

January 23, 2022

Dear Holly Strings Youth Orchestra Parents and Youth,

Welcome to the 2022 Spring HSYO Session! We are looking forward to a season filled with beautiful music-making, growth, learning, performance, confidence-building, and camaraderie! Due to COVID-19, per Town of Holly Springs Cultural Center rules, masks must be worn at each rehearsal and performance.

Please take note of the important information about the HYSO provided in this packet.

**Spring Calendar:** The fall calendar of events and performances, rehearsals, and activity themes are attached. Please note that there are a few optional but encouraged performances and rehearsals.

**Concert Attire:** HSYO participants will wear HSYO shirts, black pants or skirt, and black shoes for performances. Please leave dangly earrings, bracelets, and necklaces at home. Hair should be comfortably pulled back from the face and neck. It is helpful for fingernails to be kept short.

**Attendance and Practicing:** Please make every effort to attend each rehearsal and performance, and to practice regularly during the week at home. Attached is a practice log for your use only - this does not need to be turned in to me. We know that scheduling conflicts and incidents come up, no problem! Keep in mind that for extensive absences, we may need to ask a participant to sit out of a performance, if the participant is not able to keep pace with the rest of the group due to the absences. Thank you for your understanding.

**Performances:** This is my favorite part!! A special part of the HSYO is that we strive to share our music with the community. In a non-COVID environment, you would see additional community performances in addition to the HSYO end of session concert on our calendar. These performances are not required but strongly encouraged. And, they're fun! We will continue to follow COVID guidelines and try our best to add performances to our calendar when appropriate.

**Food/Allergy Awareness:** At times we will have a treat or two at rehearsals (ok I actually do a lot of treats). I usually have my candy basket handy at rehearsals for the youth to grab a small treat on their way out. We will have an ice-cream social this session and a celebration of spring birthdays with cupcakes. If you have any dietary restrictions that you'd like me to be aware of, please let me know.

**Photos:** In the past I have taken photos of the youth during HSYO activities and posted the photos to our Facebook page and website. If you would like your child to not be included in photos, please let me know on the attached form to be returned to class.

**Contact:** Please feel free to contact me at any time and for any reason. I can be reached on my cell phone at 912-401-1070; and by email hsyouthorchestra@gmail.com. Regular updates on HSYO activities will be posted on our Facebook page @HollyStringsYouthOrchestra and our website http://hsyouthorchestra.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children! Stay "tuned" for a great year with HSYO!

Sincerely,

Erin P. Paré

Interim Conductor and President of the HSYO