



# Louisville Youth Choir 59th Consecutive Season Handbook

Information and Guidelines  
for Enrolled Singers and their Families

**The Louisville Youth Choir, Inc.**

Artists in Residence at Sacred Heart School for the Arts (SHSA)  
3105 Lexington Road, Angela Hall, Building 17, Louisville, KY 40206

**SHSA Office:** 502.897.1816

**Website:** [www.louyouthchoir.org](http://www.louyouthchoir.org) **Email:** [info@louyouthchoir.org](mailto:info@louyouthchoir.org)

## Hello!

Welcome to the 59th Consecutive Season of the Louisville Youth Choir. During its nearly 6 decades of service to the Louisville Metro community, the choir has had numerous opportunities to work with some of the finest musicians in the area. The choir has performed with the cornerstone of Louisville's art scene and continues to perform in the finest venues in our city.

Throughout this season, the choir will perform choral classics and traditional favorites using innovative methods for learning and performing. LYC will strive to connect our community through the universal language of music.

Without the support of the Fund for the Arts, Sacred Heart Schools, Louisville Metro, the Kentucky Arts Council and generous donors, the youth choir would be unable to provide such a rich cultural addition to our community. Without the support of teachers, donors and community leaders, we would not be able to reach the number of singers that we are able. Without you, we would be unable to perform the level and caliber of music that we perform. It takes a community to ensure the promotion and performance of LYC. It takes you, and we are glad that you are here.

On behalf of the board and staff, welcome!



Terri E. Foster,  
Artistic/Executive Director  
Louisville Youth Choir



**LOUISVILLE  
YOUTH CHOIR**



## Pandemic Safety Protocols

LYC will utilize safe-singing protocols by requiring all singers to wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth at all times when it is deemed necessary by health, government and/or arts education officials. LYC also encourages good hygiene. Please notify LYC of any close contact exposure or quarantine of your singer according to CDC protocols.

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## Communications to Enrolled Families



The choir publishes weekly **EIGHTH NOTES**—the main line of communication between the choir and your singer. It is expected that each singer remains current with this published information. These NOTES are posted online on our website for your easy access on the Homepage. The NOTES are updated by Tuesday of each week. Please be sure to check these weekly, as new information is added and updated each week. **These are very important and are key to your singer's success** in knowing all of the important events and information for the Louisville Youth Choir. A hard copy of the *Eighth Notes* are available for viewing at the info table at each weekly rehearsal when we are able to meet in person. Links to the weekly *Eighth Notes* are posted on our Social Media platform as well.



LYC uses Google Calendar to maintain its scheduling of concerts, rehearsals and events. This is conveniently located on the LYC homepage and may even be able to synch to your electronic devices.



You may also connect with LYC on Facebook ([facebook.com/LouisvilleYouthChoir](https://facebook.com/LouisvilleYouthChoir)) .

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## Connecting with the LYC Staff/Office

If you need to reach an LYC Staff Member or the Office, you have the following options:

- Q&A Book: This book is located at the info table at each in-person rehearsal. You may write a question/comment there along with your contact information. If you need a reply, please allow two business days.
  - Email: You may email LYC Staff at [info@louyouthchoir.org](mailto:info@louyouthchoir.org). You will receive a reply within one business day.
  - Voicemail: At any time, you may call the office and leave a message for a staff member. 502.897.1816
  - Website/Handbook: The answers to most questions we receive can be found on the website or in this handbook. Please review these items thoroughly.
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## Reminders & Communication Tools

If you are like many of the other LYC families, you are involved in multiple activities. We find that setting reminders to help you remember to check the Eighth Notes each week, is a great way to make sure your family stays on top of all LYC activities. You could simply set an alarm on your device as a reminder, or sign up for a FREE reminder service such as Memo To Me.

LYC staff will also be utilizing technology to better serve LYC families. Attendance will be tracked electronically. Practice links and rehearsal reminders will occasionally be sent utilizing FREE technology services like REMIND and MY ATTENDANCE TRACKER. If your singer's conductor asks you to subscribe to these FREE technology services, please do so! LYC continues to seek out tools to keep our singers in touch with all LYC details.

