



YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Musician Handbook

Fort Wayne Philharmonic
826 Ewing Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

www.fwphil.org

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

TROY WEBDELL
Youth Education & Family Concert Conductor
Fort Wayne Philharmonic
twebdell@fwphil.org

REHEARSAL INFORMATION

Rehearsals are held on Sundays at the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Center. Rehearsals begin promptly at the appointed time. Musicians are expected to **arrive at least 10 minutes early**, so as to be prepared to begin rehearsal on time. The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Junior Strings Orchestra
3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

Youth Symphony Orchestra
4:30PM – 6:30PM

LOCATIONS & PARKING

Most rehearsals are held at the **Fort Wayne Philharmonic Center** - 826 Ewing Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Enter through the Wayne St. Door.

Additional venue information for the season is listed below:

Auer Performance Hall
Purdue University Fort Wayne
PFW Music Center
2101 E. Coliseum Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Grand Wayne Center
120 W Jefferson Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

COMMUNICATION

Email

The Fort Wayne Philharmonic staff communicates with parents primarily through email. Please be sure to keep the staff updated with any email address changes.

CANCELLATIONS

In the event of inclement weather or an unforeseen emergency, it may become necessary to cancel rehearsal and/or a concert. Cancellations will be posted on the Philharmonic website, www.fwphil.org, and we will also notify parents by email.

INSTRUMENT LOAN PROGRAM

Instruments acquired and maintained by the Philharmonic Friends are available to qualified student musicians. Nearly 100 string, brass and woodwind instruments are available for loan.

PRIVATE LESSON SCHOLARSHIPS

Private instrumental instruction is strongly encouraged for every musician.

Philharmonic Musicians Professional Scholarship

This scholarship opportunity awards talented young musicians under the age of 19 for private instrumental instruction with Philharmonic musicians. As a part of the application process, student musicians are required to audition before a committee. For more information, application materials and audition dates, please visit the Fort Wayne Philharmonic website at www.fwphil.org and look under the “Education” tab and then “Scholarships.”

Fort Wayne Philharmonic Friends Scholarship

The Fort Wayne Philharmonic's volunteer organization, the Philharmonic Friends, also offer scholarship opportunities for private instruction. These scholarships are typically awarded based on financial need and are not limited to those students who study with Philharmonic musicians. For more information, please visit the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Friends website section at www.fwphil.org

Summer Study Music Scholarship for Members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Program

Sponsored by Sigma Alpha Iota - Fort Wayne Alumnae Chapter

Information & audition application is available in January, Auditions held in March.

SECTION 2: PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Youth Symphony Orchestra is an advanced ensemble that provides an in-depth study of orchestra repertoire. This performance ensemble is geared toward high school students and/or gifted middle school students.

Concerto Competition

Members of the Youth Symphony Orchestra (YSO) have the opportunity to audition for the chance to play a concerto with the Youth Symphony in the spring. Auditions will be held in **December**. Interested musicians should consult with the Youth Orchestra Conductor and sign-up for an audition time upon resuming rehearsals in January.

Seating

Seating is determined by the Youth Orchestra Conductor and is subject to change at his discretion.

JUNIOR STRINGS ORCHESTRA

The Junior Strings Orchestra is an intermediate-level ensemble for younger musicians who want to explore and gain large-ensemble experience. This performance ensemble is geared toward middle school students and high school age students.

Seating

Seating is determined by the Youth Orchestra Conductor and is subject to change at his discretion.

SECTION 3: MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

Membership in the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Orchestra program is both a privilege and a responsibility. The Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Orchestras maintain their standing through the commitment and dedication of its musicians. Consistent participation of each individual at weekly rehearsals results in successful performances. The attendance guidelines outlined here define each player's individual responsibility in ensuring the collaborative success of the group. The policy protects the musical integrity of the orchestras, as well as the individual efforts and investments of each player involved. The policies below apply to all Youth Orchestra members unless otherwise noted.

Sign-In Policy

Upon arrival, all students must check-in with the Attendance Helper at all orchestra events listed on the season calendar. Failure to do so may result in being marked absent. The downbeat of the rehearsal is given at the time noted on the schedule. Students will be considered late if they are not in their seats when tuning begins. Remember to allow extra time for any potential travel delays (i.e. parking, traffic, etc.).

