



# **MOSAIC & Youth Orchestra 2023-2024 Member Handbook**

Southwest Florida Symphony  
7500 College Parkway Unit 200  
Fort Myers, FL 33919  
[www.swflso.org](http://www.swflso.org)  
239-418-0996

## **Welcome to the Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra Programs (SWFLYO)!**

One of the most exciting and rewarding experiences is playing in an ensemble. Nothing can compete with the myriad sounds of strings, woodwinds, and brass combining to stir emotions. Practicing and performing with your peers such great works of music will create memories of a lifetime.

The Southwest Florida Symphony is dedicated to creating exciting and meaningful musical experiences for students and parents alike by upholding high standards and offering new musical challenges. This handbook is designed to provide you with information regarding rehearsals, concerts, and general information to ensure a musically rewarding experience.

Successful participation in SWFLYO requires commitment, dedication, and a strong sense of personal responsibility from both students and parents. Please read this handbook carefully and contact the symphony office if you have any questions.



[Isaac Fernandez](#)Hernandez

Youth Orchestra Manager

yomanager@swflso.org

240 426 5858 Cell- PLEASE NOTE- only for necessary circumstances

## About SWFLYO

The SWFLYO consists of the *MOSAIC* (intermediate string orchestra), *Youth Orchestra* (full orchestra), and usually *Chamber Ensembles* (woodwind, brass, strings and percussion), which we might resume this year. In association with its parent organization, the Southwest Florida Symphony, the SWFLYO 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.

SWFLYO 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 SWFYO is achieved through audition. Audition for seats will either be determined at a separate audition, or will be assigned by the conductors.

To audition:

- applicant must be 19 years of age or less, prior to the posted audition date;
- applicant must be prepared to play sharp- and flat-key scales, 2-octaves (*MOSAIC*) or 3- octaves (*Youth Orchestra*);
- applicant must demonstrate sight-reading ability;
- applicant may prepare an excerpt, if posted on our website (by instrument)

# Preparing for your audition

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Youth Orchestra</b> <b>(Advanced Full Orchestra)</b></p>
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## Strings

### 1. Scales and Arpeggios

Students should play as many octaves as they know with the arpeggio. Typically, students accepted into the youth symphony are familiar with several 3 octave scales and arpeggios.

ALL STRING INSTRUMENTS will play from the following major scales and arpeggios: **C, G, D, A, E, F, B<sup>b</sup>, E<sup>b</sup>, A<sup>b</sup>**. (Scales and arpeggios will be chosen by the judges at the audition)

All scales and arpeggios are to be MEMORIZED. Scales and arpeggios will be played in even beats using separate bows. **Quarter note = 60-80**

**Violin:** G, A, C, D scales and arpeggios preferably three octaves. All other scales and arpeggios must be two octaves.

**Viola:** C, D, F, G scales and arpeggios preferably three octaves. All other scales and arpeggios must be two octaves.

**Cello:** C, D, F, G scales and arpeggios preferably three octaves. All other scales and arpeggios must be two octaves.

**Bass:** E, F, G, A, B<sup>b</sup>, C scales and arpeggios preferably two octaves (no displacement). All other scales and arpeggios must be one octave.

### 2. Sight Reading

Students will be given a sight reading excerpt to perform during the audition. Sight reading is very important in the evaluation process of the audition.

### 3. Excerpt -CONDUCTORS' OPTION

Students will perform the assigned excerpt; they are posted and available on our website. Excerpts posted on the symphony website ([www.swflso.org](http://www.swflso.org)) will be made available prior to auditions. Please print the appropriate pdf excerpt for your instrument. If none are there, they will not be required.

## **Winds/ Brass/ Percussion**

### **1. Scales and Arpeggios**

Typically, students accepted into the youth symphony are familiar with all 12 major scales and arpeggios. Scales should be played with All-State rhythm pattern. Tongued ascending and slurred descending.

Chromatic scale (at least 2 octaves)

All scales and arpeggios are to be MEMORIZED

Scales and arpeggios will be chosen by the coaches at the audition.

### **2. Sight Reading**

Students will be given a sight reading excerpt to perform during the audition. Sight reading is very important in the evaluation process of the audition.

### **3. Excerpt -CONDUCTORS' OPTION**

Students will perform the assigned excerpt; they are posted and available on our website. Excerpts posted on the symphony website ([www.swflso.org](http://www.swflso.org)) will be made available prior to auditions. Please print the appropriate pdf excerpt for your instrument. If none are there, they will not be required.

