

AMARILLO YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

2009-10 MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

Amarillo Youth Sinfonia
Amarillo Youth Philharmonic
Amarillo Youth Symphony

Amarillo Youth Orchestras
1000 South Polk Street
Amarillo, TX 79101

www.amarillosymphony.org

Phone: 376-8782

Fax: 376-7127

I. THE ENSEMBLES

- **Amarillo Youth Sinfonia**
Jill Bradford, conductor
Musicians in this ensemble generally have one year of playing experience with a school ensemble. Sinfonia is designed for young string players with reading ability, left-hand accuracy in first position, basic bowing techniques and a desire to develop ensemble-playing skills.

- **Amarillo Youth Philharmonic**
Jill Bradford, conductor
Members of the Amarillo Youth Philharmonic have developed facility with bowing techniques, reading music, as well as proficiency playing in third position. Generally these students are 10-14 years old.

- **Amarillo Youth Symphony**
Dr. Mark Bartley, conductor
The most advanced of the Amarillo Youth Orchestras, the Youth Symphony performs the same symphonic works played by professional orchestras throughout the world. Musicians in the Youth Symphony are usually high school students.

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 youth orchestra administrative staff.

Jill Bradford, conductor Amarillo Youth Sinfonia and Philharmonic
Email: jill.bradford@amaisd.org

Dr. Mark Bartley, conductor Amarillo Youth Symphony
Office Phone: (806) 651-2830
Email: mark@amarillosymphony.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

The Amarillo 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 Youth Orchestras. These staff members handle the financial, logistic and communication aspects of the organization. Administrative staff members hold regular office hours at the Symphony offices.

Office Location	Amarillo Symphony 1000 S. Polk St. Amarillo, TX 79101
Phone Number	376-8782
Fax Number	376-7127
Website	www.amarillosymphony.org

Administrative Staff Members

Susan White	Jarod Rehkemper
Director of Operations	Intern
Email: susan@amarillosymphony.org	Email: jarod@amarillosymphony.org
Office: 376-8782	Office: 376-8782

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 Youth Orchestra events.
2. Call the Amarillo Symphony Office: The outgoing voice mail message will be changed to indicate event status.
3. Finally, use your discretion. If you feel like the road conditions in your area are unsafe, stay home. You must notify the youth orchestra administrative staff if you will be missing a rehearsal due to inclement weather.

MAILINGS

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

EMAIL

Email is our 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. REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Each student will sign in before rehearsal begins in order to track absences. Sign-in sheets will be posted in close proximity to the rehearsal space. Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to play when rehearsal begins. All musicians are required to arrive early to each rehearsal in order to set up before rehearsal begins.

Students are required to bring a pencil, music, folder, and all necessary support equipment to each rehearsal.

String Players:	full set of extra strings, mutes, rosin, rockstops
Reed Players:	4 functioning reeds
Brass Players:	all mutes indicated in music
Percussionists:	Mallets and mallet bag, snare drum as needed

No food, beverages or chewing gum are allowed in the rehearsal rooms.

B. GENERAL REHEARSAL TIMES AND LOCATIONS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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

Amarillo Youth Sinfonia	4:30 – 6:15 PM Mondays during the academic year Music Building, Amarillo College
Amarillo Youth Philharmonic	4:30 – 6:15 PM Mondays during the academic year Music Building, Amarillo College
Amarillo Youth Symphony	2 – 4:30 PM Sundays during the academic year Music Building, Amarillo College

G. ATTENDANCE POLICY

SINFONIA AND PHILHARMONIC

Students are allowed a total of **three** absences per semester for any reason. Three tardies constitute one 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 single concert. Students and parents will be asked to complete a rehearsal contract at the beginning of each semester. Please inform the AYO office of any known absences not listed on the rehearsal contract at least one week in advance of any rehearsal. If a student is sick and unable to attend a rehearsal, please call the Symphony office 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.

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** absences per semester for any reason. Two tardies constitute one full absence. Students who exceed the maximum number of allowed absences per semester will be dismissed from the youth symphony. Please inform the AYO office of any known absences not listed on the rehearsal contract at least one 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.

D. 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 Youth Orchestras reserve the right to dismiss a student for misbehavior, including but not limited to: criminal activity during or outside of Amarillo Youth Orchestra 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 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.

E. MUSICAL EXPECTATIONS

1. SEATING AUDITIONS

Amarillo Youth Sinfonia and Philharmonic string players have regular seating auditions. 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 may not be rescheduled. The student will be placed at the back of the section until the next seating audition is held.

Amarillo Youth Symphony musicians participate in seating auditions at least once per semester. Generally, these seating auditions are held at the beginning of the semester. Additional seating auditions may be held and will be announced at the discretion of the Youth Symphony conductor.

2. PRIVATE REHEARSING

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

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, bowing and other notations in his/her own part. Should a student misplace music, it is his/her responsibility to contact the orchestra manager and obtain a replacement part.

G. TUITION

SINFONIA AND PHILHARMONIC

Tuition for the 2009-10 season for the Sinfonia and Philharmonic is \$170. Tuition is due by the day of the first rehearsal. Tuition assistance applications are available upon request and are awarded based upon financial need.

YOUTH SYMPHONY

Tuition for the 2009-10 season for the Youth Symphony is \$185. Tuition is due by the day of 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 Youth Orchestras **must** be made by check or money order made payable to the **Amarillo Symphony**. **Cash will not be accepted.** Include musician's full name (first and last) and ensemble (Sinfonia, Philharmonic or Youth Symphony) in the memo line on each check or money order.

Our organization has made a year-long commitment to the development of each musician. Therefore, even if a student discontinues participation in his /her ensemble, unpaid tuition will still be due.

V. 2009-10 CONCERT INFORMATION

A. CONCERT TIMES, DATES, AND VENUES

Amarillo Youth Orchestras Fall Concert

Featuring performances by the Amarillo Youth Sinfonia, Philharmonic and Youth Symphony

3 p.m.

Sunday, November 8, 2009

Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

Amarillo Youth Symphony

Performance with Samuel Gaskin

Part of the Friends of the Aeolian Skinner Series

7 p.m.

Sunday, November 15, 2009

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Tickets: \$30 each, call 376-6316 to reserve seats

Amarillo Symphony: Side-by-Side Concert

The Amarillo Youth Symphony joins the Amarillo Symphony for a side-by-side performance. This concert is part of the Amarillo Symphony Concert Season.

8 p.m.

Friday, April 16, and Saturday, April 17, 2010

Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

Contact the Amarillo Symphony office to purchase tickets for this event.

Amarillo Youth Orchestras Spring Concert

Featuring performances by the Amarillo Youth Sinfonia, Philharmonic and Youth Symphony

3 p.m.

Sunday, April 18, 2010

Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

B. 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.

C. CONCERT ATTIRE

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

A. AMARILLO YOUTH SYMPHONY

Ladies: All black attire: Long (mid-calf or lower) 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

B. AMARILLO YOUTH PHILHARMONIC AND AMARILLO YOUTH SINFONIA

Ladies: 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: Long sleeved white shirt, black pants, black socks, black shoes, long dark tie.