# Rehearsal Locations & Schedule (All rehearsals take place on Tuesdays)

Rehearsal Locations will take place at the Ursuline Campus, 3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY

- Rehearsals will be at Sacred Heart School for the Arts (Located in Angela Hall, Building #17)
- Map & Directions: <https://louyouthchoir.org/lyc-location-map-directions/>

## Ensembles for the 2025-2026 Season:

- Primary Singers:
  - 5:45-6:30PM Grades K-2: Beginning Treble Voices
- Treble Choir:
  - 5:30-6:30PM Grades 3-6: Treble Voices
- Bel Canto:
  - 6:30-5:30PM Grades 6-8: Intermediate Treble Voices
- Chorale:
  - 5:30-6:30PM Grades 7-12: Sopranos, Altos, Tenors & Basses
- Chamber Singers:
  - 6:30-7:30PM Grades 9-12: Sopranos, Altos, Tenors & Basses



## 59th Consecutive Performance Season



- **Fall Concert**  
*TBD*  
October 26, 2025 at 5PM
- **A Christmas Festival Concert**  
*Middletown Christian Church*  
December 19, 2025 at 7PM
- **Spring Concert**  
*St. Michael Catholic Church*  
March 1, 2026 at 5PM
- **Pops Concert**  
*Ursuline Arts Center*  
May 3, 2026 at 5PM

### Season Tickets

Season tickets sold online only, September 2 - October 1, 2025 at [www.louyouthchoir.org/store](http://www.louyouthchoir.org/store)

- Adults: \$55\*
- Seniors (55+): \$35\*
- Students: \$17\*

*\*Adult, Student and Senior Season Tickets prices are for four concerts: Fall Concert, A Holiday Festival Concert, Spring Concert and Pops Concert. Any Bonus concerts scheduled must be purchased separately at an additional fee.*

*No Season Tickets are mailed and all can be claimed at each concert venue one hour before the concert at Will Call of the Ticket Sales Area.*

### Single Tickets

#### (Fall Concert, A Christmas Festival Concert, Spring Concert and Pops Concert)

*On sale one month prior to each concert online at [www.louyouthchoir.org/store](http://www.louyouthchoir.org/store) or at the Ticket Sales Area of the concert venue one hour prior to each performance, when available.*

- Adults: \$15
- Seniors (55+): \$10
- Students: \$5

For any added Bonus Concerts, pricing may vary.

**All seats for all ticket types are General Admission and there are no refunds or exchanges on any ticket type sold.**

# Concert Attire

## Primary Singers in Grades K-2

The Primary Singers will wear a white tuxedo shirt\*\* with a red bowtie\*\* and black pants with black shoes and socks. Singers may choose to wear a knee-length black skirt with black tights instead of pants. (Pants, skirts, socks, tights and shoes are the responsibility of singer to provide.) **No necklaces or bracelets. Earrings must be next to the ear.** (\*\*Primary Choir tuxedo shirt and bowtie will be arranged for singers by LYC.)

### Performance Wear Note:

LYC performance wear is consistent from season to season. LYC will have an online sign-up sheet for those wishing to sell or purchase used performance wear.

Beyond creating the sign up sheet, LYC will not participate in the sale or facilitation of the sales between LYC families. Information regarding this sign-up sheet will be in the Eighth Notes newsletter.



## Singers in Grades 3-12:

All singers in Grades 3-12 will have both Formal Performance Attire and Casual Performance Attire. **No necklaces or bracelets. Earrings must be next to the ear when wearing Formal or Casual Performance Attire.**

### Formal Performance Attire Options

- Dress (the hem should be right above the top of the foot—no ankles showing): with low -heeled, closed-toe black shoes
- Tuxedo: black jacket, white tuxedo shirt, black cummerbund, black bow tie with black socks and black dress shoes
- Concert Blacks: black long pants (no denim, no capris, no holes), black long tie, black long sleeve button up shirt, with black socks and black closed toe dress shoes

\*If singers already have access to similar formal attire through their school (or home), they may use these if their school permits.

