

FOX VALLEY SYMPHONY YOUTH



Musician Handbook

2017-2018

Fox Valley Symphony
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Mission

The Fox Valley Symphony Youth Orchestra Program (YO) provides young people with quality ensemble music education, ensemble performance opportunities with high standards, and encourages personal discipline and dedication, advancing the critical links among music study, academic achievement and positive growth and development.

Core Values

Enduring Passion for Music and Lifelong Learning: YO unites students, regardless of financial standing, from different schools, cultural backgrounds and socio-economic conditions around the creation of high-quality music. YO students gain skills for lifelong learning, responsibility, organization, commitment, self-confidence, poise, teamwork and a lifelong passion for music.

Musical Excellence: YO strives to achieve musical excellence through arts education, offering students progressive opportunities to study orchestral music under the instruction of high-quality educators. YO holds participating students to a high degree of professionalism, requiring them to attend regular rehearsals and arrive prepared to produce the highest quality in music performance.

Fox Valley Symphony Youth Orchestras Program

PHILHARMONIA: The Beginning Orchestra. Students are introduced to the orchestral experience and repertoire. They learn to come together and work on a level of classical repertoire that is supplementary to the school setting. It is open to string students and the suggested level is 7-10th grade by September 1st of the new school year. It performs music for string orchestra at the high school and advanced middle school level. The members receive regular sectional coaching on the repertoire. Applicants should have **two years** of orchestra experience and perform individually at a standard high school or advanced middle school level. *We recommend that students first participate in the ASTRO string ensemble through the Lawrence Academy of Music.*

CONCERT ORCHESTRA: The Growth Orchestra. Students are stretched to grow further as musicians. They continue to work on discipline, commitment and increasingly difficult repertoire. It is open to string students and the suggested level is 8-12th grade by September 1st of the new school year. Concert Orchestra performs orchestral literature at the standard to upper high school level and members receive regular sectional coaching on the repertoire. Applicants should have **three or more years** of orchestral experience and perform individually at an advanced high school level.

YOUTH ORCHESTRA: The Showcase Symphony. Students are already highly accomplished musicians and are now ready to focus primarily on the nuances of music. They play professional-level music and enter with a strong drive to play orchestral music with discipline and a high level of musicality. It is open to string, woodwind, brass and percussion students and the suggested level is 9-12th grade by September 1st of the new school year. Applicants should have several years of band or orchestra experience and perform individually at an advanced high school or pre-college level. Students receive regular sectional coaching by professional musicians.

FVS Youth Orchestras Office Information

FVS Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Address: 111 W. College Avenue, Suite 550, Appleton, WI 54911
Phone Number: 920-968-0300 x221 (Jamie’s Direct Line)
Youth Orchestra Preferred Email: **fvsyouth@gmail.com**
Report Absence: Please fill out the online form or email **fvsyouth@gmail.com**
FVS YO Link: www.foxvalleysymphony.com (click on Youth & Education)
Staff Contact: Jamie LaFreniere, Executive Director
Staff Email: Jamie@foxvalleysymphony.com

The FVS office is located in downtown Appleton inside the Trout Museum of Art, at 111 W. College Avenue. You will find both street and ramp parking available, but be sure to come prepared with coins (our meter maid is exceptionally good at her job!). Enter in the back of the building (in Houdini Plaza). Take the elevator up to the 5th floor and go to the very end of the hallway to our office.

Rehearsal Site Information

All **regular rehearsals** are held at Appleton North HS, 5000 N. Ballard Rd, Appleton. (Please see our rehearsal schedule for locations of dress rehearsals.)

Some rehearsals are held at Lawrence University Conservatory. We use the large rooms behind the Chapel, or the Chapel stage as needed. You can find parking behind the Chapel or on the streets directly behind the building.

♪ Youth Orchestra	Band Room	3:00-5:15 p.m.
♪ Concert Orchestra	Choir Room	3:00-5:00 p.m.
♪ Philharmonia	Orchestra Room	3:00-4:45 p.m.
♪ Sectional Rehearsals	We will have signs posted at check-in each day	

Appleton North Parking Area and Entrance: Please be sure to park in the lot directly behind the building by the football field (staff and student parking). The entrance to the music wing is directly adjacent to this lot. You may enter the building here, proceed to the next set of doors and turn left. The Band, Orchestra and Choir rooms are the first three classrooms on your left.

Please note: Because we have so many musicians, we request that you keep your instrument cases and coats in the hallway and practice rooms. Please do not bring valuables to rehearsals!

