



Preparatory Strings • Sinfonia • Philharmonic • Youth Symphony

2017-2018 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
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. ***Students do not need to audition to join this ensemble.***

- **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 1-2 years 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 | *Preparatory Strings*
Email: danica.ahedo@amaisd.org

Fabian Saldaña, Conductor | *Sinfonia / Philharmonic*
Email: fabian.saldana@amaisd.org

Dr. Guglielmo Manfredi, Conductor | *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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301 S. Polk St., Suite 700
Amarillo, TX 79101

Phone Number: 806-376-8782
Fax Number: 806-376-7127
Website: www.amarillosymphony.org

Administrative Staff Members

Corey Cowart
Executive Director
Email: corey@amarillosymphony.org
Office: 806-376-8782

Irma-Esther Borup
Education Coordinator
Email: 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.

Check **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 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

Mobile: 806-367-2845

NOTE: *If you are trying to reach the Education Coordinator IMMEDIATELY, please try **calling** (before texting). Especially in the hours leading up to a rehearsal, she is typically in the middle of setting up rehearsal spaces and is more likely to answer a phone call than to respond to a text.*

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(es) or phone number(s) to avoid any delay in receiving relevant information.***

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 81st 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 musicians 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.

Youth Symphony strings 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.

Youth Symphony woodwinds/brass/percussionists will participate in seating auditions each semester; dates/times will be announced at the discretion of Dr. Manfredi.

IMPORTANT: *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.*

B. REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Each student will sign in before rehearsal begins 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 15 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 and success 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 (3) 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 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, per the discretion of the ensemble director.

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.

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, 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:

- a. criminal activity during or outside of ASYO rehearsals and events;
- b. use of profanity or hate speech;
- c. showing a lack of respect to staff, parents, or other members;
- d. threatening or disruptive behavior;
- e. damaging property;
- f. 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

All tuition is non-refundable. All funds received by the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra program may 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.
- **online** (www.amarillosymphony.org) by going to the **Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra** tab; **full tuition payments only.**

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.

PREPARATORY STRINGS, SINFONIA & PHILHARMONIC

Tuition for the 2017-2018 season is \$250/year or \$125/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 2017-2018 season is \$300/year or \$150/semester.

Tuition is due on or before the first rehearsal. Tuition assistance applications are available upon request and are awarded based upon financial need.

SIBLING DISCOUNT

The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestras offer discounted tuition for families with multiple students participating in the program. The discount is available to everyone in our program.

The first child is charged full tuition; each additional child will receive a 10% discount on tuition (*i.e.* – *child #1 pays full tuition, child #2 receives 10% discount, child #3 receives a 20% discount, etc.*).

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.

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*** applications (*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. CONCERT INFORMATION

A. CONCERT TIMES, DATES, AND VENUES

AMARILLO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA | FALL CONCERT 2017

Sunday, November 5, 2017 @ 2:00 PM

ASYO Preparatory Strings & ASYO Sinfonia

Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

Sunday, November 5, 2017 @ 4:00 PM

ASYO Philharmonic & ASYO Youth Symphony

Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

***Dress rehearsals for the Fall Concerts are on Saturday, November 4, 2017. *
This rehearsal is mandatory for all musicians.***

**Visit the Amarillo Symphony website for your ensemble's full season schedule & specific times.*

AMARILLO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA | SPRING CONCERT 2018

Sunday, April 29, 2018 @ 2:00 PM

ASYO Preparatory Strings & ASYO Sinfonia

Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

Sunday, April 29, 2018 @ 4:00 PM

ASYO Philharmonic & ASYO Youth Symphony

Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

***Dress rehearsals for the Spring Concerts are on Saturday, April 28, 2018. *
This rehearsal is mandatory for all musicians.***

**Visit the Amarillo Symphony website for your ensemble's full season schedule & specific times.*

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, rehearsal and concert times, dress code, 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