



Topeka Symphony Orchestra

## **YOUTH ENSEMBLES HANDBOOK 2021-22 SEASON**

Congratulations and welcome to another season of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra Youth Ensembles. Some of the greatest youth musicians have been a part of this group, and every one of our members this year are helping to contribute to the amazing legacy of this great organization. This handbook has been created to help provide you and your family with answers to questions you might have, as well as outline the expectations of being a member of the Youth Ensembles.

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## **THE TOPEKA SYMPHONY YOUTH ENSEMBLES HISTORY**

The Topeka Symphony Youth Orchestra was formed in 1957. The goal was to provide educational and performance opportunities for youth in Topeka and Northeast Kansas and to encourage talented young musicians to pursue their musical interests.

Due to the desire to provide additional opportunities for younger string instrument players, the Topeka Symphony Debut Orchestra was formed in 1998. Two years later, the Topeka Symphony Youth Philharmonic was formed to serve as a bridge between the Debut Orchestra and the Youth Orchestra.

## **MISSION**

The Topeka Symphony Youth Ensembles (TSYE) provide opportunities for instrumental music education, inspiration, and enrichment to young musicians and our community through rehearsals and performances.

## **GUIDING VALUES**

**Education:** TSYE supplements existing musical education available in the public schools and from private music teachers. Activities focus on developing students' musical skills leading to high level public performances.

**Inspiration:** Students are inspired by their TSYE experience to achieve enhanced personal development including self-esteem, confidence and leadership. TSYE are comprised of a diverse group of students from various levels and backgrounds to promote teamwork and excellence. Students gain individual growth not just as musicians but as community members.

**Enrichment:** A key objective is to enrich students, families, and the community develop a lifelong love of music. A strong partnership with the Topeka Symphony Orchestra and the Topeka Symphony League allows all partners to achieve common goals.

# YOUTH ORCHESTRA

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## **REHEARSAL & CONCERT SCHEDULE**

### **FALL 2021**

- Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday night beginning September 7 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the White Concert Hall Stage\*
- Rehearsal Dates: 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9
- All Ensembles Concert Dress Rehearsal: Sunday, November 14, at White Concert Hall – time TBD
- *All Ensembles Concert*: Sunday, November 14, 3:00 p.m., at White Concert Hall

### **SPRING 2022**

- Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday night beginning January 4 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the White Concert Hall Stage\*
- Rehearsal Dates: 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1
- All Ensembles Concert Dress Rehearsal: Sunday, March 6, at White Concert Hall – time TBD
- *All Ensembles Concert*: Sunday, March 6, 3:00 p.m., at White Concert Hall

### **CONCERT ATTIRE**

- **Men**: Solid black tuxedo or suit, white shirt, black bow tie, black socks and black shoes.
- **Women**: Ankle-length solid black dress, ankle-length black skirt or full-length black slacks, black tops with sleeves and a modest neckline, and black dress shoes.
- Concert attire is black and white only. Please do not wear any other colored objects during concerts.

If you are unable to attend rehearsal, please notify the TSO office via email or phone. Please see the Attendance and Punctuality section for expectations. If you have questions for your conductor, please reach out to Dr. Ramiro Miranda, Youth Orchestra Conductor via email or phone.

# DEBUT ORCHESTRA & YOUTH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA (COMBINED FOR 2021-22 SEASON)

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## REHEARSAL & CONCERT SCHEDULE

### FALL 2021

- Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday night beginning September 7 from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Parish Hall at Grace Episcopal Cathedral
- Rehearsal Dates: 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9
- All Ensembles Concert Dress Rehearsal: Sunday, November 14, at White Concert Hall – time TBD
- *All Ensembles Concert*: Sunday, November 14, 3:00 p.m., at White Concert Hall

### SPRING 2022

- Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday night beginning January 4 from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Parish Hall at Grace Episcopal Cathedral
- Rehearsal Dates: 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1
- All Ensembles Concert Dress Rehearsal: Sunday, March 6, at White Concert Hall – time TBD
- *All Ensembles Concert*: Sunday, March 6, 3:00 p.m., at White Concert Hall

### CONCERT ATTIRE

- **Boys:** Solid black slacks, long-sleeved white button-down shirt, black tie, black socks and black shoes.
- **Girls:** Ankle-length solid black skirt or full-length slacks, white blouse with sleeves and a modest neckline and black dress shoes.
- Concert attire is black and white only. Please do not wear any other colored objects during concerts.

If you are unable to attend rehearsal, please notify the TSO office via email or phone. Please see the Attendance and Punctuality section for expectations. If you have questions for your conductor, please reach out to Carolyn Sandquist, Youth Philharmonic & Debut Orchestra Conductor via email or phone.

## **ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY**

Musicians are expected to bring their music to rehearsals and arrive at least 15 minutes early and be in their seats five minutes prior to the start of rehearsal—warmed up and ready to play at the scheduled start time. Musicians must bring their own pencils. Parents are welcome to watch rehearsals if they choose to do so. If parents choose to not watch rehearsals, they should be punctual in picking up their students once rehearsals are over.