General Youth Orchestras Program Information and Policies

Attendance Policy

Please let your school conductors, coaches and employers know of your YO commitments now! Our goal – performing music to the best of each orchestra’s ability – can only be realized with the commitment of all members. Musicians are expected to commit to the orchestra for the entire year. The Attendance Policy must be observed by all members.

Orchestra members are expected to attend all rehearsals, and students must sign in each week for attendance. If you find it necessary to miss part of a rehearsal, conductors request that you attend any part of the rehearsal that you are able. It is always better to attend some of a rehearsal rather than none.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE MORE THAN TWO (2) ABSENCES:

- **Perform concerts only with the conductor’s permission**
- **May be required to demonstrate their knowledge of the music**

Please use the excused absence form online. You can find it on the Fox Valley Symphony website. Look on the top menu, Youth Orchestra page, and select “Report an Absence”.

If you will miss rehearsal, you must contact us for an excused absence. Please fill in the online form or email fvsyouth@gmail.com to report your absence.

Communication

For expedience and efficiency of communication, the Fox Valley Symphony Youth Orchestras program uses **email** as its primary means of communicating with student musicians and their parents and guardians. The Fox Valley Symphony recognizes that not all individuals have email access and will accommodate as necessary. Please notify the FVS office of any email, phone or address changes that occur throughout the season. There are links on the student website for changes.

Cell Phones

Anyone who uses a cell phone in rehearsal will automatically have it taken away. Students may retrieve their confiscated cell phone after rehearsal. Phones should be turned off so as to not interrupt the rehearsal. No texting is allowed! We reserve the right to have you stand up and sing for us if you are caught texting. Really.

Inclement Weather

If rehearsals need to be cancelled due to severe weather conditions, the YO manager will email all families. Families without email will be called directly. No matter what the determination by the YO staff, every family must make their own personal decision based on their local road conditions and the safety issues involved. If you choose not to come to rehearsal due to poor road conditions, please email Jamie. A weather-related absence will be considered excused.

School Participation Policy

Members of the Youth Orchestras program are expected to play an important part in building meaningful music programs in their own schools and communities by participating in their school orchestra and/or band program, when such a program exists. We serve as an extension of our fine school programs and are proud to support and collaborate with area teachers.

Eligibility

- All students are expected to participate in their school instrumental programs, when available.
- Membership in the YO program is considered a commitment for the entire year.
- Students must participate in any scheduled tours.
- Students are encouraged, but not required, to study privately to enhance individual performance.
- **No student will be denied membership based on financial need.**

Withdrawal and refund policy

If a student must withdraw from YO for any reason, the tuition refund schedule is as follows:

- Prior to 1st rehearsal – Full tuition minus a \$50 processing fee
- Between 1st rehearsal and September 30 – Half tuition refunded
- After September 30 – No tuition refunded

Code of Conduct

Acceptance into our Youth Orchestras program is a privilege shared by all members. Members are expected to arrive at rehearsal on time with all music and materials (please do not rely on your stand partner – they may be unexpectedly absent). It is our expectation that students will respect their conductors, managers, section leaders, and fellow orchestra members, as well as the property of all rehearsal and performance facilities.

The Fox Valley Symphony Board of Directors and the Conductors reserve the right to forfeit membership to those who choose not to honor their obligations as outlined in this handbook.

Our bully policy is simple = ZERO tolerance. If you are having any problems, please let Jamie know immediately.

Auditions

Students only need to audition once for acceptance into our groups. All accepted members can continue into the next season as members. To move up to the next group, students will need to re-audition. If they fail to meet the requirements to move up, they are welcome to remain in their current group.

Concert Orchestra and Youth Orchestras **strings** will re-audition at the beginning of each semester to determine section seating. Youth Orchestra winds/brass/percussion will re-audition in the spring to determine section seating for the following year.

Performance Standards: Every member is expected to continue to play at the level of the orchestra. If the student's playing falls behind, the student will be placed on probation. The Conductor will notify the student and parents in writing about the playing concerns. The Conductor may accept improved performance up to the next concert as evidence of suitable musical ability and effort.

Placement & Seating

Strings

The string seating is determined by the conductor and audition judges with recommendations from sectional coaches as needed.

Winds/Brass/Percussion

Judges will make recommendations for chair placements at the same time they hear auditions in the spring.

The conductors reserve the right to alter seating at any time for the benefit of the overall orchestra. Considerable effort is made in seating the orchestras in a manner that benefits the entire organization. Though we attempt to make the audition process as fair as possible, there are always people who are disappointed or upset with the results. Please read and share the following guidelines with your parents and teachers.

