

High Plains YOUTH SYMPHONY A N D S I N F O N I E T T A

High Plains Youth Symphony and Sinfonietta Handbook 2008-2009

Introduction and Overview

Congratulations and welcome to the High Plains Youth Symphony and Sinfonietta. The Symphony was formed in September 2006 to support technically advanced and musically mature orchestral musicians. This dynamic training program was founded by individuals affiliated with the Boulder Philharmonic, the University of Colorado College of Music, and Boulder Suzuki Strings and challenges individual musical development through the performance of masterpiece orchestral and operatic repertoire. The supportive and nurturing learning atmosphere inspires musical development, and facilitates a positive and rewarding collaborative experience.

The Sinfonietta began in August 2007. This strings only group was formed to support and nurture aspiring young string players. String technique, ensemble playing, and musicality will be deeply explored as players prepare for entry into the Symphony.

The purpose of this handbook is to give members of the High Plains Youth Symphony and Sinfonietta information about the organization and its policies and expectations. Your input is welcome, so please let us know any suggestions you have.

High Plains Youth Symphony and Sinfonietta is largely a volunteer organization and our success is dependent on the work of parent volunteers. Our goal is to have all families participate in volunteering to assist the orchestras in providing an enriching experience for all our young musicians. Please contact our executive director, Brian Jack, HighPlainsYS@gmail.com or 716-713-5606, to volunteer.

Expectations for our Musicians

1. All musicians are expected to arrive 15 minutes prior to all rehearsals and performances. Down beat for Symphony is at 6:45 (which means musicians should arrive at 6:30); down beat for Sinfonietta is at 5:15 (which means musicians should arrive at 5:00).
2. All musicians must bring their music folders and a pencil to every rehearsal. HPYS provides music stands for all concerts and rehearsals. However, during sectional rehearsal periods, SYMPHONY musicians will be asked to bring their portable music stands from home.

3. Musicians are permitted two unexcused absences at rehearsals per concert block; musicians must contact the conductor in advance if he or she knows a rehearsal will be missed. If more than two rehearsals are missed, the musician will not be permitted to play at the next concert, unless extenuating circumstances exist and only at the discretion of the music director.
4. Musicians are required to clean up their areas after rehearsal, which means pick up and put away all chairs, stands, music, snack items, wrappers, etc.
5. Musicians' focus must be on the conductor during all rehearsals and concerts; no excessive talking or disruptive behavior. Further, musicians are NOT permitted to chew gum, eat, or drink during rehearsals. All cell phones must be turned off during rehearsals.
6. Mountain View Methodist Church, our rehearsal venue, has been very generous in allowing us to use their facilities. It is important that we are very respectful and responsible about use of the church. Therefore, the church sanctuary cannot be entered by any students at any time before, during, or after rehearsals. While we are permitted to use church classrooms for sectionals, students are not permitted in any classrooms at any other times. Finally, in keeping with the respect which must be shown to the church facilities, students may not run in the stairs or hallways during breaks or at any other time.
7. We are very concerned about the safety of our students while they are with us. Therefore, all students must remain in the church building during the rehearsal break, and at all other times until the rehearsal is concluded.
8. Musicians must be promptly picked up at the end of all rehearsals and performances.
9. Concert dress for Symphony is black on black; for Sinfonietta, white top and black pants or skirts. For girls, this means shirts or dresses with sleeves (no spaghetti straps or sleeveless attire); dresses or skirts must be below the knee; only black tights or hose may be worn, with black shoes. Boys in Symphony must wear a black dress shirt, boys in Sinfonietta must wear a white dress shirt, all boys must wear black dress pants, black socks, and black shoes.
10. Private lessons with an individual music teacher is required of all musicians throughout the symphony season.
11. If a musician commits to perform at a special High Plains Youth Symphony or Sinfonietta event, then attendance at all rehearsals for the special event is mandatory.
12. If parents, students, or teachers have questions about HPYS policies, artistic, musical, or otherwise, or any questions about auditions or chair placement, then please contact our Executive Director Brian Jack.

Tuition Fees

The fees for the full season for the Symphony are \$460.00. Fees for the full season for the Sinfonietta are \$360.00. A sibling discount of 10% is available for families with more than one musician in the organization. A non-refundable deposit is due when accepted into the program, or at the end of the season in May for musicians who expect to continue playing with us the following fall. Fees are due in full by the time of the first rehearsal and are non-refundable.

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