Absences

While we expect every musician to attend all rehearsals and concerts, we understand that this may not always be possible due to unforeseen circumstances or scheduling conflicts. It is the responsibility of the musician and their parent(s)/guardian(s) to report a planned absence (e.g. scheduled school conflicts). Any absences from rehearsals or concerts should be reported as soon as possible in advance by emailing Mr. Webdell at twebdell@fwphil.org.

Excused absences include illness, conflicting school events, family obligations and emergencies, and/or religious observances. While these types of absences are excused, all musicians are required to report absences at their earliest convenience. All other absences will be considered unexcused. For example: Staying home from rehearsal to work on school homework or to study is NOT considered an excused absence. Please plan ahead! **A musician's chair seating and/or status in the program may be subject to review if s/he has more than two (2) absences per semester (whether excused or unexcused).**

Tardiness

The Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Orchestras run like a professional orchestra. Musicians are expected to be in their seats warming up at least 10 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal. Percussionists and harp students are expected to arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal to set-up equipment. In the event that a student is consistently tardy to rehearsal and does not meet these rehearsal expectations, the musician's chair seating and/or status in the program is subject to review.

Early Departure

While musicians are expected to attend the full rehearsal, we understand that some scheduling conflicts may be unavoidable. Musicians are asked to inform Mr. Webdell via email at twebdell@fwphil.org of any need to leave rehearsal early, as well as notify the Attendance Helper upon check-in.

Philharmonic Side-by-Side Performances

In the event a musician is unable to attend a required rehearsal for a Philharmonic side-by-side performance, the musician **will not** be allowed to play the concert.

Youth Orchestra Performances

It is at the Conductor's discretion as to whether a musician may participate in a Youth Orchestra performance should they need to miss a rehearsal. These extenuating circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis, but do require advanced notice as soon as possible.

AUDITIONS

Auditions for the Youth Orchestra program are held in the spring for the upcoming season. All current students must re-audition for seating placement each year.

Information about audition dates and subsequent requirements will be posted on the Philharmonic website, www.fwphil.org, in late winter or early spring.

Rolling Audition Dates

A rolling audition date is offered in the fall semester for students interested in joining once the season has already started. To schedule an audition, please contact Troy Webdell, Youth Education & Family Concert Conductor at twebdell@fwphil.org.

Tuition is pro-rated for those students accepted into the program through a rolling audition. Students who join mid season will receive pro-rated tuition based on the date of acceptance.

ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Orchestras are representatives of the organization and the behavior and dress of each musician reflects upon the entire group. **There is a no bullying policy. This will not be tolerated and is grounds for dismissal from the program.** It is essential to respect the rights and property of others. We count on all participants to use common sense in avoiding situations and behavior that would put themselves or anyone else at risk, cause problems for the group, or adversely affect the safety, performance and enjoyment of all. The Fort Wayne Philharmonic strictly enforces a zero tolerance policy with regards to the use of drugs and alcohol, smoking, any other illegal activities, and any form of harassment towards students, parent volunteers, and staff.

TICKETS

Tickets to Youth Orchestra Concerts

Tickets can be ordered online or purchased at the box office up until the day of the concert. Tickets will be sold at the door on the day of the concert. Children 10 years and younger are admitted for free. School Music Teachers are provided with 2 complimentary tickets to Youth Orchestra concerts upon request.

Philharmonic Concert Tickets

The Philharmonic ticket policy will be updated soon and sent to everyone via email.

SHEET MUSIC

Copies of all parts should be downloaded and printed from the Philharmonic website, www.fwphil.org under the Education heading, and then on the specific ensemble (Youth Symphony Orchestra or Junior Strings) page.

It is each musician's responsibility to print their own music. There will not be additional copies of music provided at rehearsals. Additionally, each musician should put their music in a **black 3 hole punch binder** to hold their music. The use of clear page protectors are optional and not required.

