

DAYTON PHILHARMONIC YOUTH STRINGS

Dr. Betsey Hofeldt, Conductor



HANDBOOK FOR MEMBERS AND PARENTS 2023-2024

The Dayton Philharmonic Youth Strings

2023-2024 Handbook

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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations and welcome to the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Strings! You have been selected, through audition, to take part in an exciting musical experience as a member of this orchestra. This group of 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 DPYS. 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 YOUTH STRINGS

The Dayton Philharmonic Youth Strings was established in September 1982 with the support of Mrs. Virginia Kettering for the purpose of providing musical enrichment and advanced concert experience for string students in grades 6 through 12.

The Youth Strings is sponsored by the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra Association with support from the Association of Parents and Friends of the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Strings and by the Dayton Philharmonic Volunteer Association.

The group rehearses from September to mid-March, playing two major concerts in the fall and spring, plus other appearances as needed.

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.

AUDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND SEATING

Auditions for entrance into the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Strings are 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.

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 made based on her professional expertise. The approach may vary from year to year, as well as 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 Youth 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 membership to an eligible student 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 with this in mind.

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); black socks/stockings; and black dress shoes. No jeans, corduroys, leggings, or otherwise tight-fitting clothing is allowed.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A guiding principle of the Youth Strings 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. We play two *major concerts* each season, one in the fall and one in the spring. The success of our concerts 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 play in that semester's *major 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 CONTACT the conductor, preferably BEFORE the rehearsal. Call or text 937-901-4485 or email at hofeldte@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 *major concert* is required and may not be missed. If you miss this rehearsal, you will not play in the concert the next week.
5. If you miss a *major concert*, 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.

ATTENDING DPAA PERFORMANCES

Dr. Hofeldt believes that listening to professional performances is an essential part of a musician's growth. Quality live performances can educate, inspire, motivate and nurture the human spirit. There is nothing like seeing and hearing music of the great masters performed by nationally acclaimed artists in the phenomenal acoustics of the Schuster Center! She challenges each student to select three of the DPAA performances throughout the season and commit to attending them, usually FREE of charge. Students may choose to go with their families, or as a group with other YS members, and parents can form carpools with other families. These concerts are great opportunities for a quality enrichment experience for the entire family, and students attending in groups can deepen the bond of their YS friendships.

Please refer to the Youth Orchestras website for updated information on acquiring free student tickets and discounted tickets for family members:

<https://daytonphilharmonicyouthorchestra.org/dpys-forms-information/>.

As a member of one of our DPAA Youth Orchestras, your child can be proud to get the seat and form a lasting childhood memory. Parents, please make this happen for your children this year.

COVID-19 POLICIES

DPYS 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 DPYS families about changes in policies throughout the year.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. Membership in the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Strings is open to players of orchestral string instruments who are in grades 6 through 12 and who are members of school music organizations, playing the same instrument as is played in the Youth 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 Youth 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 may result in dismissal from the group.
3. The use of electronic devices (including iPods, talking/texting on cell phones) 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 DPYS 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 is meant to be very 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.

9. Before each concert there will be a warm-up rehearsal, approximately 1½ to 2 hours before the concert. This is an important time to rehearse in new surroundings, establish dynamics, rehearse with soloists/extras, or have an orchestra picture taken. Attendance is required, so plan accordingly.

10. At the end of the year, students may apply for scholarship awards from the Dayton Philharmonic Volunteer Association. These awards are based on attendance, behavior, and performance. They are to be used for music lessons, music camp, or the purchase of an instrument or bow. Scholarship winners must agree to play with either the Youth Strings or the Philharmonic Youth Orchestra the following year.

THE ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF DAYTON PHILHARMONIC YOUTH STRINGS

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

Membership in this organization is open to all parents of the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Strings programs under terms set forth in the bylaws. Tax-deductible contributions to the Association of Parents and Friends of the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Strings are encouraged to help the overall operation of the Youth Strings but are not mandatory for membership.

2022-23 OFFICERS (to be updated in September 2023)

Co-Presidents	Tunrade Schumann Mary Haws	tunrade@gmail.com maryahaws@hotmail.com
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