



Youth Orchestra

2009-2010

Member Handbook

Michael Hall, Music Director and Symphony Conductor
Nanette Grant, Sinfonietta Conductor
Frances Goldman, Executive Director

Todd Betz, Manager, Percussion Coach - manager@swfsyo.org
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Welcome to the Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra (SWFSYO). This handbook contains most of the information you will need as a member of the SWFSYO. For additional information, contact the SWFSYO General Manager, Todd Betz, at manager@swfsyo.org.

The Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra consists of the Sinfonietta (intermediate string orchestra), Symphony (advanced full orchestra) and ensembles (Woodwind, Brass, Strings and Percussion) In association with its parent organization, the Southwest Florida Symphony, the SWFSYO auditions musicians of any race, religion, color, sex, national origin, or handicap and accepts them into membership based solely on their musical abilities and age.

Mission Statement

The Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra provides opportunity for individual growth of musically talented youth through training and performance of the highest quality orchestral literature. SWFSYO endeavors

- To develop pride and self-esteem in young people from all cultural backgrounds through their individual musical achievement.
- To instill values and discipline through musical experiences.
- To perpetuate support of professional classical music by enriching local culture and providing future musicians and audience members for major orchestras.

Auditions

Membership in the SWFSYO is achieved through audition. Members of the Sinfonietta are given opportunity to advance to the Symphony during spring semester auditions. Audition for seats will be determined and announced by the conductors.

To audition:

- Applicant must be 21 years of age or less, prior to the posted audition date.
- Applicant must select and prepare a musical selection.
- Applicant must be prepared to play musical scales
- Applicant must demonstrate sight-reading ability.

Criteria (Basic Skills):

- **Sinfonietta (Intermediate String Orchestra)**

A. Solo, etude, or excerpt of your choosing showing your best ability
Criteria for judging: Technique, Intonation, Musicality, and Tone

B. Scales and Arpeggios (We will choose 2 of the following):

Violin: 2-octave: C, G, D, A, Bb 1-octave: F, Eb

Viola: 2-octave: C, G, D, F, Bb 1-octave: A, Bb

Cello: 2-octave: C, G, D, F, A 1-octave: Bb

Bass: 2-octave: G, F 1-octave: C, D, A, Bb

(If you are not yet comfortable with all of these scales, or can only play one octave of some of them, please audition and show us what you are able. This is an optimal guideline.)

C. Sight-reading (a short excerpt)

Please bring two copies of the solo, etude or excerpt for the judges, in addition to your own.

- **Symphony (Advanced Full Orchestra) and Wind Orchestra**

A. Strings

1. Able to play in all keys

2. Able to play in positions

a. Violin - 7th

b. Viola - 6th

c. Cello and bass - thumb

3. Cello and bass must know tenor and treble clef

4. Play a solo or etude of your choice

5. Sight-read

B. Winds/ Brass/ Percussion

1. Able to play all scales (at least 2 octaves)

2. Able to produce a characteristic tone/ Tune Timpani

3. Play grade 4 or higher solo (Percussion- snare and mallets)

4. Sight-read

Once accepted into the SWFSYO, a member is expected to remain for a full season, barring extenuating circumstances.

Tuition & Expenses

Tuition is due at the first rehearsal of the season (for full season member) or at the initial rehearsal after the first of the year (for second-half season member). A member will not be permitted into rehearsal until tuition is paid (see Policies, #14). Tuition is non-refundable. A need-based scholarship/work contract program is available. Contact the General Manager for details.

Group	Full Season	Half Season
Sinfonietta	\$175.00	\$87.50
Symphony	\$225.00	\$112.50

Additional expenses include the purchase of an official SWFSYO shirt (obtained on entrance into the orchestra) and formal concert attire (see Policies, #15).

Rehearsal Schedule

Ensembles	5:15 PM to 6:15 PM
Sinfonietta	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Symphony	6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Rehearsals are scheduled for Mondays during the fall semester and on Wednesdays during the spring semester (see Calendar).

