

2018 National Take a Stand Festival: Eligibility

Students applying for the National Take a Stand Festival must meet age and program requirements in order to be eligible to participate. These requirements are explained below.

- I. **Symphony Orchestra:** Musicians aged 12-18 may apply to the 100 member symphony orchestra. This is a highly competitive ensemble, open to the most advanced players from Sistema-inspired and aligned programs from across the country. Excerpts for the symphony orchestra audition are available here: **Symphony Orchestra Audition Excerpts**. ****String applicants aged 12-15 who are not selected for the symphony orchestra will automatically be considered for the Junior String Ensemble.*
Junior String Ensemble: String players aged 12-15 are eligible for the Junior String Ensemble. Though students aged 12-15 can apply for the Symphony Orchestra, they may also choose to apply ***only*** for the Junior String Ensemble. **These students will complete the same application form, but submit the specific Junior String Ensemble Audition Excerpts.**

- II. Any student may apply who is in at least his or her second year of a music program that is either directly inspired by El Sistema – or clearly demonstrates a dedication to social change and youth development through instrumental music education. While each El Sistema-inspired or -aligned program looks different from the next, there are basic tenets associated with such programs which this Festival aims to support.

Applicants must be **currently enrolled** in, or **recently graduated** from, a program that meets **at least 5 of the following 8 criteria:**

1. Students are playing music on their primary orchestral instrument in the program for at least 5 hours per week.
2. Central to the mission of the program is music as a vehicle for social change and youth or community development.
3. Programming is free or full scholarships are given to at least 80% of all students.
4. The program provides a multi-year commitment to students, offering support from childhood through the end of high school and/or adulthood.
5. The program emphasizes ensemble-based orchestral programming (students are learning in groups).
6. Students' success is evaluated not only on musical progress. but also on behavioral development.
7. The program is a member of a national or regional organization that is a network for self-identified El Sistema-inspired programs (for example: El Sistema USA).
8. The program has key individual or institutional partners that provide expertise in both music and community/youth/social development.

If you have questions regarding student/program eligibility, please contact yola@laphil.org.