YOLA National

YOLA National Festival 2027

Symphony Orchestra & Overture Program Eligibility

Students applying for the Symphony Orchestra or Overture Program must meet **program** and **age** requirements to be eligible to participate. These requirements are explained below.

MUSICIAN AGE REQUIREMENT

Applications are open for Symphony Orchestra Program for musicians ages 14–18 and the Overture Program for musicians ages 12–14.

Musicians must be enrolled in high school or, for those who are 18, in their summer after their senior year. Musicians who are 14 are welcome to apply to the ensemble that they believe best suits them; if you chose to apply to Symphony, you will still be considered for the Overture Program.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENT

Musicians must be enrolled in a music program that is either directly inspired by El Sistema*, or in a program similarly invested in youth empowerment. While each El Sistema-inspired or aligned program operates differently, there are basic tenets associated with such programs which this Festival aims to support.

All programs will be evaluated on the following criteria, and must successfully pass a program evaluation by YOLA National Staff:

- Students participate in at least 5 hours of music on their primary orchestral instrument each week in a program emphasizing ensemble-based learning.
- The program's mission focuses on using music as a vehicle for social change and community development.
- The program is tuition-free programming or full scholarships are awarded or available to at least 80% of students, ensuring accessibility. No musician should be turned away from the program due to inability to pay.
- The program commits to supporting students from childhood through high school and into adulthood and evaluates success through both musical and behavioral development.
- The program collaborates with key partners in music and social development and is part of a national or regional network of El Sistema-inspired programs.

All previously evaluated programs are listed in the dropdown menu on the first page of the application. If you do not see your program listed, please email YOLANationalTeam@laphil.org to request a formal program evaluation *(see next section)*.

LA Phil
GUSTAVO DUDAMEL MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

YOLA National

PROGRAM REVIEW

When submitting an official program review, it is helpful for the musician, parent, and/or program to offer the following:

1. Any information that highlights elements of the program that fall within the criteria listed above
2. A website, informational booklet, or program contact who can certify the program information

Once a program is successfully evaluated, the musician / program will be offered a code that allows them to complete the application. Please do not share this code with others.

If you are a past participant of the YOLA National Festival but are no longer part of an approved program, please email YOLANationalTeam@laphil.org

**Please note that in-school programs are typically ineligible, however please submit a request for a formal evaluation.*

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

LA Phil

GUSTAVO DUDAMEL MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR