



2023 - 2024 HSYO Policies and Guidelines Handbook

The **Hendersonville Symphony Youth Orchestra** is a full symphony orchestra designed to prepare young musicians for life-long music making. The Youth Orchestra rehearses and performs intermediate and advanced repertoire and rehearses on Monday evenings during the school year at Blue Ridge Community College in Bo Thomas Auditorium from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

Membership:

1. Membership is based on audition
2. Instrumental students from the WNC region up to age 21 are invited to audition.
3. Private music lessons are encouraged, but not required.

Tuition & Fees:

1. Tuition for membership in HSYO is \$180.00 per year (\$95/semester), and \$120.00 per year (\$60/semester) for each additional student from the same family.
2. Tuition is due on or before the 2nd rehearsal of the semester.
3. No student will be denied participation in HSYO based on financial considerations. Please complete a tuition waiver form if you need financial assistance with tuition.

Member Rules & Responsibilities:

1. Bring your *instrument, your copy of the music, and pencil* to each rehearsal and concert.
2. Members are responsible for marking their music with all instructions from the conductor in pencil.
3. Phones may only be used during break or for tuning.
4. Musicians should take their music folder home to practice and to bring the music folder to every rehearsal/performance.
5. This group is comprised of some of the most serious young musicians in the area. ***Members are expected to prepare for rehearsal and practice regularly.*** This preparation includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Obtain recordings of the works being rehearsed and listen to them in order to become familiar with your part within the context of the work.
 - b. Practice regularly with a metronome and tuner to incorporate what was rehearsed at the most recent rehearsal.
 - c. Get help with your HSYO music from your private or school teacher.

6. Students should arrive at rehearsal *at least 15 minutes prior to the rehearsal start time* in order to be seated, ready to begin rehearsal promptly at 6:00.
7. *HSYO members are expected to attend all rehearsals, concerts and events.* If a student must unfortunately miss a rehearsal, they are expected to communicate with the director in advance of the absence. See the attendance policy below.

Attendance Policy:

The ensemble's success is heavily dependent on regular attendance from everyone, and as a member of HSYO, you are making a serious commitment to your orchestra. The members of this ensemble are outstanding young people with many commitments and balancing these commitments is not always an easy task. When you miss a rehearsal, you create a void in the ensemble that cannot be filled and miss important musical details and information that cannot be obtained through individual practice.

1. If you know that you will miss a rehearsal, alert the HSYO Director **at least one week in advance of future absence.**
2. For day-of rehearsal emergencies or illness **email or text the HSYO Director prior to 5:00 pm at 828-582-2297 or elizabeth@hendersonvillesymphony.org**
3. Any student who misses more than **25% of rehearsals in a semester will be considered excessively absent** and one or more of the following actions may be taken, at the discretion of the HSYO Director:
 - a. The student may be asked not to perform in the concert.
 - b. Student may be asked to re-audition for the conductor.
4. **No one may be absent during concert weeks other than for illness or emergency absences.** This includes the rehearsal prior to a concert/dress rehearsal and all concerts.
5. Acceptable reasons for missing a rehearsal include illness, family emergencies, mandatory school event or concert, event which is a fixed part of your religious calendar.

Concert Dress:

Musicians will wear Concert Black for all concerts unless otherwise specified. Concert Black is:

1. Black shirt/blouse with long or $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeves (Jacket or tux optional)
2. Long, ankle-length black dress, skirt, or formal black slacks
3. Formal black shoes (no open toes or sandals)

Inclement Weather:

Rehearsals will be canceled if Blue Ridge Community College evening classes are canceled. Any other changes in schedule will be communicated by email, website and Facebook page.

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Media Release and Acceptance of Policies

By signing below, I give permission for my image to be used in photographs and video recordings of the HSYO and I release any rights to the recordings now and in the future. I understand that photographs and recordings may be used for communication, marketing, and promotions for the organization. In addition, I accept the guidelines and policies outlined in the HSYO Policies and Guidelines document regarding rehearsal and concert attendance, tuition, member responsibilities, and auditions.

Student Name, Printed

Instrument

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date