

WILMINGTON SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS HANDBOOK

(revised 9/9/2022)

The Wilmington Symphony Youth Orchestras (WSYO) is an education program of the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra. Founded in 2001, WSYO draws its members from throughout the Lower Cape Fear area. The WSYO is intended as a complement to school music programs and we strongly encourage our members to participate in their school ensembles.

ENSEMBLES

Youth Orchestra

- Open to 9th – 12th grade youth (strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion)
- Rehearsals are 7:30 – 8:45 p.m. Thursday evenings during the school year at UNCW's Cultural Arts Building, Room 1080
- Tuition is \$150 per semester (payments are due by September 30 for the Fall semester and January 30 for the Spring semester)
- The orchestra performs two or more times each semester

Rockestra

- Open to 7th – 12th grade youth (strings, guitar, and percussion)
- Rehearsals are 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Wednesday evenings during the school year at the Fine Arts Center at Cape Fear Community College
- Tuition is \$125 per semester (payments are due by September 30 for the Fall semester and January 30 for the Spring semester)
- The orchestra performs two or more times each semester

Junior Strings

- Open to 6th – 8th grade youth (and 4th and 5th grades with consultation)
- Rehearsals are 7:15 – 8:15 p.m. Thursday evenings during the school year at Roland-Grise Middle School
- Tuition is \$85 per semester (payments are due by September 30 for the Fall semester and January 30 for the Spring semester)
- The orchestra performs two or more times each semester

Information & Policies

Auditions

Audition times, music, and application are available on the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra website at WilmingtonSymphony.org. Membership is for one year for those accepted during the fall auditions and for a semester for those accepted at January auditions. All students must reaudition in August.

Seating

Seating will be assigned at the time of auditions in the Fall. There will be seating challenges for the Spring semester.

Music Deposit

No music deposit is required for each student before receiving a music folder. However, WSYO members are financially responsible for the music issued to them that is lost or defaced. Any marking in the music must be made lightly in soft pencil only.

Music must be turned in: a) when requested by the conductor or orchestra operations coordinator; b) if you leave the orchestra; or c) at the end of the concert season.

Rehearsals

Musicians are expected to prepare rehearsal material at home. Rehearsals begin promptly at the announced time. Musicians need to be there at least 15 minutes before the rehearsal begins so they can warm up and tune.

During rehearsals, you are expected to follow the directions of the conductor, staff, and other volunteer coordinators. Musicians are also expected to help maintain a wholesome atmosphere while focusing on the orchestral training.

Attendance

100 percent attendance is important to make a rehearsal worthwhile for the orchestra as a whole. Attendance is taken. Excused absence is permitted in cases of illness, emergency, or special circumstances pre-arranged with the conductor or staff. Three (3) tardies are considered equal to one absence. To be considered on time, musicians need to be in their seats with instruments ready when the concertmaster begins the tuning process. Musicians with more than two absences before a concert may be asked not to perform in that concert.

Concert Dress

WSYO students are expected to wear all black:

- long-sleeve button up dress shirt or blouse with sleeves
- slacks (no jeans), skirt, or dress with sleeves
- All skirts and dresses must be floor-length
- closed-toe dress shoes required for all

Families should choose modest, conservative necklines. No visible midriffs are allowed. No patterns.

Scholarships

Full or partial scholarships may be granted to qualifying students and are awarded on the basis of need. Working scholarships, in exchange for deferred tuition amounts, may be arranged by the conductor. Please ask the conductor or staff for a financial aid application.

WSO Staff

Liz Scanlon, Executive Director

Breana Hebert, Development Director

Shelly DiLoreto, Education Coordinator (shelly@wilmingtonsymphony.org)

Amy Sandlin, Orchestra Operations Coordinator (amy@wilmingtonsymphony.org)

Linda Estep, Conductor / Youth Orchestra (estepstrings@gmail.com)

Lisa Gattuso, Conductor / Junior Strings & Rockestra (lisa.gattuso@nhcs.net)

Carley Gerdes, Junior Strings & Rockestra Coordinator

Steven Errante, Conductor / Wilmington Symphony Orchestra

Dominic Talanca, Conductor / Wilmington Symphony Pops Orchestra

Christa Faison, WSO Music Librarian

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