



YOUTH ORCHESTRAS *of* LUBBOCK

MEMBERSHIP
HANDBOOK

2021-2022

YOL's Mission

To provide an exceptional music education experience to the members of the orchestras

- **To provide artistic performances that enrich the lives of developing musicians, our community, and our region**
- **To work cooperatively with public and private schools, and independent music teachers in a continuing effort to provide musical development for youth.**

Please take the time that is necessary to read this handbook. The following information will be of great help to you and will make your involvement in the program much more successful. Members and parents should always feel free to discuss ideas, ask questions, or express concerns with the YOL General Manager.

INTRODUCTION

The YOL experience is designed to be a stair step process. It begins with the Prelude String Orchestra for string students, and progresses through the Philharmonic Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra. At the Philharmonic level, we include woodwind, brass, and percussion students who also can progress to the full Symphony. Auditions are held for all orchestra levels.

Prelude Strings

Designed for beginning to intermediate string players, this orchestra serves less experienced musicians by developing their performance technique in order to prepare them for participation in the other orchestras. Members participate in the annual fall workshop and occasional outreach performances. Members play a fall and spring concert. There is no lower end on the age for this orchestra, but the student must be able to read music and be attentive for rehearsals. There is an audition for all orchestras.

Philharmonic Orchestra

Designed for the intermediate to advanced string, woodwinds, brass, and percussion players, these members participate in the annual fall workshop and occasional outreach performances. Members play a fall and spring concert.

Symphony Orchestra

The YOL Symphony Orchestra is designed for the more advanced players on string, woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments of the orchestra. Students are chosen on the basis of an annual audition that includes excerpts from standard orchestral repertoire. The Symphony Orchestra performs three to four concerts per year, hosts an annual concerto competition for its members, and conducts an annual, intensive workshop.

COMMUNICATION

Orchestra information and notices are sent out via the REMIND app. **You must sign up each new orchestra season. To sign up for REMIND for the 2019-2020 YOL orchestra season either Text @yolmusic to 81010 or install the Remind app., open the Remind App and click “join a class.” The Class code is @9b8439.**

It is extremely important that you keep the YOL office informed of changes regarding: Name, Address, Telephone, Email Address, School, and Private Teacher. You may contact the office by email at info@youthorchestrasoflubbock.org or by calling 806-853-7516.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

On rare occasions, rehearsals or concerts may be canceled due to emergency situations (flooding, weather, etc.). Any decision to cancel an event will NOT be made until the day of the event. The following guidelines will help you determine if a rehearsal or concert has been canceled:

1. Check your phone for a Remind text
2. Check the YOL website.
3. Finally, use your discretion. If you feel that road conditions in your area are unsafe, stay home. You must notify YOL personnel if you will be missing rehearsal due to inclement weather. Missed rehearsals due to serious inclement weather (ice, flooding) will be excused.

REHEARSAL AND CONCERT SCHEDULES

The YOL Program determines the season schedules for the entire year. We ask that you mark your calendar with these dates. Rehearsal schedules will be posted on our website. We appreciate your cooperation!

Schedules are always subject to change, but you will be notified of any changes or additions to the schedule as far in advance as possible.

Students may not leave the campus during YOL events unless they have the approval of the Orchestra Manager, Conductor, and their parents.

MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

- All musicians must audition annually, including current members.
- Admission and orchestra placement is determined solely on the basis of the annual audition.
- Tuition must be paid in full by the first rehearsal of the season unless other arrangements have been made.
- Should there be a vacancy in an orchestra during the season; the position will be filled as deemed appropriate by the conductor if necessary.

LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Repeated absences, tardiness, missing a concert or problems of attitude or behavior are all grounds for dismissal from the YOL Program. In such cases, no refund of tuition will be made.
- The conductor, section teacher or manager will report all behavior problems to the YOL Board president or Vice President. One report results in a warning; more than one report constitutes grounds for dismissal.
- If tuition is not paid in full by the deadline, your YOL membership is at risk.

WITHDRAWAL

- Members of YOL are expected to make a full year commitment.
- If a student withdraws during the year, the student must give the YOL Conductor of his/her orchestra written notification as soon as possible.
- The student must receive permission from the YOL Conductor of the orchestra and /or the President of the Board to rejoin the program in any subsequent year. If they are allowed to participate in the program, they may be restricted from holding positions that are of limited availability or are positions of leadership.
- The registration fee is non-refundable.

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAMS

- YOL is committed to the support of public and private music school programs. Therefore, members should be enrolled in LISD or area school bands or orchestras where they exist. Students need to notify both their band or orchestra director at their school and the YOL conductor if they choose to be in a YOL orchestra and not participate in their school ensemble.
- Home schooled students are encouraged and welcomed to audition.

