

INTRODUCTION

The Maud Powell String Quartet (MPSQ) offers an unparalleled opportunity for advanced string players (high school and college age) to play chamber music at the highest level, and to work with some of the finest artist-teachers and chamber music coaches in the Midwest, and to represent the EYSO at performances and events throughout the year. Through the generous financial support of Joyce Dlugopolski, tuition for this honors ensemble is fully covered by scholarship.

RETREAT/PARENT MEETING

MPSQ's season begins with a retreat, where students work with their coach, rehearse, and get to know one another. In September, there will be a brief performance for all Honors Chamber Ensemble family members with a required introductory meeting for all HCE students along with their parents/guardians.

COACH

We are thrilled to welcome back Max Raimi and Tim Archbold to coach MPSQ this year. Mr. Raimi is a violist and long-time member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as well as being an active composer and chamber music coach at Northwestern University. Mr. Archbold is a cellist with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and renowned educator.

SCHEDULE AND SUNDAY REHEARSALS

Weekly rehearsals take place at ECC on Sundays from 3:00-4:30 pm.

MPSQ has a shared Google Calendar including all coaching and performance information. This will be updated throughout the year. Performances and non-Sunday coachings are scheduled only after confirming availability of all members. Our coaches are artist-teachers with full schedules, and it is our responsibility to make appointments with them months in advance.

Once a coaching or performance is on the calendar, it cannot be moved. All members have edit access to block off times they are unavailable for school and family functions. Should a potential school conflict with a previously scheduled coaching arise, email the Chamber Music Operations Coordinator immediately.

ADDITIONAL WEEKLY REHEARSALS

MPSQ meets once a week for a self-led rehearsal between coachings. This rehearsal is scheduled at a time and place of your choosing. Most should take place at the home of one of the members, but for one-time venue changes, EYSO staff may be able assist in finding a space.

This self-led rehearsal is a critical part of the HCE process. It allows each ensemble to grow and progress between coachings with teaching artists, and it is required weekly. If there is a one-time scheduling conflict, you are expected to make up that rehearsal at a different time.

All self-led rehearsals should include all members of the ensemble. It is the ensemble's responsibility to ensure that this happens and to be in touch with EYSO staff if problems arise.

LOCATIONS

The normal rehearsal and coaching location is the ECC Arts Center. Occasionally, HCEs will be responsible for transportation to places such as the Hemmens Auditorium in Elgin, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Symphony Center in Chicago, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Safety is paramount in these instances: all traffic and transportation laws must be followed. Expenses for transportation are not included in the scholarship and must be provided by each member.

COMMUNICATION

The primary and preferred method of communication is email. HCE members must check email daily and respond to questions from EYSO staff by indicated deadlines. Each member will also be provided with the phone numbers of everyone in their ensemble and the necessary EYSO staff. If any of your pertinent information changes, please email Anaka Riani (arriani@eyso.org) and office@eyso.org to update the MPSQ roster.

HCE members can contact EYSO staff via phone or text in emergencies. **Under no circumstances should HCE members contact coaches or guest artists via phone.** This is to preserve the integrity of the artist-EYSO relationship, and to ensure accurate, timely, and appropriate communication.

PROTOCOL FOR MISSING A REHEARSAL/COACHING

99.9% of all scheduling conflicts can be prevented and resolved in two words: *plan ahead*. Schedules are confirmed weeks and months in advance. Reasons for missing a performance, coaching, or rehearsal are extraordinarily limited. By planning ahead and managing your calendar, double-booking should not happen.

The limited exception to this is when information about school music events is shared late. In the unlikely situation where you learn of a school responsibility in conflict with an EYSO event in the middle of the year, we will make every attempt to change the schedule. Contact EYSO staff as soon as you find out about a conflict with a school music event.

All coachings and performances for HCEs are treated as EYSO concerts. Only extenuating circumstances, such as a death in the family or serious illness, are acceptable reasons for absence. In such cases, you should contact Anaka Riani (arriani@eyso.org) and Mr. Sheppard (msheppard@eyso.org) and copy the EYSO office (office@eyso.org) with as much notice as possible.