The seating is based only on what is heard by the judge, coach, and/or conductor during a five-minute audition. Your placement in the orchestra may not reflect your true playing ability. In order for us to assess everyone's playing ability with 100% accuracy, we would need to hear you for a more extended time, and even *that* might not give us a true picture. As we all know, audition nerves play a huge part! The seating audition is merely a "snapshot" of your abilities.

When receiving final chair seating, keep the following things in mind:

1. You have no idea what the other people have done during the audition compared to you. You may have played well, but others may have played beyond what you think they are capable of doing on that particular day. By the same token, we sometimes have an elevated opinion of how we play in an audition and it may not have been as good as you thought it was. In contrast, you may have a lower opinion of how you performed, but it may have been better than you thought.
2. Music is different from many other disciplines in that personal taste comes into play when hearing an audition. Your idea of great tone quality or musicality may differ from that of the listener. This is a variable that troubles all musicians in auditions. All you can do is perform the best you can and hope that the listener appreciates what you have done.
3. People have good days and bad days. There are days we can't seem to do anything right and it might be the day of your audition. There are other days when you play beyond your usual capabilities. This invariably happens to different people during the audition and will have a bearing on the outcome.
4. People handle nerves in different ways, and some do it better than others. There are people who are able to channel nervous energy in a positive direction. Others find it detrimental to their playing. The good news is that the more auditions you experience, the better you will be at controlling your nerves.
5. You are being judged only on what the judges hear in that five-minute audition. They have no idea of your past experiences with the orchestra, the amount of time you practice, the literature you have covered, the quality of your instrument, and so on. What counts in those five minutes is what you produce in that short time.
6. People have different priorities. Someone in your section may see this audition as his/her main priority. Should you decide to make something other than music top priority, it is your choice, however, that choice may have a bearing on the results. In short, you may simply have spent less time preparing the audition requirements than someone else.
7. Membership in your county ensembles, all-state, your age, your position in your school ensemble, the school you come from, who your teacher is, etc. are impossible to factor into seating fairly. Those factors will NOT be used as criteria for seating.

Financial Aid

The Fox Valley Symphony Youth Orchestras program is pleased to be able to provide financial assistance to students who have been accepted by audition, wish to participate and can demonstrate sufficient financial need. **No student will be denied membership based on their financial need.**

- ♪ The Financial Assistance form is included with the registration forms.
- ♪ Financial aid is available for full or partial tuition.
- ♪ The Education Committee will evaluate each application.
- ♪ Financial assistance will be awarded in late summer and applicants will be notified.

Parent Representatives

Up to two parents from Youth Orchestra, Concert Orchestra, and Philharmonia are chosen through an application process to serve as Parent Representatives to their corresponding orchestra. These parents will be on site for all rehearsals and concerts to assist the YO musicians and staff. These parents, in return, receive a waiver of annual tuition. Parents may serve up to three years in the YO program.

Camp Scholarships

Donors frequently make contributions to the Fox Valley Symphony to provide Summer Camp Scholarships for members of the Youth Orchestras program. Please note:

- ♪ Camp scholarships will be awarded as available.
- ♪ Scholarships will be awarded to qualified student(s) who have had consistent attendance and commitment to the YO program, and will be attending an extended summer camp experience.
- ♪ Applications must be obtained from the YO Manager.
- ♪ All applicants must be returning to the Youth Orchestras program in the fall of that year.

The Fox Valley Symphony accepts unrestricted camp scholarship donations. If you are interested in making a donation to this program, please contact us at (920) 968-0300.

Masterclasses

Occasionally, guest artists of the Fox Valley Symphony graciously offer their time and talents to our youth in masterclass settings. Students from our Youth Orchestras are chosen to perform by the conductors and in consultation with their private instructors. Each has the opportunity to perform a work of their choice for the master teacher and receive not only instruction but inspiration for the mastery of it.

Senior Banquet

Each spring, an annual senior appreciation banquet is held for the senior students and their parents. Seniors are able to attend free of charge. Each graduate receives a certificate of participation and appreciation for their participation.

Conductor's Award

The Conductor's Award goes annually to an outstanding senior musician (one from strings and one from winds/brass/percussion) who provides the highest contribution to the group during his or her tenure in the Youth Orchestra. The selected student is acknowledged at the spring concert and presented with a commemorative plaque and monetary award.

About the Conductors



Youth Orchestra conductor **Dr. Andres Moran** is part of the music faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Dr. Andres Moran serves as the director of the UWSP Symphony Orchestra and artist/teacher of horn. From 2009 to 2016, Moran was the Resident Conductor of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and the Music Director and General Manager of the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras.

