



2017 National Take a Stand Festival: Eligibility

Any student may apply who is in at least his or her second year of a music program that is either directly inspired by El Sistema – or clearly demonstrates a dedication to social change and youth development through instrumental music education. While each El Sistema-inspired or -aligned program looks different from the next, there are basic tenets associated with such programs which this Festival aims to support.

Applicants must be currently enrolled in, or recently graduated from, a program that meets **at least 5 of the following 8 criteria:**

1. Students are playing music on their primary orchestral instrument in the program for at least 5 hours per week.
2. Central to the mission of the program is music as a vehicle for social change and youth or community development.
3. Programming is free or full scholarships are given to at least 80% of all students.
4. The program provides a multi-year commitment to students, offering support from childhood through the end of high school and/or adulthood.
5. The program emphasizes ensemble-based orchestral programming (students are learning in groups).
6. Students' success is evaluated not only on musical progress, but also on behavioral development.
7. The program is a member of a national or regional organization that is a network for self-identified El Sistema-inspired programs (for example: El Sistema USA).
8. The program has key individual or institutional partners that provide expertise in both music and community/youth/social development.

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