



Preparatory Strings • Sinfonia • Philharmonic • Youth Symphony

# 2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

**Office Location:**

Amarillo Symphony  
301 S. Polk, Suite 700  
Amarillo, TX 79101

or

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 2586  
Amarillo, TX 79105-2586

or

**Contact:**

[www.amarillosymphony.org](http://www.amarillosymphony.org)  
Phone: 806-376-8782 | Fax: 806-376-7127



## I. THE ENSEMBLES

- **Preparatory Strings**

Danica Ahedo, Conductor

The Preparatory Strings ensemble focuses on developing skillful music reading ability including fluid note recognition, rhythmic coordination and basic instrumental technique. Young musicians will build foundational skills necessary to play a broader variety of repertoire.

- **Sinfonia**

Fabian Saldaña, Conductor

Sinfonia is designed for young string players with reliable music reading abilities (i.e. left-hand accuracy in first position, basic bowing techniques) and musicians who generally have had one (1) year of playing experience with a school ensemble. Admission for all musicians is by audition only.

- **Philharmonic**

Fabian Saldaña, Conductor

The Philharmonic ensemble is an intermediate string ensemble experience. The ensemble is designed for string players who are learning to master bow control, vibrato, and shifting into higher positions. Students in this ensemble should be striving to master more complex notes and rhythms. Admission for all musicians is by audition only.

- **Youth Symphony**

Dr. Guglielmo Manfredi, Conductor

The Youth Symphony serves the most talented young musicians in the Panhandle. This prestigious group rehearses and performs music selected from the standard orchestral repertoire. Admission for all musicians is by audition only.

## II. CONTACT INFORMATION

### ARTISTIC STAFF

Members of the artistic staff do not have office hours or phone extensions at the Symphony office. Although they welcome questions and correspondence from members and parents outside of rehearsals, all correspondence should be sent through the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra administrative staff.

Danica Ahedo, Conductor, Amarillo Symphony Youth Preparatory Strings  
Email: danica.ahedo@amaisd.org

Fabian Saldaña, Conductor, Amarillo Symphony Youth Sinfonia  
Amarillo Symphony Youth Philharmonic  
Email: fabian.saldana@amaisd.org

Dr. Guglielmo Manfredi, Conductor, Amarillo Symphony Youth Symphony  
Email: gulim@hotmail.com

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestras are an education program of the Amarillo Symphony, Inc. Therefore, members of the Amarillo Symphony staff are responsible for the administration of the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra program. These staff members handle the financial, logistic and communicative aspects of the organization. Administrative staff members hold regular office hours at the Symphony offices.

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Phone Number	806-376-8782
Fax Number	806-376-7127
Website	<a href="http://www.amarillosymphony.org">www.amarillosymphony.org</a>

### Administrative Staff Members

Corey Cowart  
Executive Director  
Email: [corey@amarillosymphony.org](mailto:corey@amarillosymphony.org)  
Office: 806-376-8782

Irma-Esther Borup  
Education Coordinator  
Email: [irma@amarillosymphony.org](mailto:irma@amarillosymphony.org)  
Office: 806-376-8782  
Mobile: 806-367-2845

### III. COMMUNICATION

#### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

On rare occasions, rehearsals or concerts may be cancelled due to inclement weather. Any weather decision to cancel an event will not be made until the day of the event. The following guidelines will help you determine if a rehearsal or concert has been cancelled.

1. If AISD issues an official notification of school cancellation, no additional notification will be necessary to cancel Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra events.
2. Visit the Amarillo Symphony website, where all cancellation notices will be posted.  
You may also visit Facebook – the **Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra** and **Amarillo Symphony** pages will have updates posted.
3. On weekdays, call the Amarillo Symphony office and our staff will be able to provide you with the correct information.  
On weekends, call or email the Education Coordinator.
4. Finally, use your discretion. If you feel like the road conditions in your area are unsafe, please stay home. Please notify the Education Coordinator if you will be missing a rehearsal due to inclement weather.