The only two people who may cancel a coaching or performance are Anaka Riani and Mr. Sheppard. **There is no situation that would warrant a member of MPSQ calling coaches or other members to cancel an event.** In the event of inclement weather, you will receive a call from the Anaka Riani confirming next steps. (In this instance, if you are unsure, you can reach out in advance for clarification.)

Here are some examples of events that have happened or could happen, and if they would be considered extenuating circumstances:

1. Your father locks his keys in the car, and you have the only other set. To drive to give him the keys immediately would mean missing a coaching.
You should: go to the coaching.
2. You are in the hospital.
You should: have your parents contact Anaka Riani or Mr. Sheppard.
3. You have a cough and a slight fever.
You should: go to the coaching.
4. Your carpool cancelled and you don't have a ride.
You should: contact Anaka Riani or Mr. Sheppard.
5. You have a lot of homework.
You should: go to the coaching.
6. There is a major blizzard, and all travel is discouraged.
You should: reach out to EYSO staff if you have not yet heard from them. (You will receive a call from Anaka Riani postponing the coaching.)

If a situation arises and you have a question about it, please contact Anaka Riani and Mr. Sheppard. ***Again, under no circumstance should members of HCEs call coaches or other members to cancel a performance or coaching.***

ENSEMBLE SIGN, SIGN TRIPOD, PORTFOLIO

One member of MPSQ will be designated to take possession of the ensemble's sign (displaying the EYSO logo and the names of the ensemble and its members), along with its tripod and portfolio case, for the duration of the season. The sign should be displayed at every performance during the season (unless otherwise indicated by the EYSO staff). In the event of loss or damage to any equipment, please contact Anaka Riani. The sign, tripod, and portfolio must be returned to Anaka Riani, after the final event of the season.

ENSEMBLE MUSIC STANDS

Each member of MPSQ will be assigned a Peak folding music stand and carrying bag for the duration of the season. It is your responsibility to bring and use this stand at every performance during this season. Stands must be returned to the EYSO office after the final event of the season. Lost or damaged stands incur a \$40 replacement fee. In the event of loss or damage to stands, please contact Anaka Riani (arriani@eyso.org).

REPERTOIRE SELECTION

HCEs explores standard chamber music repertoire throughout the season. Repertoire is chosen and assigned by your coach, with EYSO staff. You are encouraged to share your thoughts, insights, suggestions, and preferences for repertoire! When possible and appropriate, these are taken into consideration. The more active YOU are with your repertoire selection and progression, the more you will get out of this experience!

RECORDING

EYSO can provide you with a camera/microphone to capture recordings for study purposes, auditions, and competitions. Reach out to EYSO staff for these resources.

PERFORMANCES

Each ensemble has multiple performance opportunities throughout the year, such as:

- Fall and spring semester CMI concerts
- Main-stage EYSO concerts
- HCE recital at the end of the year
- School-day tours
- Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition
- WFMT Introductions
- NPR From the Top
- ECC graduation ceremonies
- Fundraising events
- Civic events representing EYSO

Many of these performances, such as the EYSO concerts and CMI concerts, are already scheduled. Others, such as the school-day tours, will be scheduled once the semester begins. At times, the EYSO receives requests from local organizations for a chamber ensemble to play for an event on a specific day. We expect HCE members to make themselves as available as possible for such performances. If some members are unavailable, we will arrange for substitutes where they are needed.

At all types of performances, members must wear standard EYSO Youth Symphony concert attire (see EYSO Handbook), unless otherwise instructed.

SAMPLE REHEARSAL

Here is an outline of a self-led rehearsal:

- 5-10 min: ensemble warm-up (Bach chorales, scales, or other)
- 35-45 min: rehearse movements that will be coached. During this time, identify 5-6 specific points you would like the coach to address. These can be related to ensemble, tuning, technical challenges of instruments, or other musical ideas.
- 25-35 min: new or other repertoire
- Review music to be coached once again.
- Plan your next rehearsal.

Acknowledgement:

I have read the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestras Maud Powell String Quartet Sample Handbook and agree to follow the expectations set forth. I understand that failure to do so may result in early termination from the group.

Signature John Smith

Please Print John Smith

Date 1/1/25

Parent/Guardian Signature Jane S. Smith

Please Print Jane S. Smith

Date 1/1/25