



## **SUMMER YOUTH ADVENTURE PROGRAM OVERVIEW & GUIDELINES**

The Summer Youth Adventure (SYA) is a week-long event designed for young theatre organ enthusiasts who are interested in learning, developing, or refining their skills with the theatre organ. During the week, students will attend a variety of instructional sessions, master classes, and open console time designed to improve their theatre organ knowledge and skills. In addition to the invaluable instruction and learning opportunities, students will forge lifelong friendships with other young enthusiasts who share their passion for the theatre organ.

### **LOCATION**

ATOS currently sponsors one SYA per year which is typically held in July. The location of the SYA changes from time to time so that the event can be held in many different regions throughout the United States (*e.g.*, East Coast, West Coast, Midwest, etc.). In recent years, the SYA has been held in a geographic region for two consecutive years, and then moved to another geographic region for the subsequent two years. ATOS will try to maximize the regions of the United States where the SYA is held, although the timing and location of any particular SYA will depend on availability of venues.

At each SYA, there is a primary teaching venue where the majority of instructional sessions and master classes take place. Additionally, group field trips are scheduled to visit other noteworthy instruments in the area. During these trips, students will have the opportunity to enjoy open console at the instruments where possible.

### **SCHEDULE**

The SYA is a five-day event (Monday through Friday). Students should plan to arrive no later than mid-afternoon on the Sunday prior to the event. Typically, there is an optional “meet and greet” party on the Sunday evening prior to the official start of the SYA on Monday morning. Students should plan to depart on the Saturday following the SYA.

On the days the SYA is located at the principal teaching venue, instruction starts promptly at 9:00am. The morning sessions usually run from 9:00am to noon, with instructional

sessions lasting approximately 50 minutes followed by a break of 10 minutes. The students have a lunch break from noon until approximately 1:00pm. The afternoon sessions last from 1:00 to 4:00 and are usually dedicated to master classes, group instruction, open console. Frequently, the students visit other local venues during the afternoon sessions.

Dinner is provided from approximately 5:00 to 6:30. Depending on venue availability, additional open console opportunities may be available following dinner. Students typically return to the SYA hotel between 8:00-8:30pm.

## **FACULTY & CURRICULUM**

Each year, a core teaching faculty plans and develops the SYA curriculum. The material presented at each SYA changes from year to year, and care is taken to ensure that topics presented are relevant and interesting to students at all levels of study.

The SYA core teaching faculty consists of Jonas Nordwall, Donna Parker, Jelani Eddington, and Martin Ellis. In addition, the SYA invites one or more visiting instructors each year to present topics related to their areas of expertise.

## **TUITION**

Tuition for the SYA is **\$325.00** per student. The tuition covers all teaching materials, transportation to/from SYA events and venues, and meals (lunch and dinner). Transportation to and from the city where the SYA is located, as well as lodging at the SYA hotel is not included in the tuition. Scholarship assistance is available to help cover tuition as well as travel costs (see “Scholarships” below)

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### TO AND FROM LOCATIONS DURING THE SYA

All travel between official SYA venues and events is provided for students and accompanying parents/guardians during the week in passenger vans.

### TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT OR TRAIN STATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Students and accompanying parents/guardians traveling by air or rail should plan to make their own arrangements to get to and from the airport/train station. While the SYA will do its best to accommodate special requests for pick-ups and drop-offs, the SYA cannot guarantee the availability of support staff for such requests. Any special transportation requests or needs should be brought to the attention of the SYA staff as soon as possible.

## **LODGING**

Each year, ATOS negotiates a special, reduced group rate at a local hotel for lodging during the SYA. Information regarding the hotel will be posted on the ATOS website as soon as it is available. Students should make their hotel reservations as soon as possible and should **pay close attention to the published deadline for making a reservation.**

Students who are 18 years of age or older may share a room with another student who is at least 18 years old. Students under the age of 18 are expected to share their room with their parent or legal guardian. Under no circumstances may a student under the age of 18 enter the room of a student over the age of 18 without his parent or legal guardian being present, or without two other adults over the age of 25 being present.

## **MEALS**

### MEALS FOR STUDENTS

All lunches and dinners for the students are provided for all SYA events, including the optional welcome “meet and greet” party on the Sunday evening before the event. Lunches are typically served on premises during the SYA sessions. Dinners sometimes take place at a local restaurant and are sometimes catered on premises.