Amarillo Symphony office: 806-376-8782

Email: [irma@amarillosymphony.org](mailto:irma@amarillosymphony.org)

Mobile: 806-367-2845 (**Do not text**. Call & leave a voice mail.)

#### MAILINGS

You will occasionally receive letters and important information via the postal service. **Please notify the Education Coordinator of any changes to your mailing address or phone number to avoid any delay in receiving mailings.**

#### EMAIL

**IMPORTANT: Email is the main method of communication between rehearsals. Email addresses are collected from registration forms completed at the beginning of the season. It is imperative that you keep us updated about email address changes.**

## IV. MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

### A. MUSICAL EXPECTATIONS

#### 1. SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestras are not a substitute for school music programs. We wish to support and enhance, not replace, music programs. We expect all ASYO members to participate in their school ensembles, if available. To verify that your school music educator is aware of your intention to audition, we ask that you obtain their signature.

Home school, private school, and charter school students are eligible for membership in the ASYO program. Where a school ensemble is not available, private lessons are highly recommended.

#### 2. INSTRUMENTS

All students must provide their own instrument. Students may borrow an instrument from their school orchestra/band program; or may purchase or rent an instrument from any one of the music stores in Amarillo:

Kruno's Violin Shop  
806-206-2089  
8271 SW 81<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Amarillo, TX 79119

Tarpley Music Co.  
806-352-5293  
3800 W Interstate 40  
Amarillo, TX 79102

Longcor Music Co.  
806-355-6777  
3432 Western St.  
(Mayco Center)  
Amarillo, TX 79109

Jent's House of Music Inc.  
806-352-2739  
7663 Canyon Dr.  
Amarillo, TX 79110

#### 3. AT HOME PRACTICE AND PREPARATION

**All members are expected to practice their music at home between rehearsals. Challenging passages should be worked on in lessons with private instructors.**

Although not required, private lessons are strongly recommended. For recommendations on private instructors, you may call the Amarillo Symphony office and speak with the Education Coordinator.

#### 4. SEATING AUDITIONS (“CHAIR TESTS”)

Preparatory Strings, Sinfonia and Philharmonic string players have regular seating auditions, otherwise known as “chair tests”. These seating auditions are generally announced during sectionals and will take place the following week during sectionals. Sectional coaches will announce seating audition excerpts during sectional rehearsals. **If a musician is absent from a rehearsal in which a seating audition is held, the seating audition will not be rescheduled. The student will be placed at the back of the section until the next seating audition is held.**

Youth Symphony string musicians participate in seating auditions at least once per semester. Additional seating auditions may be held and will be announced at the discretion of the Youth Symphony coaches.

#### B. REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Each student will sign in before rehearsal begins in order to track attendance. Sign-in sheets will be posted in the Common Lobby, or Lounge 201 depending on available spaces.

Students are expected to arrive at least fifteen minutes early to unpack, warm-up, and tune. Members should be seated and ready to play at the designated rehearsal time.

Students are required to bring a pencil, music, and all necessary accessories to each rehearsal (i.e. extra strings, rosin, mutes, rock stops, extra reeds, brass mutes, mallets, etc.) Members are responsible for their own music and folder; lost music may result in a replacement fee.

Only food and drinks with seals/lids/caps are allowed in the rehearsal spaces.

Students are expected to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices not pertinent to the rehearsal. Refusal to turn off personal electronic devices during rehearsal will result in confiscation of the device; all personal property will be returned at the end of rehearsal.

#### C. GENERAL REHEARSAL TIMES AND LOCATIONS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

A detailed rehearsal schedule will be provided to all musicians. Refer to the schedule for precise rehearsal dates and locations.

