

CCO Membership Policy ,Â September 2019

The CCO began informally in 2005 as a collective of talented, not necessarily professional instrumentalists keen to challenge each other, playing music we are passionate about while fostering an appreciation for it in our downtown Toronto community.

We also wanted to challenge the way community orchestras typically work. (Read too many fees, fundraisers and rules, tend to meet in the suburbs, operate like a revolving door of players, pay ringers parachuted in at the last moment to save concerts, etc., etc. You know the drill.)

The CCO is self-managed, and all its members are invited and encouraged to claim some kind of commitment and ownership in the orchestra. We welcome everyone's contribution. With that said, here are some expectations for the group:

1. We are a collective. None of our members are paid, and we continue to exist because we each pitch in something to the non-musical happenings of the band. Beyond the expectation that everyone helps set-up, tear-down, and maintain the church, we also expect that everyone contributes in some other way. Are you Smart-serve certified? Help pour drinks at concerts. Do you have a flair for photography? Take some pictures to add to our social media pages. Have connections with vendors that can supply music or equipment? Hook us up with deals on stands when we need more. Let your section rep know what you can do, and how you'd like to help out.
2. We are incredibly fortunate to partner with Little Trinity. The church is much more than simply a venue ,Â without their generous donation of rehearsal and concert space (that's right, we don't pay a cent for the church), we would have to become like every other community orchestra out there and charge members to join. To help keep this relationship healthy, it is hugely important that we take care of the space. To say it again: we have free space to rehearse and play in downtown Toronto! No matter how trivial the request may seem (i.e. 5 chairs at this table, 3 chairs at that), it's worth it. Please keep this in mind every week.
3. Your time is valuable. We're grateful that each and every member commits to 2.5 hours of rehearsal every week, and it's unfair to the rest of the band if we can't start on time because of late arrivals. Rehearsals begin at 7:30 (unless you hear otherwise from orchestra leadership), so please be ready to play at 7:30. When planning your day, remember that the space requires set up, and most of us need a bit of time to warm-up so that we're ready for a downbeat at 7:30. Likewise, rehearsals are more effective (and more fun) when everyone knows their parts. If you need to miss a rehearsal, please let your board representative for your section know, as well as your stand

partner, section leader, co-instrumentalist, as required.

4. We have expenses as an orchestra (insurance, liquor licenses, instrument rentals, etc.) that are often front loaded at the beginning of the season. As such, we require that each member purchase at least one subscription for \$60 which gives you one ticket to each show. Even better, buy two subscriptions! Give the tickets to friends who might not normally see a classical music concert, sell additional subscriptions to family, and get co-workers to venture out on a Thursday night for an evening of live music. Concerts are way more fun when there,Â a full-house. (N.B. Our typical concert dress is all black - we,Âre pretty casual, so jackets, ties, and evening wear are not necessary.)

5. We are always looking for more seasoned and energetic players (especially violin and viola and lower brass players) who fit in with our above-outlined vibe. If you know any prospective members, or anyone who you think might want to collaborate with us, please do give our music director and human resource board contact (cco.members@gmail.com) a heads-up.

If there are questions or concerns relating to these expectations, please reach out to your section,Â representative on the board.