**Dress: \$64**



**Christina (Adult: 119)  
(Youth: 119Y)**

**Tux: \$98**



**Hugh+ (Youth: 3002Y)  
(Adult Male: 3002)**

**Tux: \$98**



**Hugh-L  
(Adult Female: 3002L)**

**Concert Blacks: \$48**



**Vincent (Youth: 6701Y)  
(Adult: 6701/6701L)  
Order Black Tie NOT Red**

**Cousin's Concert Attire is the Formal Concert Attire provider for LYC.  
(Website: <https://www.concertattire.com/> or Phone: 800.881.5343)**

**Singers are responsible for ordering their own Formal Performance Attire. Shipping is 2-6 weeks so place order accordingly.** Prices listed are for standard sizing and do not include shipping. All styles shown are available in adult and youth sizes and these style names/numbers should be used when searching/ordering.

### Casual Performance Attire

- Singers in grades 3-12 will wear LYC's black t-shirt with silver logo with blue jeans and tennis shoes as casual concert attire.
- These LYC black t-shirts are \$5 and are purchased through the LYC website ([www.louyouthchoir.org/store](http://www.louyouthchoir.org/store))

## Tuition & Payments

Grades K-2 Primary Singer Session Tuition of \$175.00 (8-week session)

Grades 3-12 Singer Annual\* Tuition of \$650.00 (\*can be prorated)

### Payment Schedule:

Enrolled singers in grades K-2 should pay their session tuition through the LYC online store.

Enrolled singer in grades 3-12 will receive an annual tuition bill via an electronic invoice. You may choose to pay your account as you wish, so long as you make the minimum benchmark payments of \$162.50 by each performance date. This means you can pay your account in full at the start of the season (preferred), pay monthly, or pay twice per season, once at the beginning and once in January. If your account is not current by each performance date, your singer will not be permitted to perform.

**Scholarships are available.**

*Please note: The tuition cost covers roughly 36% of the cost to educate each singer for the season so EVERY singer receives a tuition subsidy to cover the portion they are not charged. Donations and Volunteerism are greatly appreciated.*

**Payments for Performance Division can be made online via the electronic invoice each singer will receive.**

**Singers are always welcome to pay via check+/money order, mailed to our business address. Also for your convenience, LYC has a secure drop box for payments and correspondence outside the office door, located on the 2nd floor of Sacred Heart School for the Arts. (It is a BLACK drop box with LYC's name marked on it.)**

**+There is a \$25.00 service fee for all returned checks.**



## Scholarships\*

LYC has scholarship funds available for those that apply. LYC has financial need-based funds. If you feel as though your singer could utilize these funds, complete the Scholarship Request Package under the 2025-2026 Enrollment Checklist of the "LYC Families" section on the LYC Website.

**Requests should be completed within two weeks of enrollment in LYC** and you should indicate on your singer enrollment form that you will be requesting support.

***\*LYC never turns away a child due to the inability to pay for services. If your singer wishes to participate, we will find a way!***



# Supporting LYC

## **Subscribers and VIP for LYC**

Do you, or someone you know want to support the children and youth in our community? If so, consider supporting the choir by becoming a subscriber. Some employers will even match these types of donations. There are many levels of support and all dollar amounts are welcome! Any tax deductible gift of \$100 or more makes you a *VIP for LYC* and qualifies you for special benefits such as preferred seating at all concerts. For more information, e-mail [info@louyouthchoir.org](mailto:info@louyouthchoir.org) or contact the choir office at 502.897.1816.

## **Sponsorships and Advertising**

LYC has sponsorship opportunities available as well as advertising in every performance program. While sponsorship opportunities are vast, they are limited. Please contact the LYC office to create a custom sponsorship package for your business. If you or your business is interested in advertising with LYC - either to promote a company or to wish a singer luck - contact the LYC Office: [info@louyouthchoir.org](mailto:info@louyouthchoir.org).

