



DAYTON PHILHARMONIC **junior** STRINGS

**DAYTON PHILHARMONIC  
JUNIOR STRING ORCHESTRA**

**Michelle Mastin, Conductor**

**HANDBOOK  
FOR  
MEMBERS AND PARENTS  
2023-2024**

# Dayton Philharmonic Junior Strings

## 2023-2024 Handbook

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Congratulations and welcome to the Dayton Philharmonic Junior Strings! You have been selected, through audition, to take part in an exciting musical experience as a member of this orchestra. This group of 38 talented musicians has an opportunity to experience true musical challenges, growth, and rewards. Your commitment to rehearsals and concerts enriches our community and serves as an inspiration to all who hear you in performance.

This handbook contains important information you will need as a member of DPJS. Members and parents should become familiar with its contents, especially with the rules and procedures pertaining to attendance. Keep the book in a handy place; you will use it often.

### **DAYTON PHILHARMONIC JUNIOR STRINGS**

The Dayton Philharmonic Junior Strings was created in July 2014 in response to requests from string teachers and music educators for an orchestra to encourage young string students not quite ready for Dayton Philharmonic Youth Strings. The purpose of DPJS is to provide musical enrichment for string students in grades 5 through 8 and to better prepare these students for membership in DPYS and the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (DPYO). All of the Youth Orchestras are programs of the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance's Education Department, and they strive to operate in a manner as close as possible to that of professional symphony orchestras. This orchestra is not meant to interfere or compete with school orchestras; its purpose is to encourage, support and strengthen existing programs and to help stimulate interest in the development of string programs where none exist.

The group rehearses from September to mid-March and will present two performances.

### **AUDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND SEATING**

Auditions for entrance into the Dayton Philharmonic Junior Strings will be held each year in the spring. All members are accepted by audition only, including members of the previous year's orchestra. Audition music will consist of a solo of the student's choice, scales and sight-reading. Audition results are confidential and are for the conductor's use only. After rehearsals have begun, changes in seating may take place at the discretion of the conductor, and any additional auditions will be held on a space-available basis.

The conductor seats the musicians based on their technical abilities, experience and leadership skills. Rotational seating is commonly used during rehearsals and sometimes concerts, even with principal players. These decisions are totally up to the discretion of

the conductor and are based on her professional expertise. The approach may vary from year to year and from semester to semester. Rotation is emphasized so that players experience sitting in different parts of the orchestra and multiple students participate in leadership roles.

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

The membership fee for participation in the Dayton Philharmonic Junior Strings is \$200. This fee covers administrative costs such as music, rehearsal and performance space, and conductor salaries. Fee assistance is available for any student who may need financial assistance. The DPYS does not deny an eligible student membership because of financial hardship.

## **DRESS**

The goal of concert attire is to create a professional and uniform appearance for the orchestra. Orchestra members should not stand out individually but should be uniform so that the focus remains on the music. All members should dress appropriately.

**Rehearsals:** Casual dress. All members should be covered from shoulders to knees.

**Concerts:** All members should wear a white dressy blouse or dress shirt; black dress pants or black floor-length skirt; long dark, solid tie (optional for girls); black socks/stockings; and black dress shoes. No jeans, corduroys, leggings, or otherwise tight-fitting clothing is allowed. No tennis shoes.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

A guiding principle of the youth orchestra programs 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 diligently prepare for each rehearsal and to arrive ready to contribute their best talent to the ensemble. The success of the group and each individual member depends on 100% attendance at all rehearsals, and we require a firm commitment from our players. The following policies will be enforced, and exceptions will be considered only in extreme cases.

1. You may miss up to two rehearsals each semester for emergencies or unavoidable conflicts. After three absences you will not be allowed to continue rehearsing in that semester, or perform in the semester concert. You will still be considered a member of the orchestra, however, and will be expected back when the next set of rehearsals begins.
2. If you must miss a rehearsal, you must call, text, or email the conductor at (415) 692-1277, [violajack@gmail.com](mailto:violajack@gmail.com).

3. If you must arrive late or leave early, you must also call ahead and explain the reason. If you miss more than one hour of rehearsal time, that day will be counted as an absence.
4. The final rehearsal (“dress” rehearsal) on the Sunday before a performance is required and may not be missed. If you miss this rehearsal, you will not play in the concert the next week. The dress rehearsal time on the day of the concert is required and may not be missed.
5. If you miss a performance, your membership in the orchestra will be automatically terminated.
6. Absences from extra end-of-semester performances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## **ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP RULES AND PROCEDURES**

1. Membership in the Dayton Philharmonic Junior Strings is open to players of orchestral string instruments who are in grades 5 through 8 and who are members of school music organizations, playing the same instrument as is played in the Junior Strings. If there is no school orchestra, an exception may be made. Admission into the orchestra will be made by audition, and each seat is auditioned each year.
2. Members of the orchestra are expected to demonstrate exemplary conduct at rehearsals, performances and other activities of the Junior Strings. At rehearsals, students should be quiet, attentive, cooperative and ready to work. At public performances, students should behave in a professional manner befitting their status in a select group. Failure to behave accordingly may result in dismissal from the group.
3. The use of all electronic devices is strictly prohibited during rehearsals and concerts.
4. Orchestra members are expected to arrive at the rehearsal site at least 15 minutes early to allow for tuning and setup.
5. Students are expected to respect the DPJS rehearsal and performance facility. We are guests in these facilities and we need to leave them in the same or better condition than before we entered. Students should not:
  - ◆ play on or experiment with any instruments that are not their own.
  - ◆ go into any areas that we are not using.
  - ◆ leave trash behind (food wrappers, water bottles, music or handouts).
  - ◆ take apart or vandalize any parts of these buildings.
6. Parents are expected to pick up students promptly at the end of each rehearsal.
7. Orchestra members are responsible for the care of their music. Each player will be assigned a folder of music to be used for all rehearsals and concerts. These folders must be brought to all sessions and returned after each concert.

8. The orchestra repertoire may be challenging, and members are expected to practice their parts at home, seeking help from their private teachers if necessary. The better prepared you are, the more you will enjoy the rehearsals.

## **COVID-19 POLICIES**

DPJS 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 DPJS families about changes in policies throughout the year.

## **2023-24 CONTACTS**

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***Welcome to the  
Dayton Philharmonic  
Youth Orchestras Family!***