Preparatory Strings	4:30 - 6:15 PM Mondays during the academic year Amarillo College Music Building
Sinfonia	4:30 - 6:15 PM Mondays during the academic year Amarillo College Music Building

Philharmonic	2:00 - 4:30 PM Sundays during the academic year Amarillo College Music Building
Youth Symphony	2:00 - 4:30 PM Sundays during the academic year Amarillo College Music Building

#### D. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance will be taken at rehearsal each week. Attending rehearsals is the backbone of thorough preparation and good performance; a strong attendance policy is necessary for the strength of the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestras. Attendance at rehearsals/concerts does not only affect the preparation of the individual member, but also affects all the members of that ensemble. It is important that members take attendance seriously and make every effort to attend all rehearsals. It is understandable that there will be occasional conflicts that will take precedence over ASYO rehearsals/events.

#### PREPARATORY STRINGS & SINFONIA

Students are allowed a total of **three** absences per semester for any reason. Three (3) tardies constitute one (1) full absence. Ensemble conductors reserve the right to pull a student from a performance if they exceed the number of allowable absences leading up to a concert. Students and parents will be asked to complete a rehearsal contract at the beginning of each semester. Please inform the Education Coordinator of any known absences not listed on the rehearsal contract at least one (1) week in advance of any rehearsal. **If a student is sick and unable to attend a rehearsal, please call the Symphony office or email the Education Coordinator prior to rehearsal.**

**A sign-in sheet will be provided at each rehearsal. It is the responsibility of the student to sign in before rehearsal begins or risk being marked absent.**

#### PHILHARMONIC & YOUTH SYMPHONY

Students and parents will be asked to complete a rehearsal contract at the beginning of each semester. Students are allowed a total of **two** (2) absences per semester for any reason. Two (2) tardies constitute one (1) full absence. Students who exceed the maximum number of allowed absences per semester may be dismissed from the Philharmonic or Youth Symphony. Please inform the Education Coordinator of any known absences not listed on the rehearsal contract at least one (1) week in advance of any rehearsal.



**A sign-in sheet will be provided at each rehearsal. It is the responsibility of the student to sign in before rehearsal begins or risk being marked absent.**

**E. DISMISSAL POLICY**

Students are expected to behave maturely at all times; misbehavior is not tolerated and may result in immediate dismissal from the organization, dismissal from a concert series, or probation. The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra program reserves the right to dismiss a student for misbehavior, including but not limited to: criminal activity during or outside of ASYO rehearsals and events; use of profanity or hate speech; showing a lack of respect to staff, parents, or other members; threatening or disruptive behavior; damaging property; or excessive absences or tardiness. The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra staff will determine disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis. **No tuition refunds will be given to students who are dismissed from the program.**

**F. PROPERTY**

Folders and sheet music will be provided to each student at the first rehearsal. **It is the responsibility of the student to bring his/her folder to each rehearsal. Musicians should not rely on his/her stand partner to bring music to rehearsal. Further, each musician should mark fingerings, bowings and other notations in his/her own part.** Should a student misplace music, it is his/her responsibility to contact the Education Coordinator and obtain a replacement part. **Lost music may result in a replacement fee.**

**G. TUITION**

**PREPARATORY STRINGS, SINFONIA & PHILHARMONIC**

Tuition for the 2016–2017 season is \$250 per year or \$125 per semester. Tuition is due on or before the first rehearsal. Tuition assistance applications are available upon request and are awarded based upon financial need.

**YOUTH SYMPHONY**

Tuition for the 2016-2017 season for Youth Symphony is \$300 for the year or \$150 per semester. Tuition is due on or before the first rehearsal. Tuition assistance applications are available upon request and are awarded based upon financial need.

**All tuition is non-refundable.** All funds received by the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra program **must** be made by check or money order made payable to the **Amarillo Symphony**. Include musician's full name (first and last) and ensemble (Preparatory Strings, Sinfonia, Philharmonic or Youth Symphony) in the memo line on each check or money order.

