



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Important Information for Parents

What is the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra program?

The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra program is a part of the Amarillo Symphony education programs. ASYO focuses on the continued training and development of young musicians in the panhandle. The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestras are comprised of four ensembles: *Preparatory Strings*, *Sinfonia*, *Philharmonic*, and the *Youth Symphony*. Students participate in small group coachings with WTAMU & AC music faculty and Amarillo ISD educators. Each ensemble performs two concerts per season at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Amarillo.

What are the prerequisites to your program?

Students must –

1. Be between the ages of 8-19.
2. Be able to read music.
3. Already have an understanding of his/her instrument. Typically, string players can join after only one (1) semester of playing experience.
4. Provide his/her own instrument.
Percussionists – *In most cases, instruments will be provided; percussionists must have their own sticks & mallets.*

How does my student earn a chair in ASYO?

SINFONIA, PHILHARMONIC, or YOUTH SYMPHONY • **Students are required to audition and must sign-up online to reserve a spot** – all times are first come, first served. All auditions will be heard LIVE at the Amarillo College Music Building (*off Washington St. on the corner of 22nd & Van Buren; Parking Lot #5; next to AMoA*).

IMPORTANT: If a student has missed the scheduled auditions but is still interested in participating, please contact the Amarillo Symphony Education staff – (806) 376-8782, x115.

PREPARATORY STRINGS • **SIGN-UP online to reserve a spot, and SHOW UP at the first rehearsal – Monday, September 11, 2023** at the Amarillo College Music Building (*off Washington St. on the corner of 22nd & Van Buren; Parking Lot #5; next to AMoA*).

What does my student need to play for the audition?

Students will need to prepare the audition excerpts available on the Amarillo Symphony website.

Does my student have to be in their school orchestra/band program to be in ASYO?

Yes. The ASYO is not a substitute for school music programs. We wish to *support* and *enhance*, not replace, music programs. All members are expected to participate in the school instrumental ensemble applicable to the student's focus in ASYO, if available.

To verify your participation in a school instrumental ensemble, we ask that you obtain your school orchestra/band director's signature. (*The **Required Signatures** form is available for download on the Amarillo Symphony website.*)

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

Does my student need to be taking private lessons to be in ASYO?

No. Although not required, private lessons are strongly encouraged for all students. For recommendations on private instructors, please call the Amarillo Symphony office and speak with the Education staff – (806) 376-8782, x115 or x117.

Does my student need to audition every semester?

No, each student that auditions at the start of the season keeps that spot all year.

What about every season?

At the start of a new academic year (*August/September*), all YOUTH SYMPHONY students are asked to re-audition due to the challenging and professional nature of the music.

Once auditioned, all SINFONIA and PHILHARMONIC students can maintain membership from one semester to the next *without* auditioning at the start of each academic year (*August/September*); this ensures automatic retention and placement in the ensemble each season. Returning after a gap semester *will* require a new audition with our directors.

PREPARATORY STRINGS is not an auditioning ensemble.

Does my student need to attend all of the rehearsals?

Musicians are expected to make ASYO rehearsals, workshops, and concerts a priority. Consistent attendance is necessary for the development of a quality musical experience. **If you know of significant conflicts, please take that into consideration when deciding whether to participate in the program.**

IMPORTANT: Musicians in any of ASYO's four ensembles are allowed no more than **two (2) absences per semester**.

When is the first rehearsal of Fall 2023?

Sunday, September 10, 2023	1:30-5:00 p.m. 2:30-4:45 p.m.	Youth Symphony * Philharmonic	Amarillo College
Monday, September 11, 2023	4:30-6:15 p.m.	Sinfonia Preparatory Strings	Amarillo College

* See full Youth Symphony schedule for details.

How much is tuition?

Preparatory Strings }
Sinfonia } \$125/semester
Philharmonic }

Youth Symphony \$150/semester

Tuition payments are due by the first rehearsal. For information on tuition assistance, read below.

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. **A minimum \$25.00 deposit is required.**

When are the Fall 2023 concerts?

Friday, October 13, 2023
Saturday, October 14, 2023
Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

7:30 p.m. **Youth Symphony** side-by-side w/
the Amarillo Symphony

Sunday, November 5, 2023
Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

2:00 p.m. Preparatory Strings
Sinfonia

4:00 p.m. Philharmonic
Youth Symphony

Important Contact Information

Irma-Esther Borup
Education & Community Engagement Director
irma@amarillosymphony.org
(806) 376-8782, x115

Luigi Bencomo
Education Assistant
luigi@amarillosymphony.org
(806) 376-8782, x117