

Hit It, Maestro!

Since the fall of 2007, the Shanghai International Youth Orchestra has brought together musically inclined students from both Chinese and international schools. Students have the opportunity to perform at least twice a year at venues such as the Shanghai Concert Hall and the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center. The group meets every Sunday during the school year and rehearsals are occasionally led by international and local artists who inspire members to pursue their musical passion. The next round of auditions are on Aug. 29 and 30 (info@shiyo.net).



Ariel Lee
SAS Pudong
Age 12, Violin
New member

I've been playing the violin for four years. I chose it because it has a wide range of sound. Since I like music so much, my orchestra teacher at school recommended I try out for the youth orchestra. I'm really looking forward to playing new, challenging pieces. It's also a rare opportunity to play and learn about chamber music.



Levin Zhu
SAS Pudong
Age 15, Violin
Member for one year

I've played the violin for eight years. I was looking for an orchestra to play with and my violin teacher found this one—the only international orchestra in Shanghai. I love music and the feeling it gives you; it's very deep. With the orchestra I get to play at great venues and meet people who share my love of music.



Max Chen
SAS Pudong
Age 13, Cello
New member

When I was in first grade, my parents made me play the cello, but turns out I like it a lot. One of my schoolmates was part of the orchestra and recruited me because they needed a cellist. I've learned that a strong work ethic is more important than talent, and that you have to put in a lot of effort.




Sam Wu
SAS Puxi
Age 13, Violin
Member for two years

Mr. Matthews, our director, was the orchestra director at my school; he left and gave me an application for a new orchestra that he was starting. We started as only four people and now have more than 10. Classical music is the base for most other types of music, so it's very expressive and it lets you communicate with others.



Zhuoya Zhang
Xinge High School
Age 16, Bass
Member for one year

I have been playing bass for two years. My bass teacher told me that it would be a good idea to play in an ensemble. He was right! It's a great experience and you get to interact with other members. You can have fun, but you have to be very serious about the music and you have to be very efficient in what you do.



Ned Dana
John Hopkins CTY Online
Age 16, Violin
New member

I've been playing the violin for 10 years. When I was younger, my parents used to play a lot of classical music CDs that included the violin, and I started to really like it. I like playing as a group and feeling like I'm part of something. And since the orchestra is so small, you get to hear each instrument separately.



Leo Zhu
SAS Pudong
Age 15, Violin
Member for one year

It's so rare to find a place in Shanghai where you can play with others. With the orchestra, I've even been able to play in a professional venue—the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center—for the first time. I've learned that the most important things to focus on are tone quality and putting emotion into what you are playing.



Alexander Yang
SAS Pudong
Age 12, Cello
Member for two years

I started playing the cello in grade four when I lived in Hong Kong because my uncle plays it. I wanted to keep on playing, but my school's orchestra wasn't very advanced, and I needed a challenge. Playing with others makes me appreciate teamwork. Since the group is so small, you can really hear each person play.

Good luck keeping up with these young maestros