

Women's Association of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Docent Program Mission Statement

“It is the mission of the Docent Program to send qualified, enthusiastic docents into schools attending the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Education Concerts to assist the classroom teacher in concert preparation. These docents teach about, arouse interest in and develop appreciation for the symphony orchestra and its repertoire in order to make the concert experience more beneficial for the students.”

To achieve this mission, the following objectives must be met:

1. **Provide Adequate Training:** Docents will be given **general training** in music fundamentals and educational techniques. They will also be given **specific information** about the content of each Education Concert as well as proven methods for concert preparation.

2. **Insure Meaningful Classroom Presentations:** Each Docent Classroom Presentation will focus on the following:
 - Repertoire:** The docent will acquaint the students with selected works from the concert repertoire.
 - Active listening:** The docent will highlight specific musical events, illustrate appropriate techniques students can use to listen for them and practice these techniques with the students.
 - Music fundamentals:** Using excerpts from these works the docent will instruct the students in one or two music fundamentals which are relevant to the Concert so that the children can grasp at least one musical concept by the end of the presentation.
 - The CSO and Concert behavior:** The docent will introduce the students to accepted concert behavior by teaching the students about the orchestra and live performances in general, and about the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in particular.

3. **Maintain the Quality and Effectiveness of the Program:** Docents will be expected to participate in a variety of evaluation methods designed to benefit the docent, the school children and the entire program. These evaluation methods may include Docents periodically providing written lesson plans or summaries of their presentations, participating in Docent Demonstrations and Roundtable Discussions, or other methods.