



2017-2018 Member Handbook



Thank you for your interest in the 2017-2018 season of the Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra! After a very successful season of high level music making, we are excited about what the future holds in store for the orchestra. A snapshot of the season consists of a Side-By-Side concert with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and the annual holiday concert at the Galleria!

The ASYO is an ensemble committed to performing at the highest level. It consists of the very best young musicians from around the state of Alabama who are here to share their talents, aspirations, and successes. In order to increase our level of performance, it takes a great deal of commitment from each member to always bring their best to rehearsals and performances. We ask that you make your participation in the ASYO a top priority. By doing this you will reap all the rewards the ensemble has to offer from your hard work.

The 2017-2018 Member Handbook is for members to utilize in order to provide information regarding their involvement in the organization. Carefully review the policies and guidelines, more specifically the section pertaining to music, attendance, and rehearsal schedule. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a staff member of the ASYO. Our goal is to provide a learning environment conducive to the production of musical thought, ideas, and interpretation. We want you to have an enjoyable time during your tenure with the ASYO.

We are ecstatic about this season and look forward to sharing the wonderful experience of making great music!

Dr. Blake Richardson, Music Director and Conductor, ASYO
Deanna Sirkot, Education Manager, Alabama Symphony Orchestra
Erin Dawkins, ASYO Manager

Be sure to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to keep up to date on rehearsal orders, rehearsal cancelations, and other information.

<https://www.facebook.com/asyofb>

<https://twitter.com/ASYOmusic> or @ASYOmusic

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ATTENDANCE POLICY

An orchestra is a unique team requiring faithful attendance by every one of its members. Any absence has an adverse impact on the quality of preparation and performance. Check your calendar **before** the first rehearsal of each concert cycle and notify the ASYO Manager if you are unable to meet these requirements. To help you plan, please review the season schedule in this packet and posted on the website.

Concert dates are subject to change.

Nov. 18, 2017, 2 PM- ASYO Fall Concert

Dec. 3, 2017, 2 & 4 PM- Holiday at the Galleria

Mar.18, 2018, 3 PM (Tentative)- Side by Side Concert with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra

Apr. 12, 2018, TIME TBA (Tentative)- Violins of Hope

May 5, 2018 12-5 PM- GBMEA Festival

May 19, 2018 2 PM- Spring Concert

Concert Attendance Policy

- ***Attendance at all concerts and final dress rehearsals is required.*** Unexcused absences from concerts will result in dismissal from the ensemble.
- Attendance is mandatory. However, extenuating circumstances may be approved upon written submission no less than six (6) weeks before the concert date. All Concert excuse requests are subject to approval. Unexcused absences from concerts or lack of adherence to above guidelines may result in dismissal from the ensemble.

Side by Side Attendance Policy

- ***All rehearsals with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra are required to play the Side by Side concert.*** Any student missing a Side by Side rehearsal or part of a Side by Side rehearsal will not be allowed to play the concert.
- Students are expected to remain in the hall for the entirety of the scheduled rehearsals to listen to their colleagues.

Rehearsal Attendance Policy

- ***Attendance at all rehearsals is required.*** However, illness, school activities or other extenuating circumstances do allow for a member to miss up to two (2) rehearsals per concert cycle. Seniors in high school are allowed one (1) additional absence per concert cycle to visit out-of-town colleges. Any student unable to meet the attendance requirement could be asked not to play the remaining rehearsals or the corresponding performance. Students may contact the office and appeal the decision if extenuating circumstances exist, such as death in the family, injury or extended illness.
- All absences must be reported to the ASYO Manager by completing and submitting an Absence Form at least **one week prior** to the rehearsal. You can pick up these forms from the ASYO Manager; they will be available at every rehearsal. The form must be received one week prior to be excused.
- If you are ill on a rehearsal day notify the ASYO Manager and Conductor as soon as possible.

AUDITIONS

Auditions for the ASYO will be held annually in the Spring and Fall. All returning members of the ASYO must participate in seating auditions in the Fall.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

TUITION

Due Dates:

August 14, 2017: Commitment form and deposit due

September (TBA): Fall Tuition and Parent Organization Fee Due

January (TBA): Spring tuition due

Deposit

A nonrefundable \$50 deposit holds your membership in the ASYO and is credited toward your tuition. Please make checks payable to the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. The deposit and commitment forms are due August 14, 2017.

Middle and High School Students:

Annual tuition fee of \$400 in addition to the \$50 Parent Organization fee*. Tuition may be paid by semester in two installments of \$200 made payable to the Alabama Symphony Orchestra.

