



Youth Orchestras Handbook 2024-2025 Season

Congratulations and welcome to another season of the Topeka Youth Orchestras. Some of the greatest young musicians have been a part of this group and every one of our members 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 Youth Orchestras History

The Youth Symphony 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 Symphonette was formed in 1998. Two years later, the Chamber Orchestra was formed to serve as a bridge between the Symphonette and the Youth Symphony.

Mission

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

Guiding Values

Education: TYO 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 TYO experience to achieve enhanced personal development including self-esteem, confidence, and leadership. TYO 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: Two key objectives are to enrich students, families, and the community and to 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.

General Concert Information

General admission tickets will be sold online, through the Topeka Symphony Office, and at the door before each concert. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults (26+) and \$5 for youth (0-25). Ticket sales go to support the orchestras and provide scholarships.

All the dress rehearsals are closed. The concert hall will be open for seating 45 minutes before the concert. We ask that your party arrives early so we can be respectful when saving seats.

Youth Symphony

Rehearsal & Concert Schedule

Fall 2024

- Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday night beginning September 10 from 7:00-9:00 PM on the White Concert Hall Stage
- Rehearsal Dates: 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12
- All Ensembles Concert Dress Rehearsal: Sunday, November 17, at White Concert Hall from 12:00-1:00PM
- All Ensembles Concert: Sunday, November 17, 3:00 PM, at White Concert Hall

Spring 2025

- Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday night beginning January 14 from 7:00-9:00 PM on the White Concert Hall Stage
- Rehearsal Dates: 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, (3/11 – NO REHEARSAL), 3/18, 3/25, 4/1
- All Ensembles Concert Dress Rehearsal and Pictures: Sunday, April 6, at White Concert Hall. Students will unpack in the Band Room behind the Concert Hall.
10:45-11:30PM Youth Orchestra Individual Pictures
11:30PM – Youth Orchestra Group Picture
12:00-1:00PM Youth Orchestra On Stage Dress Rehearsal
2:45PM - Concert Call Time – Students will sit together in reserved seating at the back of the Concert Hall to watch the Symphonette and Chamber Orchestras. Students should leave instruments in the Band Room.
- All Ensembles Concert: Sunday, April 6, 3:00 PM, at White Concert Hall

Concert Attire

- Boys: Solid black slacks, long-sleeved black button-down shirt, black tie, black socks and black shoes.
- Girls: Ankle-length solid black skirt or dress or full-length slacks and long-sleeved black dressy shirt with collarbone neckline, black socks or tights and black dress shoes.
- Concert attire is black 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 Nicolas Carr, Youth Symphony Conductor, via email or phone.

Chamber Orchestra

Rehearsal & Concert Schedule

Fall 2024

- Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday night beginning September 10 from 6:00-7:30 PM in the Rehearsal Room behind Stage (Garvey, GC134)
- Rehearsal Dates: 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12
- All Ensembles Concert Dress Rehearsal: Sunday, November 17, at White Concert Hall – time TBD
- All Ensembles Concert: Sunday, November 17, 3:00 PM, at White Concert Hall

Spring 2025

- Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday night beginning January 14 from 6:00-7:30 PM in the Rehearsal Room behind Stage (Garvey, GC134)
- Rehearsal Dates: 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, (3/11 – NO REHEARSAL), 3/18, 3/25, 4/1
- All Ensembles Concert Dress Rehearsal and Pictures: Sunday, April 6, at White Concert Hall. Students will unpack in the Band Room behind the Concert Hall.
11:45AM-12:15PM Chamber Orchestra Individual Pictures
12:15PM – Chamber Orchestra Group Picture
12:30-1:30PM Chamber Orchestra On Stage Dress Rehearsal
2:45PM - Concert Call Time – Students will sit together in reserved seating at the back of the Concert Hall to watch the Symphonette and Youth Orchestras. Students should leave instruments in the Band Room.
- All Ensembles Concert: Sunday, April 6, 3:00 PM, at White Concert Hall

Concert Attire

- Boys: Solid black slacks, long-sleeved black button-down shirt, black tie, black socks and black shoes.
- Girls: Ankle-length solid black skirt or dress or full-length slacks and long-sleeved black dressy shirt with collarbone neckline, black socks or tights and black dress shoes.
- Concert attire is black 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 Ryan Masotto, Chamber Orchestra Conductor, via email or phone.

