

GREATER BOULDER
YOUTH ORCHESTRAS



Challenging • Rewarding • Fun!

2017-2018 Handbook

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Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras Handbook
2017-2018 Concert Season

Introduction and Overview

Congratulations and welcome to the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras!

Established in 2010, GBYO's mission is to provide a variety of opportunities for young musicians to deepen their musical skills and passion and to engage the community through performances of the highest possible artistic level.

The artistic staff of GBYO work as a collaborative team, assisting with many different aspects and ensembles within the broader organization.

Creating a nurturing environment to cultivate the talents of our students, we look forward to working with every young musician committed to achieving the highest possible artistic level, regardless of socioeconomic background. As we are in full support of school music programs, all GBYO members will participate in the parallel music ensemble at their schools.

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

The Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras 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.

Expectations for GBYO members

- All members of GBYO will treat each other with respect and dignity, and are expected to contribute to a positive and encouraging atmosphere.
- Musicians are expected to come to rehearsals with their parts well prepared, and approach all pieces and rehearsals with a positive attitude.
- All musicians are expected to arrive 15 minutes prior to all rehearsals and performances. Downbeat for Symphony is at 6:15 (which means musicians should arrive at 6:00); downbeat for the Sinfonia is 4:15, and Philharmonic is at 4:30.
- All musicians must bring their music folders and a pencil to every rehearsal. GBYO can provide some music stands, but not enough for all musicians. Students need to bring their own portable stands to rehearsals to ensure there will be enough.
- Musicians are required to clean up their areas after rehearsal, which includes picking up and putting away all chairs, stands, music, etc. When used, classrooms must be restored to their proper order.
- 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.
- It is important that we are very respectful and responsible about use of the our rehearsal facility, Mountain View United Methodist Church. While we are permitted to use church classrooms for sectionals, students are not permitted in any classrooms at any other times. Students may not run in the stairs or hallways during breaks or at any other time.
- 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.
- Musicians must be promptly picked up at the end of all rehearsals and performances.
- Private lessons with an individual music teacher are required of all musicians throughout the concert season.
- Each member of the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras must participate in the parallel music ensemble at his or her school. Any exception will be made only with the agreement of the parallel ensemble director and the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras Board of Directors. This policy does not address or apply to home schoolers.

Attendance

Musicians are permitted two rehearsal absences per concert block; musicians must contact the Executive Director in advance if he or she knows a rehearsal will be missed. **Attendance at the dress rehearsal and warm-up rehearsal is mandatory.** Please note the dress rehearsal is the full-length Monday preceding the concert; the warm-up rehearsal is the shortened rehearsal the morning of the concert. If more than two rehearsals are missed, the musician will not be permitted to play the concert, unless extenuating circumstances exist and only at the discretion of the music director.

Playing in an orchestra is like being on a sports team; it's a TEAM and it only works well when everyone on that team is there, playing together; we need everyone present, hence the attendance policy. First stands in strings and all wind and brass players are like the captains of the team.

We form our budget around enrollment and if you have registered we do not expect to have to hire professional musician to play your part. Hiring a professional typically costs \$150 per concert, per person. If you are in a leadership position but don't play the concert for any reason, we will have to ask you to cover the costs of hiring someone to fill in for you and cover your parts. Again, these leadership positions include the first stand of each string section and ALL winds, brass, and percussion.

Musicians who miss a seating audition must send in a recording of the audition excerpts by 5pm the day of the audition. If the deadline is missed, the musician will be seated at the discretion of the conductor.

If a musician commits to perform at a special GBYO event, then attendance at all rehearsals for the special event is mandatory.

Inclement weather. Although GBYO does not cancel rehearsals, concerts and other special events, we advise all members to make prudent travel decisions in the case of severe weather. Please call if you are unable to attend a GBYO event due to weather. Stay safe!

Tuition

The tuition is \$630 for the Symphony, \$565 for the Philharmonic, and \$500 for the Sinfonia. A non-refundable \$50 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. There will be two payment options: pay in full by the end of the first rehearsal, or pay half at that time and half by October 16. If tuition is not paid in full by the due date, a \$25 late fee will apply. Tuition is non-refundable.

