



**HANDBOOK
FOR
MEMBERS AND PARENTS**

2021–2022

THE DAYTON PHILHARMONIC
YOUTH ORCHESTRA
2021–2022 HANDBOOK
CONTENTS

Welcome.....2

The Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.....2

Auditions for Membership and Seating.....3

Membership Fee.....3

Attendance Policy4–5

Conduct.....6

Music.....6

COVID-19 Policies.....6

Concert Attire.....7

The Association of Parents and Friends of the DPYO.....8

2021–2022 Parent Association Officers.....8

Dayton Performing Arts Alliance
126 North Main Street, Suite 210
Dayton, OH 45402
(937) 224-3521

WELCOME

Congratulations and welcome to the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra! Seventy-four highly talented musicians from twenty-five schools and homeschools in the greater Dayton area have been selected to take part in this prestigious musical organization. DPYO is dedicated to maintaining the highest possible artistic standards, and we expect all members to share our artistic goals and endeavor to reach their full musical potential. Your commitment to rehearsals and concerts will serve as an inspiration to all who hear you in performance.

This handbook contains important information you will need as members. Members and parents should read this handbook carefully. Your compliance with the organization's regulations is vital to the professionalism and musical integrity of DPYO. Failure to comply with these policies may result in dismissal from the orchestra.

THE DAYTON PHILHARMONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA

The Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, founded in 1937 by Paul Katz, was organized to give aspiring young musicians an opportunity to work together in the study of orchestral music. The DPYO is a program of the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance Education Department and strives to operate in a manner as close as possible to that of a professional symphony orchestra.

DPYO, school music programs, and private teachers share the common goal of training the next generation of musicians, audience members, and arts supporters. DPYO requires its members to actively participate in their school music programs, playing the same instrument as in DPYO. If there is no school orchestra or band, an exception may be made. We expect DPYO members to be leaders and role models in their school music programs.

DPYO is sponsored by the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, the Association of Parents and Friends of the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and the Dayton Philharmonic Volunteer Association. DPYO is affiliated with the Youth Division of the League of American Orchestras. Members of DPYO are eligible for college music scholarships and summer music camp scholarships provided by the Dayton Philharmonic Volunteer Association.

AUDITIONS for MEMBERSHIP and SEATING

Auditions for entrance into the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra are held each year in the spring. Members are accepted by audition only, including members of the previous year's orchestra.

Auditions for seating will take place in late September or early October. Seating audition music will consist of concert repertoire, scales and sight-reading. Other changes of seating will occur at the discretion of the Conductor.

MEMBERSHIP FEE

The membership fee for participation in the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra is \$385. This fee covers administrative costs such as conductor and sectional coaches' salaries, rehearsal and performance space, music, and the annual Winter Campout. Financial assistance or payment plans are available for any student in need. This organization does not deny an eligible student membership because of financial hardship.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A guiding principle of DPYO is that extraordinary dedication is essential to achieving musical excellence. While performances often provide the most memorable highlights of the season, our rehearsals reveal most about who we are as an ensemble—our personal dedication and musical maturity, our respect for one another, and our ability to work together intensively. Members are expected to be present at all rehearsals, to prepare diligently for rehearsals and to contribute their best abilities during rehearsals.

The following attendance guidelines will be enforced:

- ★ Orchestra members are expected to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to any rehearsal. Late arrival will not be tolerated. Excessive tardiness may result in reassignment of chair position or dismissal from the orchestra.
- ★ All orchestra members are expected to sign in upon arrival. Signing in for members other than yourself is not permitted.
- ★ All absences are recorded by the Attendance Monitor and forwarded to the Conductor.
- ★ The online absence notification form must be submitted for any absence, including illness.

Link to online form: <http://www.jotform.us/dpyoattendance/dpyo-absence-form>. Parents will receive email confirming receipt of form.

- ★ **IMPORTANT:** If the absence form is not submitted at least two weeks in advance (with the exception of absences due to illness), the absence will be recorded as unexcused.
- ★ Performances or events sponsored by your school music program, solo and ensemble contests, or other events required by your school music program will be considered **excused** absences. **IMPORTANT:** For school music events, the absence form still must be submitted two weeks in advance. Members are asked to avoid accepting extra performance opportunities that are not required as part of your school

music program. Unnecessary absences are particularly disruptive to the DPYO rehearsal process and will be considered unexcused absences.

