

### **What is the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra program?**

The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO) program is a part of the Amarillo Symphony's education offerings, focusing on the continued training & development of young instrumentalists throughout the Texas Panhandle. The ASYO is comprised of four ensembles – *Preparatory Strings*, *Sinfonia*, *Philharmonic*, and the *Youth Symphony* – and offer a unique musical experience to young musicians ages 8 to 19 of different skill levels. Students participate in small group coachings with Amarillo Symphony musicians, 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 with additional social and performance opportunities throughout the season.

### **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 their instrument. Typically, string players can join after only one (1) semester of playing experience.
4. Provide their 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 first come, first served. All auditions will be heard LIVE at the Amarillo College Music Building (*off Washington St. on the corner of 22<sup>nd</sup> & 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, x1115.

**PREPARATORY STRINGS** • SIGN-UP online to reserve a spot, and SHOW UP at the first rehearsal – Monday, September 8, 2025 at the Amarillo College Music Building (*off Washington St. on the corner of 22<sup>nd</sup> & 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.

<https://amarillosymphony.org/youth-orchestra/yo-auditions/>

### **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 strive 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, x1115 or x1117.

### **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 must 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*), ensuring 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 **two (2) absences in the Fall** and **three (3) absences in the Spring**.

## When are the first rehearsals of Fall 2025 & Spring 2026?

Sunday, September 7, 2025	1:30-3:45 p.m. 2:45-5:00 p.m.	Youth Symphony Philharmonic	Amarillo College
Monday, September 8, 2025	4:30-6:15 p.m.	Sinfonia Preparatory Strings	Amarillo College
<hr/>			
Sunday, February 1, 2026	1:30-3:45 p.m. 2:45-5:00 p.m.	Youth Symphony Philharmonic	Amarillo College
Monday, February 2, 2026	4:30-6:15 p.m.	Sinfonia Preparatory Strings	Amarillo College

## How much is tuition?

Preparatory Strings Sinfonia Philharmonic	} \$150/semester
Youth Symphony	\$175/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 2025 & Spring 2026 concerts?

### **FALL 2025**

**Sunday, November 9, 2025**

Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

2:00 p.m. Preparatory Strings

Sinfonia

4:00 p.m. Philharmonic

Youth Symphony

### **SPRING 2026**

**Friday, March 27, 2026**

**Saturday, March 28, 2026**

Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

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

**Sunday, April 26, 2026**

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](mailto:irma@amarillosymphony.org)

(806) 376-8782, ext. 1115

### **Luigi Bencomo**

Education Assistant (*Habla español*)

[luigi@amarillosymphony.org](mailto:luigi@amarillosymphony.org)

(806) 376-8782, ext. 1117