## **For Love of Music Dinner and Auction and/or Game Night(s)**

Annually, the LYC Board of Directors hosts a dinner and auction and/or virtual game night(s) to benefit the general operations fund. We ask all LYC families to participate by donating an item to the "Family Fun" basket which will be up for auction at the event. Items can include anything related to what your family finds fun - movie tickets, restaurant gift cards, board games, sidewalk chalk and more are just some examples of what has been collected in the past. LYC families are also encouraged to secure auction items (good & services) for this event. Collection of these items begins in the fall and runs through January. LYC families are also invited and encouraged to participate in the events. Event tickets are found at: [www.louyouthchoir.org/store](http://www.louyouthchoir.org/store).

## **Crowd Funding**

From time to time, LYC is involved in crowd funding platforms such as Give for Good Louisville, Brackets for Good and matching grants with the Fund for the Arts. When these opportunities arise, we encourage LYC families to give when you can and to support the project by encouraging others to give through social media (Facebook) and email.

## **LYC Endowment**

Created in the 50th Anniversary Season, LYC established an endowment fund through the Community Foundation of Louisville. This fund will ensure LYC remains active indefinitely. The LYC Endowment is seeking one time gifts, recurring gifts, and planned (estate/bequest) gifts. Gifts of cash, stock or property can be accepted and any gifts for the endowment must be given directly to the Community Foundation of Louisville. The LYC Office will be happy to assist you with this process. For information on this giving opportunity, please contact the LYC office at [info@louyouthchoir.org](mailto:info@louyouthchoir.org).

## **Volunteerism**

LYC relies on volunteers for implementation of programming. We encourage every family to consider a minimum of 5 hours of volunteer time to LYC. Whether you act as a rehearsal assistant, volunteer in the office or music library, or give time ushering a performance - you make a huge impact in the lives of our singers and staff. LYC uses the Sign-Up Genius Platform for volunteerism and opportunities are always available on the LYC website (hover the "Support" tab, click "Volunteer Opportunities").

# Attendance Policy

Membership in the Louisville Youth Choir is a commitment to the ensemble, the staff, your peers and to the art of singing. Rehearsals are expected to be a priority of each member. Therefore, all Louisville Youth Choir singers are expected to:

- Attend each rehearsal and performance as scheduled.
- Be prepared to start rehearsal at the specified time: checking in, being seated and being ready to sing indicates being prepared to start.
- Study and learn musical assignments prior to rehearsals.

The staff of LYC understands that illnesses (no singer is expected to attend rehearsal/performance if they have a fever/contagious condition), family deaths, school concerts, honor choirs and religious activities may conflict with rehearsals. LYC holds the view that all absences are equal and that there are no excused/unexcused absences. Therefore, the following guidelines will be observed:

- Only 2 absences are permitted per performance prep. Performance prep is defined by all rehearsals leading up to each performance. On the RARE occasion that a singer needs to be absent, we ask that you contact the Louisville Youth Choir office **in advance** at [info@louyouthchoir.org](mailto:info@louyouthchoir.org) to notify the organization of the absence.
- Tardiness is not tolerated. Arriving 10 or more minutes late constitutes ½ absence.
- Leaving before the end of a scheduled rehearsal constitutes ½ absence.
- Chronic absences/tardiness can result in revocation of membership without tuition reimbursement. Solos and ensembles will be awarded with each singer's attendance patterns in mind.
- **The final rehearsal prior to each performance is considered a "Required Final Rehearsal." ALL SINGERS are required to attend this Required Final Rehearsal preceding each performance.** Failure to attend this rehearsal is grounds for a conductor to refuse participation at the upcoming performance.
- **ALL SINGERS are required to participate in ALL PERFORMANCES within their membership period.** Failure to appear at a performance is grounds for loss of membership without tuition reimbursement.

**If the occasion were to arise that Jefferson County Public Schools were to cancel or dismiss in-person school due to inclement weather, the Louisville Youth Choir will NOT hold scheduled rehearsals/performance that coincide with inclement weather cancellations by JCPS. If you are unsure of LYC rehearsal/performance cancellation, check the LYC website, check the LYC Facebook page, check your email, call the LYC Office voicemail or watch local TV stations.**

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# Behavior Policy

LYC defers to the conductors of each ensemble for specific guidelines and procedures during rehearsals and performances. As an over arching rule, all LYC singers must adhere to the following Behavior Guidelines when under the supervision of LYC employees.