PRIVATE INSTRUMENT STUDY

Every YOL musician is **strongly encouraged** to study with a private teacher. Private lessons will greatly enhance and accelerate a student's musical progress. For more information about area private teachers, contact your conductor or the YOL General Manager.

SEATING POLICIES

String placement within the string sections will be determined at the string chair tests held before each concert. You must be present for the chair tests or you will be seated behind those

present for the chair tests. Video chair tests will not be accepted. There will be a beginning seating assignment chart that will be used at rehearsals until chair tests. These seating assignments will be used at the fall workshop and the 4th of July concert. Chair tests for woodwind, brass, or percussion may be held at the discretion of that orchestra's conductor. Decisions concerning the assignment of parts and any auditions necessary for season repertoire solos will be arranged by the section teachers and conductors. Musical ability is the primary basis of selecting principal players, however, leadership is also considered in the selection. Positions may be alternated to enhance orchestral training, especially in the woodwind, brass and percussion sections.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MUSIC

- Music will be in PDF format on YOL's website. All students are responsible for the printing of their own music. **Make sure to bring a pencil with an eraser to every rehearsal.**
- Music is to be marked in pencil only – **NEVER USE A PEN TO MARK MUSIC.** Questions about music should be directed to one of the YOL Orchestra Managers or Conductors

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

- **A pencil is required at every rehearsal.** Keep one in your folder.
- Violin and viola players should always have a second set of strings with them at all rehearsals and concerts.
- Folding music stands are required at times. Please check with your orchestra manager for more details.
- Reed players should always have at least two good reeds with them at all times.
- Percussionists are asked to bring the following mallets to all rehearsals and concerts: *1 pair Timpani Mallets; 1 pair Drum Sticks (concert style); 1 pair Yarn Mallets; 1 pair Hard Plastic Mallets; 1 Mallet Bag*
- **Percussionists are responsible for early arrival at all YOL rehearsals and performances in order to move and prepare their equipment. They are also required to help return the equipment to its original storage facility after all events. Parents may be asked to assist with the transportation of equipment if possible.**

WORKSHOP & OTHER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

YOL FALL WORKSHOP

- Members of all three orchestras will participate in an exciting and invaluable musical workshop each year. The workshop will be the second weekend of the Fall season.
 - Participation in the workshop is a required part of YOL membership. It is a wonderful opportunity to rehearse and meet fellow musicians in your orchestra, all in a fun setting.

JULY 4TH PERFORMANCE

YOL will perform at the 4th on Broadway Concert. All current Symphony Orchestra musicians will be asked to play. Any alumni musicians who wish to participate are also welcome. All families are expected to help, as fully as possible, to make these events successful for the YOL Program and our young musicians.

CONCERTO COMPETITION

There will be an annual concerto competition for the membership of the Symphony Orchestra. One or more winners will be announced, and will have the opportunity to perform with the Symphony Orchestra on the Spring Concert. The competition will occur in the fall. Auditions are held within the Symphony Orchestra membership for the honor of performing as a featured soloist. Information will be given to all Symphony Orchestra members as well as posted on the web site.

ANNUAL AWARDS

Awards, based upon the conductors' recommendations, will be given in all three orchestras at the YOL Spring Concert each season. Award policies are determined each season by the conducting staff, administrative staff, and YOL Board of Directors. Criteria are not limited to a musician's skill, but also include attitude, work ethic, and attendance.

ATTENDANCE & REHEARSALS

Every member is responsible for attending all rehearsals as well as practicing at home.

- Rehearsals are as important as concerts. You will perform no better than you rehearse, and you will rehearse no better than you practice. Consistent practice at home will prepare you for better rehearsals which will make for successful concerts.
- When you join YOL, you are making a commitment to your fellow musicians to work together and create a quality ensemble. Success depends on the full participation of each musician. When you are prepared, you show your respect and consideration for your orchestra.
- Conduct: The only conduct acceptable at rehearsals or other YOL activities is that which reflects good taste, courtesy toward others, and pride in achievement.
- The use of cell phones, including texting, is prohibited during rehearsals.

ABSENCES

Being on time, staying through rehearsals, and attending all scheduled activities are another way of demonstrating your commitment and consideration to fellow musicians. Therefore:

- **Absences must be cleared with the orchestra manager or orchestra conductor in advance of scheduled rehearsal and concert dates, except in cases of illness.** In case of illness, the absence must still be called in to the orchestra manager for the student's particular orchestra.
- A student with more than two absences (excused or unexcused) in a semester will come under review for continued participation in that semester. You must contact your orchestra manager if you will be late or absent. Contact information is on the website.