Musicians should bring their black binder with music and a pencil to every rehearsal in the event that their stand partner is absent.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION POLICY

The Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Orchestra program is an enrichment to, and not a substitute for, existing school music programs. The Youth Orchestra program encourages students to enroll as a member of their school orchestra or band program, if one exists and it fits within the student's educational plan.

DRESS CODE

Unless otherwise stated, the dress code for all Youth Orchestra concerts is as follows:

Men:

- White dress shirt with long tie
- Black dress blazer or suit
- Black dress pants (no jeans)
- Black dress socks
- Black dress shoes

Women:

- White dress shirt or blouse (no tank tops)
- Mid-calf or floor length black skirt or black dress slacks (no jeans)
- Black dress socks
- Black dress shoes (no flip flops)

Additional accessories may be worn, but should be kept to a minimum. Please refrain from wearing fragrant perfumes or cologne.

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SECTION 4: PARENT INFORMATION

PARENT COMMITMENTS

Welcome to the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Orchestras family. Parents of Youth Orchestra musicians provide the daily support and encouragement that contributes to the overall success of the organization. In addition to providing the highest quality musical experiences, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Orchestras strive to teach students about professionalism, responsibility and personal integrity. We ask our parents to help their children fulfill their responsibilities to the Youth Orchestras by encouraging 100% attendance, prompt arrival at rehearsals and concerts, private lessons on their instrument and at-home practice and preparation.

PARENT HELPERS

We will need 1-2 parents to help at each Sunday rehearsal to assist with taking attendance.

SECTION 5: FINANCIAL POLICIES

TUITION

2026-2027 Youth Orchestra Tuition

Tuition rates for 2026-2027 are \$450 per student for Junior Strings Orchestra and \$500 per student for Youth Symphony Orchestra. Paying online by credit card is the preferred method of payment. Tuition should be paid from the link online at www.fwphil.org by October 1, 2026.

Additional Information

- For parents with multiple students in youth orchestra, the tuition rate is as follows: For example: Student #1 (\$500), student #2 (\$475), student #3 (\$450) Early Bird discount tuition is pro-rated based on original tuition amount.
- All fees are non-refundable.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

If tuition is not received, the student will not be able to perform in scheduled concerts until payment has been made. The student's membership in the program may also be terminated. Additionally, auditions for the upcoming season will not be scheduled until tuition has been paid in full.

FINANCIAL AID

A limited amount of financial aid is available. Please contact Mr. Webdell if you need special financial consideration or payment options.

Service Hours

As a part of the financial aid program, we ask that awarded families contribute service hours by volunteering. This specific commitment will be communicated directly to awarded families.

FORCE MAJEURE

The Philharmonic reserves the right to cancel any educational offering including rehearsals and performances in the event of a national calamity or force majeure. The Philharmonic also reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any rehearsal or performance by reason of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the Philharmonic, including acts of God, such as fire, flood, pestilence or action duly taken by Federal, State or local officials, or by reason of lack of funds by the Philharmonic.

In the event it becomes impossible to hold a rehearsal or performance by reason of any act of God such as fire, flood, or pestilence, by reason of circumstances beyond reasonable control of the Philharmonic, or through action duly take by Local, State or Federal officials, or by reason of lack of funds on the part of the Philharmonic, the Philharmonic shall have the right to cancel any and all aforementioned educational offerings.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR MEDICAL & MEDIA RELEASE FORMS

Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release - Voluntary Participation in Fort Wayne Philharmonic Educational Programs, 2026-2027 Season

I understand and acknowledge that participation in any educational program activities (hereinafter “Activities”) is voluntary and by its very nature, poses an actual or potential risk of emotional and physical injury or illness. I am requesting that my child(ren) be allowed to participate in one or more Activities sponsored by the Fort Wayne Philharmonic.

In consideration of me and my child(ren) being able to participate in the Activity, I, on behalf of myself, as well as anyone entitled to act on my behalf, hereby forever waive, release, and hold Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Inc. and its employees and agents harmless from any and all claims, suits, liability, actions, judgments, attorneys’ fees, costs, and any expenses of any kind resulting from injuries or damages, grounded in tort or otherwise, that I and/or my child(ren), or my or our representatives, sustain during or related to my child(ren)’s participation or involvement in the Activities.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Date of Signature