

Hello MYS families,

We recently shared with you that Manny and Claudette Laureano have decided to step down from their position as both Artistic Directors and conductors of Repertory and Symphony. We understand that this announcement has generated questions from our families and we want to take a moment to answer the most common questions for you now.

What is the timeline? Manny and Claudette will complete the 2019-2020 season with their orchestras. The April 19th concert will be their final concert with MYS. For the 2020-2021 season, we plan to hire an interim conductor for Repertory and another for Symphony while we conduct a search process for a new artistic director and conductor. As mentioned, we will be asking for feedback throughout the season to make sure we find the right fit with our new artistic leadership.

Will there be any changes with auditions? The audition schedule and requirements will remain the same. We will keep the same schedule with as few changes as possible. Current MYS conductors and artistic staff will hear auditions, but Manny and Claudette will not be involved.

What will next year look like? Next year will be a year of transition, but our regular season calendar of events will remain much the same. We will have three concerts and the same number of rehearsals as we usually would.

What about the organization's mission and focus? MYS will remain committed to artistic excellence in orchestra education. This is a key hallmark of Manny and Claudette's legacy with MYS, and we remain committed to that as we enter a new era of leadership.

We hope that this has helped to clarify many of the questions that we have heard, and we will be available to answer other questions as they arise. This is new territory for many of us, but our focus is on creating the best environment for the next group of MYS students. Our priority will be to continue to build upon the amazing legacy that Manny and Claudette are leaving for our students and families.

Best,

The MYS Board of Directors