

Intensive Community Program (ICP) Strings FAQ's

What is ICP?

- ICP is a rigorous instrumental training program within the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO) for students of color including African American, Latinx, Caribbean, and other populations historically underrepresented in the study of classical music.
- As a member of ICP Strings, students become dedicated to and passionate about music. They learn to achieve excellence through the challenge of learning to play the violin, viola, cello or double bass.
- Through discipline and creativity, individuality and teamwork, students accomplish personal and group goals.
- The results are young people who develop high aspirations and love to work hard towards excellence.

How can my child get involved?

- Interested students from historically underrepresented communities in the classical music field between the ages of 4 and 7 are encouraged to apply. No previous experience in classical music is needed!
- The recruitment process involves two rounds:
Round 1: One 30-minute group student interview alongside a separate information session for families, conducted by the ICP Artistic Director, ICP Conductor and ICP Community Programs Manager. Approximately 32 (thirty-two) children will move on to round two of the recruitment process.

Round 2: Six group instrumental workshops held at Boston University's College of Fine Arts (BU CFA) on Sundays, October 18 – November 22, 2:00-4:00pm.

Enrollment: 16 students will be selected to join the ICP Strings program with instrument instruction to begin January 10, 2027.

What is the family's role in ICP?

- ICP is a commitment on the part of the student and of the family. Students will need to attend lessons and ensemble classes twice per week and will need to practice at home for 1 hour each day.



photos by Michael J. Lutch, Pamela Green, Aram Boghosian, Sarah Spinella

How does ICP work?

Once accepted into ICP, BYSO will provide students with the use of an instrument, weekly lessons and large ensemble classes.

- WEEKLY LESSONS: Sundays 2:00-4:00pm at BU CFA.
- ENSEMBLE CLASSES: Wednesdays 4:30-6:00pm at BYSO YCM.
- Other important dates:
 - Sunday, May 16: ICP Strings Beginner Recital (location TBD, time TBD).
 - Wednesday, May 26: ICP Strings evaluations at BYSO YCM (times TBD).
 - Saturday, June 5 at 2:00pm: ICP Graduation Concert at BYSO YCM, including ICP Beginner Strings Ensemble performance.
 - Monday, August 9 – Friday, August 13: ICP Strings Summer Music Camp (based on 2026 camp dates).
- After 2-3 years of study, students are typically prepared to audition for the BYSO's entry-level string orchestra, the Petit Ensemble.
- ICP students are expected to progress through the BYSO system, with a goal of auditioning successfully into the Boston Youth Symphony, BYSO's premier ensemble.
- Provided that an ICP student remains in a BYSO orchestra, the BYSO will continue to provide support in the form of complimentary private lessons, use of an instrument, and need-based financial support.

What performance/musical opportunities will my child receive?

- 1) Weekly instrumental lessons.
- 2) Weekly ensemble classes.
- 3) Fall/Spring performance evaluations.
- 4) Receive music theory instruction.
- 5) Rehearse and perform in string chamber music groups.
- 6) Rehearse and perform in solo recitals with pianist.
- 7) Perform at venues such as Faneuil Hall, Symphony Hall and Boston University in Holiday and Family concerts.
- 8) Perform outreach recitals at hospitals and senior centers in Greater Boston.
- 9) Attend ICP and BYSO summer music camp.

How much does ICP cost?

- Need-based financial assistance is available to help cover the ensemble tuition cost of ICP.



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