



**Back of the Yards Orchestra  
Registration Information  
2018 - 2019 Academic Year**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the Back of the Yards orchestra all about?**

The People's Music School has provided free instruction to thousands of Chicagoland children over the last 40 years. In the winter of 2016, in partnership with Lara Elementary Academy (a Chicago Public School), we launched our Back of the Yards orchestra program. We are excited to bring our innovative curriculum and outstanding teachers to children on the south side of Chicago. All Back of the Yards orchestra rehearsals will be held at the Lara Elementary Academy located at 4619 S Wolcott Avenue.

**How do I register my child?**

Registration will begin on July 15 of each year. Parents/Guardians will fill out a registration form for each child they would like to enroll in the orchestra. Registration forms can be found online at <http://www.peoplesmusicsschool.org> at least one week before registration opens. To register your child you need to:

1. Download and print out the registration form.
2. Answer all questions on the registration form.
3. Email the completed registration form (as a picture or an attachment to an email) to [krystal.miranda@peoplesmusicsschool.org](mailto:krystal.miranda@peoplesmusicsschool.org).

Students will be accepted into the orchestra (as spaces become available) on a first come first served basis. Once all spaces for the year are filled, all other students who apply will be placed on a waiting list.

**Does my child need to have any previous musical experience?**

Your child does not need to know how to read music or play an instrument to enter the Back of the Yards orchestra. We will teach them everything they need to know!

**Do you accept all children?**

We accept children who are in 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The number of spaces available and grades accepted for new students to enroll in orchestra will vary from year to year. Once accepted for enrollment in the orchestra children will be grouped by ability and instrument.

**How will I know if my child has been selected to attend the Back of the Yards orchestra?**

If your child is accepted for enrollment in the Back of the Yards orchestra a staff member from The People's Music School will contact you by phone/email to let you know. Waiting list students will only be contacted if spaces become available during the school year.

**What do we need to do once we find out my child has been selected?**

Once you are notified that your child has been selected to enroll in our program you and your child will be required to attend an orientation session prior to starting orchestra rehearsals. Should you or another

adult family representative be unable to attend this meeting, you will forfeit your child's registration and a waiting list applicant will be contacted to take his/her space.

### **Do I need to provide my child with an instrument?**

The People's Music School has instruments and other necessary equipment and supplies for orchestra. Once a parent/guardian signs an Instrument Loan Contract we are happy to loan an instrument to your child. You can also choose to rent/purchase your own instrument for your child to use, and we can help you find a local store where you can get an instrument.

### **What instruments do you offer?**

The Back of the Yards orchestra program offers instruction on violin, viola, cello, bass, flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion. Our faculty and staff will assist your child with finding the instrument that is the best fit for him/her based upon their age, physical size, and interests.

### **What is the class schedule?**

The Back of the Yards orchestra will rehearse from 3:00 - 5:15 pm from September through June. Exact days for rehearsals will vary each school year.

### **What is my child required to do?**

Please note that the Back of the Yards orchestra is an intensive musical program that requires your child's attendance at rehearsals, performances, and special events. In order to remain a student in our program your child must:

- Be on time to rehearsals/performances and have regular attendance
- Progress to the next level through instrument juries and teacher evaluations

### **What is required of parents?**

We require the following from our parents:

- Completion of 4 hours of volunteer work every semester, for each child enrolled
- Participation in all fundraising events for the school
- Support and encouragement of your child's musical progress
- Compliance with all The People's Music School policies and requirements

If you would like more information about enrolling your child at The People's Music School, Back of the Yards orchestra, please contact:

Krystal Miranda, Program Coordinator

[krystal.miranda@peoplesmusicschool.org](mailto:krystal.miranda@peoplesmusicschool.org).

773.784.7032