A highly sought-after clinician and conductor, Moran has served on the conducting staffs of the Albuquerque Youth Symphony, the Music in the Mountains Festival in Durango, Colorado, and the prestigious Interlochen Summer Arts Camp.

Dr. Moran holds degrees from Indiana University (Doctorate of Music, Instrumental Conducting), Southern Methodist University (Master of Music, Orchestral Conducting and Horn Performance), and New Mexico State University (Bachelor of Music Education). Moran's principal conducting teachers are David Efron, Arthur Fagen, and Paul C. Phillips.

An accomplished horn player, Dr. Moran is the principal horn of the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra. He has performed with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, Brevard Music Center Orchestra, and the Sarasota Music Festival.



Greg Austin, conductor of the **Concert Orchestra**, currently teaches orchestra at Roosevelt Middle School and Edison, Columbus, and Franklin Elementary Schools in the Appleton Area School District. Previous to working in Appleton, he taught orchestra classes at all levels in the Menasha Joint School District. He attended UW-Stevens Point and UW-Madison, where he received a Bachelor's degree in instrumental music education. While at UW-Madison he received the Richard C. Church award for outstanding student in music education. Mr. Austin served as Assistant Principal Second Violin for the Green Bay Symphony. He has also performed as a member of the Madison Symphony and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, where he served as Principal Second Violin. Mr. Austin also directed the summer orchestra at the Lakeland College Music Camp.



Philharmonia conductor **Adam Brown** currently teaches orchestra at Green Bay East High School. He has been a cello section coach for the Fox Valley Symphony Youth and Concert Orchestras over the past six years. Mr. Brown received his Bachelors degree from Lawrence University, and his Masters degree from Northwestern University, both in music education. He has played cello in the Fox Valley Symphony, Green Bay Symphony, Oshkosh Symphony, and Beaver Dam Area Orchestras, where he was principal cellist and a guest conductor for three years. Currently, Mr. Brown plays cello in the Civic Symphony of Green Bay and the Heritage String Quartet. He has been an adjudicator for numerous Solo/Ensemble Festivals around the state, as well as for the Middle Level Honors Project, and recently completed a three-year term as section coach for the High School State Honors Orchestra.

Youth Orchestras Concert Attire

Youth Orchestra

- ✓ Men: Black tuxedo or black suit, white dress shirt, bow tie, black socks and dress shoes
- ✓ Women: Black dress blouse with black full-length skirt or dress pants, black hose and black dress shoes

Concert Orchestra

- ✓ Men: Black long-sleeved dress shirt with black dress pants, black tie, socks and dress shoes
- ✓ Women: Black dress blouse with black full-length skirt or dress pants, black hose and black dress shoes

Philharmonia

- ✓ Men: White long-sleeved dress shirt with black dress pants, dark tie, black socks and dress shoes
- ✓ Women: White dress blouse with black full-length skirt or dress pants, black hose and black dress shoes

Recordings

All concerts will be recorded, and CDs will be available for purchase. Parents are welcome to take a video of the concerts as long as they do not disturb other audience members.

Advertising in Concert Programs

Parents, guardians, businesses, family and friends can help support the YO program by purchasing ads in the Fall or Spring program book. Advertise your place of business or purchase a congratulatory ad for your child! Please contact us at 968-0300 x221. Forms will be available to all parents at least one month prior to the concert date.

Concert Information:

Fall and Spring Concerts: ALL Groups

Lawrence Memorial Chapel, 510 E. College Avenue, Appleton
Parking and entrance instructions will be given prior to the concert.
General admission seating.
Tickets are sold at rehearsals prior to concert week and also at Heid Music in Appleton.

Annual Retreat at Lawrence University: ALL Groups

The purpose of our annual retreat at Lawrence University is three-fold. First, this retreat provides a critical rehearsal experience. Second, the retreat provides an opportunity to work with fine local clinicians. Third, the retreat provides an important bonding experience to get to know your fellow musicians and to begin to create an ensemble.

Spring Tour: Concert Orchestra or Philharmonia

A one-day local tour for the Concert Orchestra or Philharmonia will take place every other spring semester. This year **CONCERT ORCHESTRA** is the winner! We will tour in March. The tour gives students an opportunity to perform for diverse audiences in a variety of venues and it provides an educational experience and critical rehearsal experience for the students.

Artistic Adventures Education Concert: Youth Orchestra Only

The Youth Orchestra will perform in the Artistic Adventures Concert at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in March. This concert provides an opportunity for the Youth Orchestra to perform at the PAC for local 1st to 5th grade students. This concert is not open to the public as it is part of the FCPAC Education Series.