preparatory String Department

# Young People's String Program (YPSP)

## Student Information

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the Young People's String Program. This program is structured to provide a supportive and nurturing environment for students ages 4-12 so that they may develop in their musicianship to their fullest potential. This information that follows is to familiarize you with the pertinent details of the Young People's String Program.

Please feel free to ask questions any time of the YPSP Co-Directors, Dr. Ahreum Kim (upper strings) and Ms. Alicia Ward (lower strings). You may also speak with your private or group teacher. If at any time you wish immediate assistance, please contact the Peabody campus (downtown) Preparatory Office at 667-208-6640.

Wishing you a joyful and musical year.

Sincerely,



Ahreum Kim, Upper Strings



Alicia Ward, Lower Strings  
Co-Directors, Young People's String Program

## **YPSP Group Classes: Purpose and Philosophy**

Group classes are an essential part of a string student's musical development. It is a time when elements of private lessons are reinforced in a group setting, and students work together on their ensemble playing, listening of pitch, and matching of articulation. Students develop their team and leadership skills. It is also an opportunity for students to perform pieces for each other in a supportive and nurturing environment.

## **YPSP Group Concerts**

There are two group concerts per year that involve the entire YPSP. These concerts are usually held on a Sunday in the Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall on the Peabody campus (downtown). There is always a mandatory dress rehearsal on Saturday morning, the weekend of the concert. The Halloween Concert is performed in costume at the end of October and the Winter Concert is held in February.

## **Attendance Policy**

Attendance at weekly group classes is a requirement to perform. All students that perform in the YPSP group concerts may miss no more than two group classes. The Concert Weekend involves attendance at the Dress Rehearsal and the Concert. Part of our mission in the Young People's String Program is to teach our students that they are an important part of a larger effort and that their contribution has value. All students who are playing in the concert **MUST** attend the dress rehearsal. We do understand that families may need to choose other events that conflict, and that may be disappointing, but more concerts and recitals are always just around the corner to look forward to for your child. Thank you for your understanding of this policy.

## **Punctuality**

Please arrive 5 minutes early to your group class. If you arrive late, unpack your instrument in the hallway, wait for a stop in the playing and then enter quietly. Your teacher or an assistant will tune your instrument as soon as possible.

## **Materials**

Students in the violin Powell group, viola Tuttle group, and cello Navarra group and up should bring a binder and a pencil to group.

## **Daily Practice and Listening**

One parent attends each private lesson and group class. It is important that this parent set aside time each day to practice at home with your child.

Daily listening to the repertoire that your child is working on and will work is an integral part of their daily musical education. In daily listening, your child will gain ease in learning new repertoire, security in their memory, as well as their understanding of phrasing, pitch, and rhythm.

## **Placement in Group Classes**

Group class placement is made collectively by YPSP faculty members and is considered a year-long ensemble assignment. Decisions are made based on the student's age, level, technical facility, musical maturity and reading ability, in addition to group dynamics and class size. Your private lesson teacher will let you know which level group class to register for.

## **Performing Solos**

Students are encouraged to perform solos frequently, with their private instructor's permission, as a part of group classes.

Approximately three soloists may perform in each weekly group class. Individual instruction teachers will let students know when they should offer to perform and will sign students up prior to class. Students should sign up online to rehearse with a pianist prior to performing their solo in class. Please refer to the Accompanist Guidelines in this packet for information on how to sign up for a piano rehearsal. Solos are not heard in classes for the two-weeks prior to YPSP concerts.

## **Find more information on our website**

Information about YPSP is available on the Peabody website

<http://peabody.jhu.edu/ypsp>. Posted information includes YPSP group class dates, student information, and summer programs.

## **Recommended Reading**

Nurtured by Love, Shinichi Suzuki

To Learn with Love: A Companion for Suzuki Parents, William and Constance Starr  
Ability Development from Age Zero, Shinichi Suzuki