



Dear City of Chicago Parent or Guardian:

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is seeking outstanding current third and fourth grade City of Chicago students to participate in an exciting full scholarship music program. This program, which began in the fall of 1995, includes weekly percussion classes and private lessons with a member of the Chicago Symphony and Lyric Opera Orchestra **free of charge**. We are looking for students who work well with others and have a great sense of responsibility and commitment. Equally important, for students to succeed in the program they must have extremely supportive, dependable parents and a strong sense of self-discipline.

The selection of your child to participate in this program will be based in large part on your willingness to provide them with daily encouragement and support of this endeavor. It will require a firm commitment from you. Please take a few moments to review the following information about this opportunity. More information, as well as the application forms, can be found at cso.org/psp.

Scholarship winners will be selected to join the program on a provisional basis after completing a three-stage process:

- **Stage One:** Completion of a well-thought-out online application in which you have followed all directions carefully.
- **Stage Two:** Applicants who are chosen from stage one are **required** to attend the Percussion Scholarship group's free concert at Symphony Center on **Sunday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m.** All applicants and their parents or guardians are required to attend this event (no tickets necessary). After the concert, a sign-up for private interviews will occur. This will be your only opportunity to sign up for an interview. Interview times cannot be given over the telephone. Interviews will take place on **Saturday, June 11** at Symphony Center in Rehearsal Room F.
- **Stage Three:** The private interview on **June 11** will last approximately 10 minutes and will include an opportunity to play the drum for the first time, some simple coordination games, and a few moments for us to get to know you.

All registration forms can be found at cso.org/psp. Your child will need to complete the following three steps to be considered for this program:

1. Fill out the online **Student Questionnaire**.
2. Have their teacher fill out the **Teacher Questionnaire**.
3. Have you, their parent or guardian, do the following:
 - a. Read this letter, addressed to Dear Parent or Guardian, carefully.
 - b. Fill out the **Parent Questionnaire**.

We encourage students, parents, and teachers to look at the questionnaire and prepare their answers before filling it out.

The application deadline is Friday, May 27. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. Students will be notified on a rolling basis if they have advanced to the next stage of the application process. Remember that all three questionnaires (student, parent, and teacher) must be submitted to be invited to the recital.

Following the interviews on Saturday, June 11, results will be emailed to all applicants by Tuesday, June 14. Accepted applicants will begin in the program on Saturday, June 18.

Please read our FAQ at <http://www.PercussionScholars.com> for more information or Rachael Cohen at cohenr@csso.org, or (312) 294-3400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J McCormick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jonathan McCormick
Director of Education and the Negaunee Music Institute