**IMPORTANT: The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra is a commitment to the development of each musician. Therefore, even if a student discontinues participation mid-semester in his/her ensemble, unpaid tuition will still be due.**

### **SIBLING DISCOUNT**

The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestras now offer discounted tuition for families with multiple students participating in the program. The first child is charged full tuition. Each additional child will receive a 10% discount on tuition. The sibling discount will be applied to the final payment, or to the full tuition amount if paying in full at the beginning of the season.

The discount is available to everyone in our program. If there are multiple children, each child gets an additional discount (i.e. – child #1 pays full tuition, child #2 receives 10% discount, child #3 receives a 20% discount, etc.).

### **TUITION ASSISTANCE/PAYMENT PLANS**

All members will be eligible for need-based financial aid. No student accepted into the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestras will be excluded from the program because of financial need. **All members that receive tuition assistance are expected to maintain excellent attendance and participate for the full year.**

Requests for tuition assistance must be made in writing using the Tuition Assistance or Payment Plan application (*available through the Amarillo Symphony office*), and by including supporting documentation. If your financial situation changes during the year, you may request special financial aid consideration at that time.

## V. 2013-14 CONCERT INFORMATION

### A. CONCERT TIMES, DATES, AND VENUES

#### **Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra // Fall Concert 2016**

Sunday, November 6, 2016 @ 2:00 PM

Amarillo Symphony Youth Preparatory Strings & Youth Sinfonia

Sunday, November 6, 2016 @ 4:00 PM

Amarillo Symphony Youth Philharmonic & Youth Symphony

Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

**Dress rehearsals for the Fall Concerts are on Saturday, November 5, 2016.\*  
This rehearsal is mandatory for all musicians.**

*\* Please note on the annual Youth Symphony schedule that the dress rehearsal time is different. (Does NOT apply to Preparatory Strings, Sinfonia, or Philharmonic.)*

#### **Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra // Spring Concert 2017**

Sunday, April 30, 2017 @ 2:00 PM

Amarillo Symphony Youth Preparatory Strings & Youth Sinfonia

Sunday, April 30, 2017 @ 4:00 PM

Amarillo Symphony Youth Philharmonic & Youth Symphony

Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

**Dress rehearsals for the Spring Concerts are on Saturday, April 29, 2017.  
This rehearsal is mandatory for all musicians.**

### B. CONCERT TICKETS

Families with students in the ASYO will receive four complimentary tickets to the Fall and Spring concerts. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$10 each (\$7.50 + \$2 Panhandle Tickets Fee + \$0.50 Facility Fee). Please contact the Amarillo Symphony office to purchase additional tickets for the events.

### C. CONCERT INFORMATION SHEETS

Approximately 2 weeks prior to each concert, you will receive a *Concert Information Sheet*. Each sheet contains the following information – arrival time and location, dress code, rehearsal and concert times, etc. These sheets will be distributed at rehearsal and a copy will be mailed directly to your home.

## D. CONCERT ATTIRE

Students who fail to adhere to the concert attire guidelines may be excluded from the performance.

### 1. AMARILLO SYMPHONY YOUTH PREPARATORY STRINGS, SINFONIA & PHILHARMONIC

- Ladies: **White on top, black on bottom** – Long (mid-calf or lower) black skirt or black dress slacks, long-sleeved or 3/4 length white blouse, black shoes, and black hose or tights. No metallic or light colored buttons, trim or visible jewelry.
- Men: **White on top, black on bottom** – Long sleeved white shirt, black pants, black socks, black shoes, long dark tie.

### 2. AMARILLO SYMPHONY YOUTH SYMPHONY

- Ladies: **All black attire:** Long (to ankle while standing) black skirt or black dress slacks, long-sleeved or 3/4 length black blouse, or a long sleeved long black dress, black shoes, and black hose or tights. No metallic or light colored buttons, trim or visible jewelry.
- Men: Black tuxedo, white shirt, black bow tie, black shoes, black socks