The only excused absence for a stage rehearsal is an authorized school function or illness. Stage (dress) Rehearsals are equivalent to concerts and excused absences are not granted unless prior approval is made by your conductor.

- If a member must leave early or arrive late, it must be pre-arranged through the Orchestra Manager of the student's orchestra.
- **Missing a concert constitutes grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.**

STAGE REHEARSAL

- This is the last Sunday rehearsal before each concert. If the rehearsal has to be changed, it will be changed to the Saturday before the concert.
- Musicians may not miss either of the last two rehearsals and expect to maintain their position in their section. You may also lose the privilege of participating in the concert.

FACILITIES

Check your season schedule to confirm all rehearsal locations. Most rehearsals will be held at a designated LISD campus from 2:00-4:30 pm. YOL members are guests at all facilities, and are expected to help maintain the cleanliness of their surroundings.

Please respect your surroundings by leaving them as clean as you found them.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

These policies and procedures apply for all concert and rehearsal locations. Again, following them shows your consideration for members, managers and staff:

- **Drop-off procedures:**

Rehearsals begin at 2:00 p.m. It is requested that you arrive by 1:45 p.m. so you may be in your seat and ready to begin rehearsal. If you arrive after 2:15 p.m. you will be marked as tardy. Three tardies will be counted as an absence.

Parents are always welcome to observe rehearsals.

- **Pick-up procedures:**

Rehearsals end at 4:30 pm. Parents need to be there no later than 4:30 to pick up their child. All members should be picked up promptly. After 4:45 p.m. your child will not be supervised. The YOL Program is not responsible for any member left at the rehearsal site more than 15 minutes after the close of rehearsal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Announcements are made at the beginning of each rehearsal or after break. It is the responsibility of any member missing announcements to get the information from their Orchestra Manager following the rehearsal or from the YOL website.
- It is also the responsibility of members to relay all information to their parent or guardian.
- We will attempt to provide all YOL Program information on the YOL website.

CONCERTS & PERFORMANCES

CONCERTS:

All three orchestras will perform at least two concerts per year. Tentative rehearsal schedules are online. Although schedules are always subject to change, members and parents will receive notice of any changes or additions to the schedule as far in advance as possible. All students are expected to perform in all concerts.

CONCERT ATTIRE

- Gentlemen: Black tuxedo (*or black coat and trousers*), white shirt, black socks, black shoes, and black bow tie.
- Ladies: LONG (*tea or ankle length*) black skirt without a long slit or dress slacks. Either of these may be worn with a black long-sleeved or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeved blouse. Or, you may wear a long-sleeved black dress (*no low necklines*). If you have a long dress with short black sleeves or no sleeves, you must wear a long sleeved black jacket or sweater with the dress. Absolutely NO dress or skirt above, at, or just below the knee will be accepted. It does not look appropriate on stage. Black hose or tights, black shoes, and minimal jewelry must be worn by all.

Final decisions regarding attire will be at the discretion of the YOL Orchestra Manager or conductors. Concert attire is required for pictures. Inappropriate attire may jeopardize a musician's participation in a concert.

If a student has outgrown their concert attire, please consider donating it to the YOL Program.

YOL CONCERTS

YOL members are required to stay for the entire concert.

This is an important part of the student's musical education and will fuel his or her aspirations to become a member of a more advanced orchestra! Unless there is a family emergency and a parent speaks with the YOL Orchestra Manager prior to the concert, the YOL member is not to leave the concert until the all three s Orchestra have completed their programs.

Concert Etiquette

When the house lights dim, please do not whisper. The musicians need absolute silence to give their best performance. We ask that you refrain from any talking, singing, whispering or humming during the performance. Please remember that no drink or food is allowed in the theatre.

When the music begins, please listen closely. An audience shows appreciation with careful listening and watching during the performance and applauding once the

performance has ended. If you're wondering when to applaud, simply watch the conductor. When his hands are lowered and he turns around to face the audience, you may clap! It is important to listen during the music and whenever someone is speaking.

YOL POST-CONCERT RECEPTIONS

A reception will be held after concerts to honor performers. Everyone is welcome.

YOL CONCERT TICKETS

YOL concerts are free of charge to everyone.

We ask that you help promote the program by encouraging people to come and hear our wonderful musicians.

YOL Concerto Competition

There will be an annual concerto competition for the membership of the Symphony Orchestra. One or more winners will be announced, and will have the opportunity to perform with the Symphony Orchestra on the Spring Concert.

Education is an integral part of the YOL Program

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