



SDSYO

**SOUTH DAKOTA
SYMPHONY
YOUTH
ORCHESTRA**

2019 - 2020 Handbook

The South Dakota Symphony Youth Orchestra strives to transform lives through music, and to inspire young musicians in a supportive and educational environment, and foster discipline, collaboration, and an active enjoyment of the arts. Through a dynamic program that offers four orchestras, including a beginners string orchestra as well as an advanced symphonic orchestra, members develop artistic skills and lasting friendships in rehearsals, concerts, retreats, and outreach events.

**Youth Orchestra
Philharmonia
Sinfonia
Prelude Strings**

Introduction

Welcome to the South Dakota Symphony Youth Orchestra (SDSYO) and congratulations on being a member of one of the SDSYO ensembles! We are delighted that you are participating in this endeavor to create wonderful music. Our goal is to make this an enriching musical experience for students of all levels.

In order to be prepared for a successful SDSYO season, **please read through the following policies to be fully aware of the SDSYO procedures.** Expectations of the students are high in order for this to be a worthwhile experience that will heighten your appreciation and understanding of orchestral music and your instrument, as well as create lasting relationships with others.

Contact Information

South Dakota Symphony Youth Orchestra

301 S. Main Ave.

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Phone: (605) 335-7933 ext. 14

Website: <http://www.sdsymphony.org/sdsyo/>

Questions or Concerns?

If you ever have any questions or concerns about anything related to the South Dakota Symphony Youth Orchestra, please contact the Youth Orchestra Administrator via e-mail at jess.johannsen@sdsymphony.org, or by office phone at (605) 335-7933, ext. 14.

Emergency cell phone contact number - (605) 553-2441

SDSYO Staff

Jess Johannsen

Thomas Fortner

Kyra Hansen

Jeff Paul

SDSYO Administrator

SDSYO Music Director

SDSO Director of Artistic Operations

Philharmonia Conductor

Auditions

The SDSYO accepts students enrolled in K-12 Sioux Falls area schools through grade 12 and/or students through age 18. Students who have graduated from high school or are older than 18 years of age are encouraged to audition for the Augustana Orchestra

- Formal orchestra placement auditions are held in May & August, with additional chair auditions throughout the season.
- The conductors may request rotational seating during rehearsals preceding chair auditions.
- Youth Orchestra and Philharmonia students who do not participate in chair auditions will risk losing their current chair placement
- Late auditions may be set up by appointment by contacting the Youth Orchestra Administrator.

Current audition information can be found at:
<http://www.sdsymphony.org/sdsyo/audition-registration/>

Auditions are not required for students interested in Prelude Strings.

Attendance Policy

Consistent attendance is *essential* to each SDSYO ensembles' educational and musical quality. Consistent rehearsal attendance benefits each musician and the orchestra in which they play. Practicing at home is about learning your part. Rehearsals are about learning everyone else's parts, and rehearsing together as an ensemble.

Consistent attendance is expected from every SDSYO musician.

- Attendance is expected at all SDSYO rehearsals, dress rehearsals, concerts, special performances, and events.
- All musicians are expected to arrive at least fifteen (15) minutes before the beginning of each rehearsal to assemble and warm up instruments. Musicians are expected to be in assigned chairs and ready to tune five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled rehearsal start time.
- Tardiness to rehearsals is unacceptable and will be recorded. If a musician is habitually tardy, they and their parent(s) will be required to hold a conference with the conductor and administrator.
- If a musician must miss a rehearsal, they are required to send an email or Absence Notification Form to the Youth Orchestra Administrator at least two (2) weeks in advance. Exceptions are made for emergency situations. Verbal and text messages are **not** acceptable forms of communication for absences known in advance.
- School events may be excused throughout the year, however prior notification of such events will be mandatory for an absence to be excused
- **All decisions regarding concert eligibility are made by the conductor based on the best interests and needs of the ensemble. All decisions are final.**
- **Attendance at concert dress rehearsals is mandatory.** Absence from a dress rehearsal must be approved by the conductor in advance and may result in concert ineligibility. A musician who is absent from a dress rehearsal without prior approval from the conductor will not be allowed to play the concert.

Responsible conduct is expected from every SDSYO musician.

- Students are expected to display courtesy and upstanding behavior at all SDSYO rehearsals, concerts, special performances, and events.
- Students who are continually disruptive during rehearsals, concerts, special performances, or events will be subject to dismissal from the SDSYO program.
- Students are responsible for reading and abiding by the contents of the 2019-20 SDSYO Handbook. Those students who do not abide by the policies outlined in the 2019-20 SDSYO Handbook will be subject to dismissal from the SDSYO program.

*The SDSYO is a safe, nurturing, and educational environment for all students.
Please contact the Youth Orchestra Administrator to report concerns.*

Additional Responsibilities

Practice and Preparedness

Music is chosen to challenge and educate, and each musician is expected to prepare their music for each week's rehearsal. In an orchestra, it is essential for every member to know their parts well in order to play together. If you do not know your part, the whole orchestra will not play or sound well together.

