



## 2018 National Take a Stand Festival: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### What is the National Take a Stand Festival?

The **National Take a Stand Festival** is an opportunity for students from El Sistema-inspired and aligned programs throughout the United States to perform as part of a top-tier national youth orchestra. By offering young people the opportunity to learn from exceptional musicians (including world-renowned conductors and guest artists), become ambassadors of their programs, and engage with young people from diverse regions and backgrounds, the orchestra aims to develop a model for excellence and a national community of citizen musicians from historically excluded populations in the United States. Students will not only have access to top artistic and educational resources, but experience some of the world's finest learning institutions and concert venues.

### What ensembles participate in the National Take a Stand Festival?

This year's festival will feature two ensembles: a **Symphony Orchestra** for 100 of the most advanced musicians from these programs, open to students aged 12-18 and a **Junior String Ensemble** - an opportunity specifically for younger musicians - open to 36 string players aged 12-15. All students will have the opportunity to learn from a world-class artist faculty and to rehearse and perform at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

## DATES & LOGISTICS

### What are the important dates?

December 4, 2017	Application requirements announced and Application Opens
February 8, 2018	Application closed
February 15, 2018	Deadline for Recommendation from Program Director or Primary Music Teacher
March 15, 2018	Notification of acceptance
July 2018	National Take a Stand Festival

### How will travel be arranged?

A representative of the LA Phil will work with a travel agent to book all travel for students. In doing so, they will ensure that students are appropriately chaperoned during travel transitions.

### Where will students be staying?

Students will stay in dorms. Great care will be taken to ensure safety and accountability in these locations.





**What if my child has special dietary restrictions or needs special accommodations?**

We will do our best to accommodate all students to ensure that they have as healthy and positive an experience as possible.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Is my student eligible to attend?**

Any student in at least his or her second year of an El Sistema-inspired or aligned program who plays a standard orchestral instrument may apply (Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, French Horn, Trumpet, Bass Trombone, Trombone, Tuba, or Percussion.) If a student plays an auxiliary instrument, he or she may indicate this is a secondary instrument on the application.

Students must be at least 12 years of age as of July 1, 2018, and no older than 18 and recently completed their senior year of high school. Parents are also required to sign a consent form as part of the application process for all students, regardless of age.

**Is my program an "El Sistema-inspired" program?**

While each program looks different from the next, there are basic tenets which El Sistema-inspired programs in the United States embrace, which this Festival aims to support. Student applicants must be currently enrolled in, or recently graduated from, an El Sistema-inspired or aligned 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 are assessed and 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.

## SELECTION

**What are the criteria for choosing students?**





A professional panel will review all audition materials, and consider factors including: proficiency and musicality on the instrument, and alignment of students' personal statement with the Festival's goals, including diversity in age, program, and geographic location. String players aged 12-15 who apply for the Symphony Orchestra will be automatically considered for the Junior String Ensemble if not selected for the Symphony Orchestra.

**Will the same students who participated in the 2017 festival participate in the 2018 festival?**

While past participants who are still eligible to apply may be accepted, they must re-apply to be considered for the 2018 Festival. All applicants will be evaluated using the same criteria.

## **STAFFING**

**Who will the teaching artists be?**

A specially selected group of master teachers involved with El Sistema-inspired and aligned programs will serve as the teaching faculty, and share their talents as artists and mentors throughout the week-long festival. Be sure to check [laphil.com/ntasf](http://laphil.com/ntasf) for an updated list of faculty as they are confirmed.

**What steps will be taken to keep students safe?**

Students will be carefully attended to throughout their time at the Festival. An experienced residential life staff will ensure that students have the supervision and support they need throughout the weeklong festival.

**Can a parent, teaching artist, or program director chaperone a student during the festival?**

No. The festival will be fully staffed (24 hours) with adults responsible for students' musical growth, social well-being, and safety. While parents and adults are welcome to travel with students and attend the final concert, only those staff hired as music faculty and residential life staff will be permitted to be present during the days of the festival to create a student-focused experience and maintain the safety and security of all participants.