1. Respect everyone and everything associated with LYC and the venues in which we rehearse and perform, whether virtual or in-person. This includes:
  - Music: Singers are not to destroy/deface/or lose the music loaned to you from LYC. All music must be returned to LYC promptly when called for. Failure to comply could lead to financial compensation needed to replace music.
  - Personal Space: Singers are not to touch another singer at any time, for any reason. Singers are also not permitted to photograph or record another singer at any time, for any reason. Failure to comply could lead to removal from enrollment without tuition reimbursement.
  - Conductors & Staff: Singers are to give LYC conductors and staff your utmost attention at all times and follow any directions provided. Failure to comply could lead to removal from enrollment without tuition reimbursement.
2. No use of electronics of ANY kind during rehearsals other than those necessary for virtual rehearsal purposes. Conductors have the right to issue a warning to singers who use unauthorized electronics during rehearsals. Failure to comply could lead to removal from enrollment without tuition reimbursement.
3. Singers may not do homework, read, draw, color, etc. during rehearsals. Conductors have the right to issue a warning to singers who use these distractions during rehearsals. Failure to comply could lead to removal from enrollment without tuition reimbursement.
4. Abide by the zero tolerance bullying policy, found on the adjoining page.



# Zero Tolerance Bullying Policy

## Introduction

All children and young people have the right to go about their daily lives without the fear of being threatened, assaulted or harassed. No one should underestimate the impact that bullying can have on a person's life. It can cause high levels of distress, affecting young people's well-being, behavior, academic and social development into adulthood.

At LYC we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our singers, so they can learn in a secure atmosphere free from oppression and abuse. Bullying is an anti-social behavior and affects everyone. All types of bullying are unacceptable at LYC and will not be tolerated. All singers should feel able to tell and when bullying behavior is brought to our attention, prompt and effective action will be taken. We are a TELLING organization. This means that anyone who is aware of any type of bullying that is taking place is expected to tell a member of staff immediately.

## What is Bullying?

"Bullying behavior abuses an imbalance of power to repeatedly and intentionally cause emotional or physical harm to another person or group of people. Isolated instances of hurtful behavior, teasing or arguments between individuals would not be seen as bullying" (Torfaen definition 2008)

Bullying generally takes one of four forms:

- Indirect  
Being unfriendly, spreading rumors, excluding, tormenting
- Physical  
Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, slapping
- Verbal  
Name-calling, teasing, threats, sarcasm
- Cyber  
All areas of internet use

Although not an exhaustive list, common examples of bullying include:

- Racial bullying
- Homophobic bullying
- Bullying based on disability, ability, gender, appearance or circumstance

## Why is it important to respond to bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be bullied. Everyone has the right to be treated with respect. Singers who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. LYC has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

## Objectives of this Policy

- All staff, singers and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All staff should know what the LYC policy is on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All singers and parents should know what the LYC policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a youth organization we take bullying seriously. Singers and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

## Implementation

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached.
- A clear and precise account of the incident will be recorded and given to the Artistic Director.
- The Artistic Director will interview all concerned and will record the incident.
- Conductors and parents will be made aware and kept informed.
- Measures will be used as appropriate and in consultation with all concerned parties.
- If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.

Singers who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the matter with an LYC staff member.
- Reassuring the singer.
- Offering continuous support
- Assistance in restoring self-esteem and confidence.

Singers who have bullied someone will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened
- Discovering why the singer became involved
- Establishing the wrong doing and need for change

- Informing parents/ guardians to help change the attitude and behavior of the child

## Monitoring, evaluation and review

LYC will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout LYC.

## Signs and Symptoms

Many children do not speak out when being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and should investigate if a child:

- Doesn't want to go to LYC
- Changes their usual routine
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious
- Starts stammering
- Attempts or threatens suicide
- Runs away
- Cries themselves to sleep or has nightmares
- Uses excuses to miss LYC events (headache, stomach ache, etc.)
- Suffers academically
- Comes home with torn clothes or materials
- Has unexplained bruises/ scrapes
- Becomes aggressive or disruptive
- Begins bullying others
- Changes eating habits
- Goes to bed earlier than usual
- Is unable to sleep
- Wets the bed
- Won't say what's wrong
- Gives unlikely excuse for any of the above
- Is afraid to use internet/ phone
- Is nervous when text or email is received

These signs could be indicators of other issues, but bullying should always be considered and investigated.

