

To: Parents and Students of Preucil School String Orchestra (PSSO)
From: Sonja Zeithamel, Anthony Arnone & Carey Bostian
Date: August 2021
Re: PSSO (Philharmonia & Sinfonietta) for 2021-22

Welcome everyone! A new year will be starting which means a new beginning for our PSSO. We are super excited about this opportunity to once again work with this unique group. How wonderful to be able to resume learning and exploring music together! We will not take anything for granted, so plan on COVID Safety Guidelines to be in place. (TBA closer to the start of the season on November 1.)

We return with the same format for PSSO as we used in 2019-2020. Philharmonia and Sinfonietta will rehearse as separate orchestras and they will come together to play as the PSSO. Anthony Arnone will be conducting Sinfonietta, Carey Bostian will conduct Philharmonia and they both will work with PSSO.

Auditions for Sinfonietta will be held on Sunday, October 17 from 1-3 pm. Depending on the number auditioning, you may be given a specific time to audition. All students who audition must meet the playing requirements, so please confer with your teacher at the beginning of the school year. If you will be trying out, please let Sonja Zeithamel know directly so you will be assigned a time: szeithamel@preucil.org. Those Sinfonietta members from 2019-20 orchestra season need not re-audition.

One of our many disappointments from COVID was the cancellation of the International PSSO Tour for the Summer of 2021. We are very happy to announce that we have rescheduled the tour for June 18-26 of 2022 and already have an exciting group signed up. If you have missed getting this news and are interested in your student having this opportunity, it is not too late! Please contact Sharon Sonnleitner at sharon-sonnleitner@preucil.org.

The 2022 PSSO International Tour – our ninth in 31 years will taking us to culturally rich Germany and the Czech Republic where so much of our musical heritage originated. Students traveling on the tour are funded in part by a grant from an anonymous donor who wanted to help students have life enriching experiences through music and reward them for their hard work and dedication. So, membership in the School's orchestra program is expected leading up to the tour.

Two years ago last May, William Lobkowitz a nobleman from the house of Lobkowitz and current heir and manager of most of the Lobkowitz lands in the Czech Republic, along with son Will, visited Preucil School and extended a personal invitation to the PSSO to play at the Lobkowitz Palace inside Prague Castle and Nelahozeves Castle 15 miles outside of Prague. Performing in and touring these historic sites will be special cultural experiences for our students! Through this tour, our young ambassadors, along with conductor Carey Bostian, will continue the PSSO's tradition of sharing music around the globe and meeting the people of the region we are visiting. Please watch for tour meeting announcements in early fall.

The 14 - week PSSO season will begin on Monday, November 1, and continue through the March Orchestra Festival. All PSSO rehearsals are held at North Campus, 5:45 – 7:00 pm., rooms TBA. Attendance will be a priority and recorded weekly. Those students not meeting the attendance requirements may have their seating adjusted or their membership re-evaluated.

PSSO Tour rehearsals begin on Mondays, following Spring Break with conductor, Carey Bostian.

Please read the enclosed materials with your student(s) carefully. Your orchestra payment and signature on the contract, along with your son or daughter's signature on the Student Agreement Form indicates your agreement to abide by the enclosed PSSO Attendance Policy and Membership and Rehearsal Expectations.

Thank you in advance for your commitment to this outstanding group.

Enclosures:

Membership Policy	Attendance Policy
Rehearsal Information	Excused Absence Form
Student Agreement	Monday Group & Orchestra Schedule