Students are responsible for their own breakfast at the hotel (or otherwise) before the start of daily SYA activities. Frequently (although not always), a free breakfast is included in the group rate for the hotel.

### MEALS FOR ACCOMPANYING PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Meals Catered On Premises – For the meals provided or catered on premises, accompanying parents/guardians are welcome to eat with the students but are requested to contribute \$5.00 per person towards the cost of the meal.

Meals In Restaurants – For meals that are provided in a local restaurant, the SYA will cover all meals for the students. Accompanying parents/guardians are requested to pay separately for their meals.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Each year, ATOS earmarks a limited fund to provide scholarship assistance for students who would like to attend the SYA. Scholarships are awarded with a priority going to students who have the greatest need for assistance. Scholarships typically take the form of a tuition waiver and/or travel reimbursement.

Tuition Waiver. In a tuition waiver scholarship, all or part of the \$295.00 tuition is waived for the student. In such a case, the student is responsible for paying only that portion of the tuition (if any) that is not covered by the scholarship.

Travel Reimbursement. If a travel reimbursement scholarship is awarded, all or part of the student's travel and/or lodging expenses (airfare, mileage, hotel, etc.) are covered. In most cases, ATOS will reimburse the awarded amount by check to the person who paid the travel/lodging costs. The reimbursement check will be sent promptly after the conclusion of the SYA. ATOS may in its discretion cover these costs up front if special circumstances warrant an advance.

Each student is expected to attend all activities during the SYA. Accordingly, scholarships will be pro-rated if a student departs early and will be forfeited if the student does not attend. If any part of an ATOS scholarship was paid in advance, the student must reimburse ATOS for that scholarship.

If you have any questions about scholarships or would like to discuss your situation, please contact Jelani Eddington ([rj.eddington@atos.org](mailto:rj.eddington@atos.org)) or Donna Parker ([d.parker@atos.org](mailto:d.parker@atos.org)).

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

Everyone who participates in the SYA—from the instructors, to the hosts, to the students—is committed to ensuring that the week is productive and enjoyable for all. Please be aware of the following expectations for each of the students to make the SYA a meaningful and enjoyable experience for all who attend.

Students are expected to participate fully in all SYA activities. While there are a range of abilities at each SYA (from those who are just starting to those who have begun to play professionally), it is important that each student be actively involved in the various events and activities at the SYA. For example, students are expected to attend and participate in all instructional sessions, master classes and field trips.

Students are also expected to stay at the SYA hotel and ride in the passenger vans that are provided during the week. In addition, all students are expected to treat each other, the faculty, and the hosts with respect and dignity. Name-calling and bullying will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

ATOS is strongly committed to ensuring the safety of all students during the SYA. As such, ATOS maintains a strict Youth Protection Policy designed to protect minor students (under the age of 18) as well as adult students and participants. All students, regardless of age, will be expected to read and abide by the ATOS Youth Protection Policy as amended from time to time. A copy of this policy is included at the end of this document and will also be provided to the students at the start of the week for review and signature.

By observing these basic expectations, the students will develop camaraderie with each other and with the SYA faculty, which will help maximize their experience during the week.

## **PARENTS & GUESTS**

Students who are under 18 years of age at the time of the start of the SYA are required to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Accompanying parents/guardians are welcome at, and encouraged to attend, all events during the week, including all instructional sessions, master classes, field trips, and meals.

Guests (i.e., other family members or friends who are not a parent or legal guardian) are welcome to attend any events designed by the SYA as “open events”, including the optional “meet and greet” party on Sunday event, the awards ceremony and presentation on Friday evening, and any other venue open to the public during a visit by the SYA. Because the Youth Protection Policy requires that events involving participants under the age of 18 be strictly monitored to ensure student safety, non-parent/guardian guests will not be admitted to any SYA activities that are not designated as open events.

All parents/guardians, and all guests attending an open event will be required to sign a volunteer questionnaire and abide by the terms of the Youth Protection Policy. A copy of that questionnaire is included at the end of this document.

Parents/legal guardians may accompany students in the passenger vans provided for the students, or may drive separately if desired. If a parent/guardian drives separately to an event, he/she will be responsible for any parking, tolls, or other associated costs.