Policies

1. Arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of each rehearsal.
2. Be ready to play promptly at the designated rehearsal start time.
3. Do not leave the rehearsal facility for any reason without the permission of the Conductor or General Manager.
4. Sinfonietta members must bring their own music stands to all rehearsals.
5. Keep rehearsal property clean. **NO FOOD, GUM or BEVERAGES PERMITTED AT REHEARSALS.**
6. Members must bring their music to every rehearsal. A member who loses music will pay a replacement fee of \$3.00 per selection.
7. Bring a pencil (to mark music) to every rehearsal. **NEVER USE PEN.**
8. Do not bring homework or reading materials to rehearsal.
9. Members are required to attend all rehearsals, and to sign-in before the start of each one.
 - **FAILURE TO SIGN IN 3 WEEKS IN A ROW WILL RESULT IN THE MEMBER'S REMOVAL FROM THE ORCHESTRA ROSTER WITHOUT REFUND.**
 - Members will be permitted only **3 excused absences for the season.** In the event of any necessary absence, notify the General Manager and the appropriate coach/Sinfonietta conductor at least one week

prior to the absence. Illness, family emergencies and conflicting school music functions are the only excused absences. Please see the cover for email addresses.

- Attendance will be confirmed by roll-call promptly at 6:30 PM.
 - Members may not perform in the concert if the dress rehearsal is missed (unless they have prior permission from the Conductor) or if they are dressed inappropriately (see #15).
10. Full attention should be given while the Conductor is on the stand.
 11. Members are expected to maintain professionalism in speech and conduct, abiding by all regulations enforced by the SWFSYO, Cypress Lake Center for The Arts, and the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. Disciplinary problems will be grounds for dismissal.
 12. It is mandatory that all Youth Orchestra members actively participate in their existing school band or orchestra programs. Only a legitimate class scheduling conflict, as determined by the Youth Orchestra Manager, will be considered grounds for exemption from this rule.
 13. All cell phones are asked to be turned off during rehearsals. They may be checked during breaks and at the end of rehearsals.
 14. All members are encouraged to take private lessons on their instrument. Please ask the Conductor or Manager for a list of appropriate teachers.
 15. Tuition must be paid prior to attending the first rehearsal. Five (5) need-based scholarships are available in exchange for production work. See the Manager for details (applications, job description and contracts). Payment plan options may also be established with the Manager for assistance.
 16. Concert attire consists of two uniforms
 - a. Official SWFSYO shirt and black slacks
 - b. Formal wear
 - Sinfonietta - Ladies
 1. Long or calf-length solid black skirt or slacks
 2. Long sleeved solid white blouse
 3. Black hose and black dress shoes
 - Sinfonietta - Gentlemen
 1. Black slacks, black socks and black dress shoes
 2. Long sleeve white dress shirt and long black tie
 - Symphony – Ladies
 1. Long or calf-length black dress w/ short or long sleeve or black ankle length pants and black blouse
 2. Black hose and black dress shoes
 - Symphony – Gentlemen
 1. Black tuxedo or black suit
 2. White tuxedo shirt and black bow tie
 3. Black socks and black dress shoes

17. Chamber Ensembles are honor groups of the Youth Orchestra Program. Due to the nature of chamber music, tardiness and absences cannot be tolerated. Chamber Ensemble members are allowed **two (2) unexcused absences for the season**. In the event of any necessary absence, notify the General Manager and the appropriate coach at least one week prior to the absence. Illness, family emergencies and conflicting school music functions are the only excused absences. Please see the cover for email addresses. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the Chamber Ensemble only. This will not affect ones position in the Youth Symphony.

Staff			
Michael Hall		<i>Music Director/Conductor</i>	
Nanette Grant	<i>Sinfonietta Conductor</i>	Reiko Niiya	<i>String Coach</i>
Tom Kracmer	<i>Brass Coach</i>	Cheryle Naberhaus	<i>Woodwind Coach</i>
Alex Albanese	<i>Lower Strings Coach</i>	Todd Betz	<i>Percussion Coach</i>
Frances Goldman	<i>Executive Director</i>	Todd Betz	<i>Youth Orchestra Manager</i>



PARENT / GUARDIAN: I understand the requirements and responsibilities for membership in the Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra program. I have read and understand the policies regarding attendance, participation, attire, tuition and behavior. I realize that my son or daughter is participating in a performance-based organization and I agree not to use suspension of his or her participation in rehearsals or performances as a disciplinary tool.

NAME OF PARENT: _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S):H) _____

C) _____

EMAIL _____

STUDENT: I have read and agree to abide by the policies set forth in this handbook.

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT: _____

C) _____

EMAIL _____