It is very important to understand that orchestra members are making a commitment to the group for the entire season. Attendance at ALL rehearsals and concerts is required, so that the ensemble can work together to strive for the best sound. Attendance is recorded at each rehearsal. If, for any reason, a member must be absent, your conductor must be notified as far in advance as possible, and your conductor will determine if your absence will be excused (i.e., for illness, bad weather, school-related conflicts). To contact your conductor, please refer to the Contact Information at the back of the Handbook. *After three (3) absences, the musician's membership and participation in the ensemble will be re-evaluated.*

***Attendance at the Dress Rehearsal prior to the concert is mandatory. If a student misses Dress Rehearsal, he or she will not be allowed to perform at the concert.***

## **PRACTICE AND PREPARATION**

Members are expected to come to rehearsals prepared and with their music and instruments in order. The music played by the orchestras includes challenging pieces from the standard orchestral repertoire. Therefore, musicians should anticipate that it will be necessary to spend time outside of rehearsals practicing the music in order to be prepared for rehearsals and performances.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Every effort will be made to notify the news media should inclement weather require cancellation of a Youth Ensemble rehearsal or concert. Please check your local radio and/or TV stations for an announcement. You may also call the TSO office at 785-232-2032 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday

through Friday. The TSO office will not make individual phone calls to youth ensemble members announcing cancellations of rehearsals or concerts. However, important notifications will be sent via the Remind app. *Information on how to access the Remind app is located in the Contact Information section at the back of the Handbook.*

## **CARE OF MUSIC**

Music is provided to members for practice and study and must be returned *in good condition* after each concert. If an original part is damaged or not returned, the member will be charged for the replacement cost.

## **SMALL ENSEMBLE OPPORTUNITIES**

Small groups of instrumentalists may be asked to represent the Topeka Symphony Youth Ensembles and perform for various community functions. Performances will be scheduled at the discretion of the conductors and the Topeka Symphony office.

## **YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION**

Each year since 1953, the Topeka Symphony has sponsored the Young Artist Competition to give high school students the opportunity to perform with the Topeka Symphony Orchestra. On Sunday, January 23, 2022, the Topeka Symphony will hold its 68th annual Young Artist Competition. Each year the Symphony sponsors this event to give high school students the opportunity to perform a solo with the Topeka Symphony Orchestra. Out of four areas of competition — piano, strings, wind and percussion instruments, and voice — one student is chosen to perform with the Topeka Symphony. The overall winner, as well as the winner of each division, receives a scholarship awarded by Capitol Federal®. The overall winner will perform with the Topeka Symphony Orchestra at the TSO concert on Saturday, April 9, 2022. For more information, visit <http://topekasymphony.org/young-artist-competition/>

## **TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERTS**

Musicians in the Topeka Symphony Youth Ensembles receive free tickets to all Topeka Symphony Orchestra concerts. Parents and siblings attending with a Youth Ensembles musician receive a \$10 discount. Tickets can be reserved online (use coupon code *yefamily*) or by calling the TSO office before Thursday the week of the concert.

## **ELNA FRIEDSTROM AWARD**

The Topeka Symphony League awards grants to musicians in the Topeka Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. These awards honor the memory of Elna Friedstrom, a long-time volunteer and supporter of the Topeka Symphony Youth Ensembles. These grants are awarded in the spring and are based on applications submitted by the students. Information regarding how to apply for the Elna Friedstrom award will be distributed during the spring semester.

## **TUITION AND TUITION ASSISTANCE**

Tuition for the Youth Ensembles is due prior to the first rehearsal of the season. Tuition rates are as follows: Debut Orchestra & Youth Philharmonic Orchestra - \$80; Youth Orchestra - \$100. Tuition can be paid using this link: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?class=tso> or can be paid directly to the TSO office during normal business hours. Tuition assistance may be available to musicians in the Topeka Symphony Youth Ensembles on an as-needed basis. For more information regarding tuition assistance, please contact the TSO office.

## **THE SYMPHONY BOARD**

Policies governing the activities of the Topeka Symphony Youth Ensembles are established by the Board of Directors of the Topeka Symphony Society.

The Topeka Symphony Society Board of Directors has Youth and Education Committee, which includes parent representation from each of the three Youth Ensembles. The committee chair and the members assist with auditions, notifications, rehearsals, music librarian duties and help with the smooth operation and success of the Youth Ensembles in many other ways.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Ramiro Miranda, Youth Orchestra Conductor

Office: 620-341-5432

[rmiranda@emporia.edu](mailto:rmiranda@emporia.edu)

Carolyn Sandquist, Debut Orchestra & Youth Philharmonic Orchestra  
Conductor

Home: 785-354-8848

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[sandquist4@cox.net](mailto:sandquist4@cox.net)

Topeka Symphony Office

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Kathy Maag, Topeka Symphony Orchestra - General Manager

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Remind Instructions (for text communication from the TSO office)

1. Download the Remind app via the App Store or Google Play Store
2. From the menu bar in the app, select *Add class*
3. Select *Join existing class*
4. For Debut/Youth Philharmonic access, enter **debutph**
5. For Youth Orchestra access, enter **yeyouthorch**

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[Topeka Symphony Orchestra – Youth Ensembles](#)

[Topeka Symphony League](#)

Instagram:

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