# Louisville Youth Choir History

**Our Mission:** *The Louisville Youth Choir creates stars of today by supporting and enhancing school music programs and by servicing unmet artistic needs in the community. Through the Louisville Youth Choir's diverse population, programs and music, LYC's leaders of tomorrow learn discipline, self-confidence, leadership and teamwork.*

The Louisville Youth Choir, artists in residence at Sacred Heart School for the Arts, was founded in 1967 by Italo Taranta, a former Professor of Music and Choral Conductor at the University of Louisville School of Music, supported by Robert Whitney, former Dean of the University of Louisville School of Music and Melvin Dickinson, Conductor of the Louisville Bach Society. During its nearly 60 years of service to the community, the Choir has flourished with membership from nearly 50 schools and home schools and representation from several surrounding counties in the Kentucky and Southern Indiana region.

The Louisville Youth Choir has been heard throughout Europe and North America including performances at The Grand Ole Opry in Nashville (2013), Carnegie Hall in New York City (2003, 2009), the Dom in Salzburg (2006), Votivkirche in Vienna (2006), Santuario de Guadalupe in Santa Fe (2003) as well as Chicago (2004), Colorado Springs, CO (2003) and Windsor and Toronto, Ontario (2002). At home the choir has performed for the Kentucky Music Educators In-Service conference, was a demonstration choir at the Southern Division ACDA conference (2008) and partnered with Kentucky Opera in premieres of three operas based on the lives of Kentuckians Muhammad Ali, Helen Thomas and Dian Fosse, and premiered commissioned works by composers David J. Elliott, Bill Stevens, Paul Nahay, Frederick Speck, Frank Richmond, Patsy Ford Simms, Daniel Gilliam, Caro McClure and in May of 2017, Catherine Wilson. The choir also boasts performances with *Global Rhythms* (2008, 2011 & 2015), the nation's largest world music ensemble, Moscow Ballet's *Great Russian Nutcracker* (2007), a guest appearance for award-winning composer, Stephen Schwartz (2009) and a guest performance with the award-winning a cappella vocal sensation *MO5AIC* (2013.)

The Louisville Youth Choir has had numerous opportunities to perform with the area's finest arts organizations. The choir has performed with the Louisville Orchestra, the Kentucky Opera, the Louisville Ballet, *Moving Collective* Dance Ensemble, Bourbon Baroque, Stage One Family Theatre, the Louisville Youth Orchestra and the Broadway Series, to name a few.

Now in its fifty-ninth season, the organization is home to seven major ensembles. LYC is comprised of singers in the Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grades: Primary Singers, Treble Choir, Bel Canto, Aria Choir, Chorale and Chamber Choir. Lascito Coro (Legacy Choir) is an all-female adult choir that has a summer concert season benefitting the LYC *No Song Unsung* Scholarship Fund. As a community based organization, LYC draws children and youth from throughout metropolitan Louisville, six surrounding KY counties and southern Indiana. Its repertoire includes music of many styles and cultures, including major classic and modern works with instrumentalists and soloists. LYC offers a choral music experience unique in the region, including arts education outreach in area schools and community centers.

LYC is governed by a Board of Directors composed of parents, area musicians, community business leaders and other individuals committed to the success of young people. Supported by the Greater Louisville Fund for the Arts, Sacred Heart Schools, Louisville Metro, The Kentucky Arts Council and an individual and corporate subscriber program, the Choir continues its dedication to young singers in their development of distinguished musical experiences and lasting community-wide friendships.

**Our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access Position:** *All students, regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, economic status, religious background, sexual orientation and identity, socioeconomic status, academic standing, exceptionalities, or musical abilities, can participate in the making of music. All students deserve access to and equity in the delivery of music education. A comprehensive music education program, should be built on a framework that promotes awareness of, respect for, and responsiveness to the variety and diversity of cultures and their people.*



***“LYC creates Stars of Today...Leaders of Tomorrow!”***