- ★ Absences for standardized testing (e.g. SAT, ACT, PSAT, etc.), college auditions or visits, family events, academic contests, other nonmusical school events, weddings, vacations, etc., are **unexcused** absences and are discouraged. Reminder: The online absence form must be submitted at least two weeks in advance.
- ★ In the event of sudden illness, an online absence form must be submitted before the start of rehearsal. Absences caused by illness do count toward your total absences, but the circumstances are taken into consideration.
- ★ No member may leave early from rehearsal without permission of the Conductor.
- ★ No member will be excused from a dress rehearsal or any rehearsal scheduled within seven days of a concert. Absence from a dress rehearsal may be cause for reassignment of chair position, denial of permission to perform in the concert or dismissal from the orchestra, at the discretion of the Conductor.
- ★ Absence from a concert will be cause for reassignment of chair position or dismissal from the orchestra, at the discretion of the Conductor.
- ★ Because of the unique importance of the annual Campout in preparation for the Family Concert, no member will be excused from this activity.
- ★ A maximum of three (3) absences (excluding excused school music performances) is permitted each semester. A semester is defined as follows:
 - First semester—September through December
 - Second semester—January through May
- ★ When a member reaches three absences of any kind, a warning will be issued. Excessive unexcused absences will result in reassignment of chair position or dismissal from the Orchestra, at the discretion of the Conductor.

CONDUCT

Orchestra members should conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. This means alert, observant and courteous attention; enthusiasm for activities; punctuality and dedication; and attention to all directions given by the conductor, coaches and DPYO staff. Failure to do so may result in immediate dismissal, at the discretion of the Conductor.

The use of cellphones and other electronic devices (including talking or texting, etc.) is strictly prohibited during rehearsals and concerts. All cellphones must be completely put away and out of sight during rehearsals and concerts and may only be used or viewed during break.

MUSIC

Each member will be provided with a folder including all music for the current program. This music must be brought to each rehearsal, and it will be the musician's responsibility to mark important changes, dynamics, bowings, etc. in pencil. **There will be a charge for lost or damaged music.** In addition, any charges to DPYO from music publishers because of late return of music will be passed on to the student whose music caused the late return.

COVID-19 POLICIES

DPYO will set COVID-19 safety policies based on the protocols and recommendations set forth by the CDC, State of Ohio, local school districts, and the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance senior leadership. We will update DPYO families about changes in policies throughout the year.

CONCERT ATTIRE

The goal of concert attire is to create a professional and uniform appearance for the orchestra. All members should dress appropriately with this in mind.

All members of the Youth Orchestra are expected to wear formal, professional dress. All members should be covered from shoulders to floor. Clothing should fit in a professional manner.

Options for attire:

- Black tuxedo (no tails) OR black suit, white dress shirt, black bow tie, black socks, black dress shoes (jackets are not optional for men)
- Black floor-length dress, black stockings, black dress shoes
- Black blouse with $\frac{3}{4}$ or full-length sleeves, professionally fitting black dress pants or black floor-length skirt, black stockings, black dress shoes
- Modest jewelry and simple, black hair accessories
- No jeans, corduroys or leggings

YES



NO



YES



**The ASSOCIATION of PARENTS and FRIENDS
of the
DAYTON PHILHARMONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

The purpose of this organization is to promote and support the activities of the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra in a cooperative effort with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra Association and the Dayton Philharmonic Volunteer Association.

Membership in this organization is open to all parents of Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra members. Tax-deductible contributions to the Association of Parents and Friends of the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra are encouraged to help the overall operation of the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra but are not mandatory for membership.

2021–2022 OFFICERS

President	Phillipa Burgess	phillipaedithburgess@gmail.com
Vice President	Scott Paulson	scottericapaulson@gmail.com
Treasurer	Vareena Swihart	vswihart@gmail.com
Communications	Matthew Colglazier	matthew.colglazier@gmail.com
Attendance	Melody Hogue	melodyhogue1969@gmail.com
Campout		
Food	Ron Hoffman	hoffman427@yahoo.com
T-Shirts	Michelle Percy	michellepercy@yahoo.com
Conductor	Patrick Reynolds	dpyoconductor@gmail.com
Director of Education	Ruth Reveal	C: 937-902-9317
<i>Dayton Performing Arts Alliance</i>		rreveal@daytonperformingarts.org

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