ASFA Students

ASFA students accepted to ASYO for the 15-16 season and earlier will be grandfathered in to the previous ASFA tuition policy. ASFA Students accepted to ASYO after the 16-17 Season will see a reduced annual tuition fee of \$150 in addition to the \$50 Parent Organization fee*. Tuition may be paid by semester in two installments of \$75 made payable to the Alabama Symphony.

College Students:

Annual tuition fee of \$150 in addition to the \$50 Parent Organization fee*.

** Parent Organization fee pays for snack costs for rehearsals and lunch on concert days. Parent Organization Fee may be included in your first tuition payment.*

SCHOLARSHIPS

A limited number of tuition scholarships are available for those demonstrating merit and/or financial need. Anyone seeking financial aid must complete the Scholarship Application.

The Scholarship application is available on the ASYO website under "Member Info". **Those already receiving scholarship will need to apply each year to be reconsidered.**

Scholarship Due Dates

June 30, 2017: Scholarship Application Due

Aug. 1, 2017: Recipients notified

CONCERTS

Musicians must be present in the building at least 45 minutes before the start of a performance and on stage at least 10 minutes before the start of a performance. All musicians must remain backstage during the intermission.

No musician may leave the concert hall premises between the rehearsal and performance without approval from the ASYO Manager. Any musician under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to do so.

Absolutely no food or drinks are permitted on the stage of Jemison Concert Hall.

Any musician not playing on a portion of the concert is expected to listen to their colleagues from the hall or from backstage, whichever the concert schedule allows.

If a musician foresees a conflict with a performance, they must notify the ASYO Manager and Conductor immediately (see ATTENDANCE POLICY pg. 4).

CONCERT ATTIRE

Formal Concerts (includes all full orchestra concerts at the Alys Stephens Center)

Men:

Black tuxedo jacket and pants
White dress shirt
Black cummerbund
Black bow tie
Black socks and Black dress shoes

Women:

Black dress or skirt, **ankle-grazing to floor-length** OR black formal pants, **no leggings**
Black top with three-quarter or full-length sleeves, with a modest neckline
Black stockings and black closed toe dress shoes
Any jewelry should be unobtrusive and subdued

Holiday Concert & GBMEA Festival

Holiday embellishments most welcome at the Holiday concert!

Men:

Black slacks
Tie
Black socks and Black dress shoes

Women:

Black dress or skirt, **ankle-grazing to floor-length** OR black formal pants, **no leggings**
White top with three-quarter or full-length sleeves, with a modest neckline
Black stockings and black closed toe dress shoes
Any jewelry should be unobtrusive and subdued

CONDUCT

Members of the Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra represent not only the ASYO and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, but also their schools and communities. Musicians are expected to act as good ambassadors of the ASYO at all times by adhering to the following rules:

- Cell phones should be put away and set to silent.
- Possession of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, and/or weapons of any kind at any ASYO function is strictly forbidden, and will result in notification of the authorities and dismissal from the ASYO.
- Any member engaging in outside activity that damages the reputation of the ASYO will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Lack of respect for ASYO staff, guests, parents, fellow musicians, or property at any ASYO function will result in disciplinary action.

MUSIC

All musicians are responsible for the care and safe-guarding of their ASYO folders and music. Folders and music are the property of the ASYO or on rental to the ASYO, so replacement charges will apply for any lost or damaged music. **Music must be marked with soft lead pencil only.**

Folders will be issued at the beginning of each concert cycle to all wind/brass/percussion players and to each stand of strings. String players who share a stand are responsible for taking turns keeping the folder and original part, as well as making sure the music is at rehearsal if they will be absent.

All folders and music should be left on the stands after any performance unless otherwise instructed.

PERCUSSION REQUIREMENTS

The ASYO percussion section has the privilege of using instruments provided by Mountain Brook Junior High for rehearsals and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra for performances. Percussionists are expected to provide the majority of their own sticks and mallets, including one pair each of snare drum, glockenspiel, xylophone, suspended cymbal, and timpani sticks, and preferably a triangle with the appropriate beaters, tambourine, and assorted bass drum mallets. **All percussionists should arrive at least 20 minutes prior to their scheduled rehearsal time to ensure that the percussion set-up is ready for the piece to be rehearsed.**

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

All members of the ASYO are required to study privately with a trained instructor on their instrument. Private instruction is essential to developing and maintaining the skills needed to perform as an individual and an orchestra member. If private instruction is financially unfeasible, please contact the ASYO staff to discuss the situation, as assistance may be available.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

Members should:

- **Arrive at least 15 minutes before rehearsal start time to warm up and tune.**
- **Always bring a pencil.**
- For sectionals, find your room and do not move anything until your coach arrives. Do not touch anything in the room.
- Be ready to begin rehearsing before the conductor steps onto the podium.
- Please respect the rehearsal rooms by picking up around your chair. This includes your belongings and all trash.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Most ASYO rehearsals take place on **Sunday afternoons from 2:30-5:30pm at Mountain Brook Junior High School**, but **some rehearsals may be scheduled on weeknights or Saturdays.**

ASYO members are responsible for knowing when they are needed for rehearsal by checking the ASYO Online Calendar and their personal email regularly. Students and parents will be notified of any changes made to the schedule by email and/or phone. **All students and parents are responsible for making sure that ASYO emails are not filtered to their SPAM folders.** Anyone who cannot depend on email as a reliable source of communication should contact the ASYO staff to make arrangements for telephone contact.

REHEARSAL SPACE

All items in the rehearsal space are the property of Mountain Brook Junior High and are not to be removed or altered in any way. ASYO Musicians are expected to treat the rehearsal space with respect and cleanliness. **Folders, music, instruments, and personal belongings should never be left behind.** The space is used by the school during the week and anything left there is not guaranteed to be there when you return.

SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

Public school, private school, and college music programs and their instructors are essential to the existence and success of the ASYO. The ASYO **HIGHLY RECOMMENDS** that all members actively participate in their school music programs by enrolling in school ensemble courses and participating in after-school music activities. All school music directors of ASYO members will be contacted at the beginning of the season to compare schedules and avoid conflict whenever possible. In the event of a conflict, the ASYO staff is happy to assist with working out an agreeable schedule solution.

SEATING AUDITIONS

All members of the ASYO must schedule a seating audition with the Music Director at the beginning of the fall (TBA). These sessions will be used to evaluate progress, work one-on-one with concert repertoire, and determine seating and part assignments. All seating assignments are subject to change until designated final by the Music Director.

SET-UP CREW

The ASYO will designate any interested members to be a part of the regular rehearsal Set-up Crew. Students may use their Set-up Crew participation for required school volunteer or community service hours if desired. Set-up Crew members must arrive at all Sunday rehearsals by **1:45 PM** unless otherwise notified.

TICKETS

ASYO Concerts

Tickets to ASYO concerts with the exception of the Side-By-Side Concert are FREE. Please help us promote the concerts on Facebook by sharing the Concert Event on your wall. All ASYO Concert seating is general admission.

ASYO-ASO Side by Side Concert:

This concert taking place at the Alys Stephens Center is a ticketed event. All audience attendees must purchase tickets. Ticket prices will be listed on the website at the beginning of the season. Tickets are subject to fees. Prices are subject to increase on the day of the performance. Advance purchase is recommended.

ASO Concerts

The ASYO is an educational ensemble of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and all ASYO musicians are expected to enhance their learning experience by attending ASO Concerts regularly. ASYO members will receive vouchers at the beginning of the season to receive a complimentary ticket to all ASO Masterworks concerts. Parents and other guests of the ASYO member will receive a ticket discount of 10%.

CONCERTO COMPETITION

The ASYO staff encourages all interested ASYO Members to participate in the annual ASYO Concerto Competition. The winner is featured on the Spring Concert. The Concerto Competition date is indicated on this season's ASYO Calendar.

Concerto Competition Requirements:

1. Details for the 2017-2018 Concerto Competition are TBA.
2. All ASYO Members are eligible.
3. Registration is free and is due **ONE MONTH** before the competition. Titles must be submitted to the ASYO Manager for approval.
4. Applicants will play one movement from a standard concerto for his or her instrument.
5. Concerti must be memorized.
6. Concerti titles must be sent to the youth orchestra manager one month in advance for approval.
7. **Piano accompaniment is required.** Applicants are responsible for making arrangements with his or her accompanist independently.*
8. Applicants are required to bring enough copies of his or her Concerto score for each competition judge.

*We are more than happy to help you find an accompanist. If you need a recommendation, please contact the ASYO Manager.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Members of the ASYO serve as community ambassadors and role models to the young musicians of Alabama. All members are encouraged to volunteer their talent in some way through community performance and/or teaching. Volunteer work for the ASYO may be used toward community service requirements for school or other service clubs.

Organizations for which ASYO musicians may wish to serve as volunteer teachers and coaches include:

Etowah Youth Orchestras
Music Opportunity Program
Scrollworks/Metropolitan Youth Orchestras

Church Music Programs
Community Music Schools
School Music Programs