Financial assistance, based on need, is available through GBYO Financial Assistance Program to those who qualify. This program is designed to help students in financial need participate in

GBYO. Our aim is to provide tuition assistance and, in some cases, make an instrument available. Any students 17 years old or younger are eligible who meet the requirements for free or reduced lunch at school. Students who are in financial need but who do not meet this lunch program qualification may still qualify if they can explain clearly why they are in need of assistance. Dozens of students have benefitted from this tremendous program on a yearly basis.

Non-Discrimination policy

GBYO gives equal membership and employment, contracting, and volunteer opportunities to all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, military status, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, citizenship, disability, or geographic location. Because we are a youth orchestra, membership is open to individuals only through age 21. There is no minimum age to join, but applicants must pass an audition process which is based solely on musical ability.

Concert Day

The day of the concert, warm-up rehearsals are held in the morning in the concert hall. These brief rehearsals are mandatory.

Concert dress for Symphony is black on black; for the Sinfonia and Philharmonic, 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 Sinfonia and Philharmonic must wear a white dress shirt, all boys must wear black dress pants, black socks, and black shoes.

Concerto Competition

Each year, GBYO holds a concerto competition for members of the Philharmonic, Wind Ensemble, and Symphony. Winners perform with their orchestra in the final concert of the year. Repertoire must be approved by the conductor. Pieces need to be memorized and performed with piano accompaniment, provided by the student. There is an entrance fee. Once a musician has won a GBYO concerto competition, that musician is ineligible to compete in future GBYO concerto competitions, even if on a different instrument or voice, for two years.

To join, contact Brian Jack with the piece, composer, and movement(s).

If parents, students, or teachers have questions about GBYO policies or other matters, please contact Executive Director Brian Jack via the contact information below.

Contact us

GreaterBoulderYO@gmail.com
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GBYO 2017-2018		
date	event	note
first concert block		
8/28	parent meeting and first rehearsal	
9/4	no rehearsal	Labor day
9/9	mini-retreat for Symphony strings and Sinfonia	Center for Musical Arts, Lafayette
9/11	rehearsal, wind seating auditions	
9/18	rehearsal, string seating auditions	
9/25	rehearsal, Sinfonia seating auditions	
9/25	community dinner	
10/2	rehearsal	
10/9	rehearsal	
10/16	rehearsal	
10/23	rehearsal	
10/30	dress rehearsal	
11/5	warm up rehearsals 10-1:30; Concert 2pm	Sunday; Macky
11/6	no rehearsal	
second concert block		
11/13	rehearsal	
11/20	no rehearsal	Thanksgiving
11/27	rehearsal, wind seating auditions	
11/27	community dinner	
12/4	rehearsal, string seating auditions	scores due for concerto competition
12/5	COLORADO GIVES DAY	
12/11	rehearsal, Sinfonia seating auditions	last day to register for concerto competition
12/18	no rehearsal	winter break
12/25	no rehearsal	winter break
1/1	no rehearsal	winter break
1/8	parent meeting and rehearsal	
1/15	no rehearsal	MLK Jr day
1/20	Concerto Competition	Frasier Meadows
1/22	rehearsal	
1/27	mini-retreat for Philharmonic	Center for Musical Arts, Lafayette
1/29	rehearsal	
2/5	dress rehearsal	
TBD	chamber concerts in the community	
2/12	Mt. View Concert	Monday
2/19	no rehearsal	President's Day
third concert block		
2/26	rehearsal	
3/5	rehearsal, wind seating auditions	
3/5	community dinner	
TBD	House Concert	
3/12	rehearsal, string seating auditions	
3/19	rehearsal, Sinfonia seating auditions	
3/26	no rehearsal	spring break
4/2	rehearsal	
4/7	mini-retreat for Wind Ensemble	Center for Musical Arts, Lafayette
4/9	rehearsal	
4/16	rehearsal	
4/23	rehearsal	
4/30	rehearsal/dress rehearsal	
5/6	warm up rehearsals 10-1:30; Concert 2pm	Sunday; Macky
5/7	end of season wrap up party	at Mt. View, pot luck