Symphonette

Rehearsal & Concert Schedule

Fall 2024

- Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday night beginning September 10 from 5:45-6:45 PM on the White Concert Hall Stage
- Rehearsal Dates: 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12
- All Ensembles Concert Dress Rehearsal: Sunday, November 17, at White Concert Hall – time from 1:30-2:00PM
- All Ensembles Concert: Sunday, November 17, 3:00 PM, at White Concert Hall

Spring 2025

- Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday night beginning January 14 from 5:45-6:45 PM on the White Concert Hall Stage
- Rehearsal Dates: 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, (3/11 – NO REHEARSAL), 3/18, 3/25, 4/1
- All Ensembles Concert Dress Rehearsal and Pictures: Sunday, April 6, at White Concert Hall. Students will unpack in the Choir Room in the hallway beside the Concert Hall
1:00-1:15PM - Symphonette Individual Pictures
1:15PM - Symphonette Group Picture
1:30-2:00PM Symphonette On Stage Dress Rehearsal
2:00-2:45PM - Symphonette Individual Pictures
2:45PM Concert Call Time – Students must be in the Choir Room
- All Ensembles Concert: Sunday, April 6, 3:00 PM, at White Concert Hall
Students will be dismissed to the Choir Room following their performance to pack.
Students are then encouraged to sit together at the back of the auditorium in reserved seating to watch the Chamber and Youth Orchestras.

Concert Attire

- Boys: Solid black slacks, long-sleeved black button-down shirt, black tie, black socks and black shoes.
- Girls: Ankle-length solid black skirt or dress or full-length slacks and long-sleeved black dressy shirt with collarbone neckline, black socks or tights and black dress shoes.
- Concert attire is black 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, Symphonette Conductor, via email or phone.

Attendance & Punctuality

Musicians are expected to bring their music and a pencil, arrive at least 15 minutes early, and be in their seats 5 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal – warmed up and ready to play at the scheduled start time. Parents and guardians are welcome to watch rehearsals; however, if they choose not to watch, they should be punctual in picking up their students after rehearsals.

It is vital 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 the ensemble can work together to strive for the best sound. Attendance is recorded at each rehearsal. If a member must be absent, your conductor must be notified as far in advance as possible. Your conductor will decide if the 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 end of the Handbook. After 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, they will not be allowed to perform at the concert.

Practice & 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 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 Orchestra rehearsal or concert. Please check your local radio and/or TV stations for an announcement. The directors will also contact the students and families via email. You may also call the TSO office at 785-232-2032 between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM Tuesday through Friday. The TSO office will not make individual phone calls to Youth Orchestra 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 end 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 Youth Orchestras and perform for various community functions. Performances will be scheduled at the discretion of the conductors and the Topeka Symphony office.

Young Artist Competition

Annually 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, November 3, 2024, the Topeka Symphony will hold its 70th 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, March 29, 2025. For more information, visit <http://topekasymphony.org/young-artist-competition/>.

Topeka Symphony Orchestra Concerts

Musicians in the Youth Orchestras receive free tickets to all Topeka Symphony Orchestra concerts. Parents and siblings attending with a Youth Orchestras' musician receive a 50% discount. Tickets can be reserved online (use coupon code TYOfamily) or by calling the TSO office.

Elna Friedstrom Award

The Topeka Symphony League awards grants to musicians in the Youth Symphony and the Chamber Orchestra. These awards honor the memory of Elna Friedstrom, a long-time volunteer and supporter of the Youth Orchestras. 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 Orchestras is due prior to the first rehearsal of the season. Tuition rates are as follows: Symphonette - \$90; Chamber Orchestra - \$105; Youth Orchestra - \$120. 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 Youth Orchestras 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 Youth Orchestras are established by the Board of Directors of the Topeka Symphony Society. The Topeka Symphony Society Board of Directors has a Youth and Education Committee, which includes parent representation from each of the three Youth Orchestras. 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 Orchestras in many other ways.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Nicolas Carr, *Youth Symphony Conductor*

Cell: 785-969-8280

Email: nicolas@topekasymphony.org

Ryan Masotto, *Chamber Orchestra Conductor*

Cell: 314-397-6717

Email: ryan@topekasymphony.org

Carolyn Sandquist, *Symphonette Conductor*

Cell: 785-224-6787

Email: carolyn@topekasymphony.org

Topeka Symphony Office

Physical Address: 2303 SW College Ave, Topeka, KS 66611

Mailing Address: PO Box 2206, Topeka, KS 66601-2206

Phone: 785-232-2032

Email: tso@topekasymphony.org

Fax: 785-232-6204

Website: www.topekasymphony.org

Kevin Burton, *Executive Director*

Email: Kevin@TopekaSymphony.org

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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