## **Tuition & Expenses**

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

**Tuition for Youth Orchestra will be \$150 a semester. Participation in the MOSAIC ensemble will remain free of charge. Scholarships available upon request and review of the organization.**

Additional expenses MAY include the purchase of an official SWFLYO shirt (obtained on entrance into the orchestra) and formal concert attire (see Policies, #17).

## Rehearsal Schedule

MOSAIC. 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

(Music Room, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Education building )

Youth Orchestra. 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

(Heights Center Auditorium, located in the Community Center Building)

Section Coachings. 1 hour before or during the first hour of rehearsals. Three per concert per section, schedule TBD. \*subject to change

Rehearsals are scheduled for Monday evenings (see Calendar) when Lee County Schools are also in session.

## Policies

1. Arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of each rehearsal.
2. Sign in at the attendance book.
3. Use the restroom before arriving or after dismissal to avoid interruptions.
4. Be ready to play promptly at the designated rehearsal start time.
5. Do not leave the rehearsal facility for any reason without the permission of the Conductor or YO Manager.
6. Keep rehearsal property clean, and respect our space and Artsemble's space, which is on loan. NO FOOD, GUM, or BEVERAGES PERMITTED AT REHEARSALS.
7. Bring music to every rehearsal. A member who loses music will be charged a replacement fee of \$1.00 per selection.
8. Bring a pencil (to mark music) to every rehearsal. NEVER USE PEN.
9. Do not bring homework or reading materials to rehearsal.
10. Attend all rehearsals. Please let Isaac Fernandez Hernandez know as soon as you do if you have to miss! Email: [yomanager@swflso.org](mailto:yomanager@swflso.org)

Cell: 240 426 5858

- a. **FAILURE TO ATTEND 3 WEEKS IN A ROW WILL RESULT IN THE MEMBER'S REMOVAL FROM THE NEXT UPCOMING ORCHESTRA CONCERT.**
- b. Members will be permitted only **3 excused absences (below) for the season.** In the event of any known necessary absence, notify the Youth Orchestra Manager or Education Director by email at least one week prior to the absence.
  - i. Illness (PLEASE stay home)
  - ii. family emergencies
  - iii. conflicting school music functions

are the only excused absences. Please see the cover for email addresses.

- c. Students with an **unexcused absence** will be subject to review for concert performance. Students may be asked to give a private audition with the Musical Director to determine whether they know their part at a high enough standard.
  - d. Attendance will be confirmed by sign -in sheet at each rehearsal
  - e. 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 #17).
11. Full attention should be given while the Conductor is on the stand.
12. Members are expected to maintain professionalism in speech and conduct, abiding by all regulations enforced by the SWFLYO, The Heights Center, Bell Tower Shops and the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, and any other venues we may utilize. Disciplinary problems will be grounds for dismissal.
13. 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 conductors or Education Director, will be considered grounds for exemption from this rule.
14. Disciplinary action from a member's school may affect a member's eligibility to participate with the Youth Orchestra. This is due to the school participation policy #13. Any incident will be taken as a case by case situation and acted upon by the administration.
15. All cell phones must be turned off during rehearsals. They may be checked during breaks and at the end of rehearsals.
16. All members are encouraged to take private lessons on their instrument. Please ask the Manager, Conductor, or Director for suggested teachers.
17. Concert attire consists of two uniforms
- a. Official SWFLYO shirt (if offered each year) and black slacks
  - b. Formal wear
    - MOSAIC - Ladies
      - 1. Long or calf-length solid black skirt or slacks
      - 2. Long sleeved white blouse
      - 3. Black hose and black dress shoes.
    - MOSAIC - Gentlemen
      - 1. Black slacks, black socks and black dress shoes
      - 2. Long sleeve white dress shirt and long black tie.
    - Youth Orchestra - Ladies
      - 1. Long or calf-length black dress with short or long sleeve or black ankle length pants and black blouse with sleeves
      - 2. Black hose and black dress shoes
    - Youth Orchestra - Gentlemen
      - 1. Black tuxedo or black suit
      - 2. White tuxedo shirt and black bow tie
      - 3. Black socks and black dress shoes

18. (\*\**Program On Hold*\*\*) Symphony 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 Director 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 one's position in the Youth Symphony.

#### Staff

Roland Forti, Symphony Conductor – [fortir1@collierschools.com](mailto:fortir1@collierschools.com)

Katrina Rozmus, Sinfonietta Conductor - [kv198@hotmail.com](mailto:kv198@hotmail.com)

Isaac Fernandez Hernandez, Youth Orchestra Manager- [yomanager@swflso.org](mailto:yomanager@swflso.org)

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