

# INTRODUCTION TO THE FAIR SHARE PROGRAM

## Why a Fair Share Program?

CMYO has moved away from a tuition-based system for several key reasons. The Fair Share Program:

- Allows any student who qualifies for an ensemble to participate, regardless of the family's financial circumstances
- Removes the need to provide subsidy scholarships that would require more guardian information and paperwork
- Allows payments to be treated as a donation that can be used as a write-off on personal taxes

## Expectations of the Fair Share Program

CMYO is a 501(c)3 non-profit which is supported by individuals, businesses, and underwriters from the region.

In order for CMYO programs to continue, CMYO must raise matching grant funds, as well as meet all expenses not covered by grants.

As CMYO grows with support from the community, more program opportunities will be added to give back to the youth musicians of the region. Many ideas are in the works. However, we need backing to turn those ideas into reality.

CMYO assumes all families will make best efforts to financially support CMYO based on their families' financial circumstances.

CMYO offers three options for Fair Share payment: (1) Full Year per Ensemble Pledge (Recommended); (2) Custom Pledge/Arranged Payment Plan; and (3) No Pledge.

## What are some of CMYO's Expenses that are Covered through the Fair Share Program?

Examples include:

Office Supplies, QuickBooks for Non-profits, Office Productivity, P.O. Box, Website development/registration, State Fees, Insurances, Directors' Contracts, Guest Artists, Brochures, Mailings, Advertisements, Events/Parties/Receptions, Field Trips, Transportation, Rehearsal/Concert Venues, Music Rental/Purchases, and T-shirts

## Do Volunteers Support CMYO with their Time, Beyond the Support Received through the Fair Share Program?

Yes, the bulk of the time spent for CMYO is volunteer. CMYO is in constant movement all year long preparing:

Board of Directors – Hold monthly board meetings, set p/tear down at concerts and some rehearsals, serve as guest speakers at events

Artistic & Music Directors – Offer clinics at schools; find new concert programming, themes, and guest artists; meet with parent committee, board of directors, treasurer, school directors and private instructors in the region, and development coordinator; campaign for funds at businesses; connect with regional and national organizations; plan field trips; and dedicate many hours to email correspondence

Staff – Design brochures and flyers, and create verbiage for ads; present at functions; update the website and resources such as Facebook and newspapers; create/print/collate programs and student paperwork; plan field trips

Parent Committee – Hold monthly meetings with parents; set up info tables at schools and community events, send mass emails to parents with CMYO-related information; organize logistics for rehearsals and concerts; find outreach and fundraising opportunities; and much more

## What are Some Possibilities that the Fair Share Program Could Offer in the Future?

Concert tours, more diverse field trips, scholarships to subsidize private lessons, Intro to Strings program (1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)