Private Instruction

All musicians are strongly encouraged to study with a private teacher and work on their orchestra music with their instructor. If you do not currently take private lessons, but would like to, please contact the Youth Orchestra Administrator for a list of private instructors in the area.

School Music Programs

It is strongly encouraged for students involved with the SDSYO to be enrolled in their school orchestra or band program.

There are several reasons to join and/or stay in your school music program. These programs are an excellent place to learn and gain practical experience along with qualifying you for access to all-state and honors groups, state solo and ensemble festivals, ect.

There are many additional benefits of participating in your school music program. Playing daily is invaluable to a musician and if you plan on becoming a music major in college (and beyond), the experience is vital to your future. You will gain additional recognition, leadership, musical training, and exposure to varied repertoire and teaching styles.

Cello and Bass students must provide their own rock-stops and stools for all rehearsals and concerts.

Brass students must provide their own mutes for all rehearsals and concerts.

Percussion students are required to supply all sticks and mallets for all rehearsals and concerts.

Percussionists are required to assist in moving, setting up, dismantling, and putting away all percussion equipment for rehearsals and concerts. The equipment must be handled carefully and stored neatly. Percussionists must come to rehearsal and all events at least 15 minutes early to set up the section and should plan to stay until all percussion equipment is put away. Please make arrangements with your transportation to and from events to allow for this extra time.

Rehearsals

- Rehearsals will begin promptly and students should arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of rehearsal in order to get their instrument out, be seated and be warmed up 5 minutes before tuning begins.
- Students are responsible to bring music, extra bows, mutes, strings, etc. and a pencil to every rehearsal.
- Occasionally we will need to rehearse in a different location due to scheduling conflicts. These changes will be made known in advance at the rehearsals and will be sent in a reminder e-mail prior to the rehearsal that week.
- Musicians must arrange with their parents to be picked up immediately following any event. Please be considerate and arrange alternate transportation if your parents are unable to pick you up at the end of an event.

Prelude Strings will meet Monday evenings from 5:00pm- 6pm at **Patrick Henry Middle School**, starting **December 2nd, 2019**. Parents may stay and watch the rehearsal.

Sinfonia will meet Monday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at **Patrick Henry Middle School** starting **September 9, 2019**. Parents may stay and observe the rehearsal.

Philharmonia will meet Monday evenings, starting **September 9, 2019**, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at **Patrick Henry Middle School**. Changes in location, due to weather or scheduling conflict, will be made known as soon as possible. Parents are encouraged to watch the rehearsals and may arrive early for pick-up to do so, or stay for the duration of the rehearsal.

Youth Orchestra will meet every Sunday, starting **September 8, 2019**, from 4:00 to 6:30pm at **Patrick Henry Middle School**. Changes in location, due to weather or scheduling conflict, will be made known as soon as possible. Parents are encouraged to watch the rehearsals and may arrive early for pick-up to do so, or stay for the entire duration of the rehearsal.

Music

Students: You are responsible for your music folder and for all of the music given to you throughout the season.

It is the responsibility of each musician to keep the **entire** season's music in your folders and brought to every rehearsal in case your partner is absent. Any markings in your music must be made with #2 pencils, only. If your music is damaged or lost, please contact the Youth Orchestra Administrator for a replacement part, prior to the next rehearsal.

Rehearsal Locations

- **Patrick Henry Middle School**
Orchestra Room (Sinfonia) B111
Band Room (YO & Phil) C113

Inclement Weather/Cancellation Notification

Sinfonia and Philharmonia

In the event of inclement weather, Monday evening Sinfonia and Philharmonia rehearsals will only be cancelled if schools have already been cancelled or closed earlier that day. If you are unsure, you may call or e-mail the Youth Orchestra Administrator or check your e-mail for an announcement.

We will also be implementing a mass text messaging system this season through "Remind" for emergency cancellations and announcements.

If you are unable to travel to Sioux Falls because of weather, please email or call the Youth Orchestra Administrator as soon as possible. Safety should be the top priority.

Youth Orchestra and Prelude Strings

If a Sunday afternoon or Saturday morning dress rehearsal is cancelled due to inclement weather, an e-mail announcement & text message alert will be sent early that morning, or the evening before. If you are unable to safely travel to Sioux Falls because of weather, please contact the Youth Orchestra Administrator as soon as possible. Safety should be the top priority.

Lost and Found

Musicians who are missing items after a rehearsal should contact the rehearsal location(s). The SDSYO (staff and conductors) is not responsible for any personal items (purses, coats, music, etc.) left at these sites.

Concert Dates & Information

- **Concert Dates for the 2019-20 Season**
 - November 24, 2019 – 6:00pm – Washington Pavilion (YO, Phil, Sinf)
 - February 23, 2020 – 6:00pm – Brandon Valley Performing Arts Center (YO, Phil, Sinf, Prelude)
 - May 3, 2020 – 6:00pm – Brandon Valley Performing Arts Center (YO, Phil, Sinf)
- **Call time** for students will be 30 minutes prior to the concert, unless otherwise specified. Please be prepared to be at the venue by that time. An e-mail will be sent out in the weeks prior to the concert.
- **Flash Photography** is not allowed during any performances.
- **Video Recording** of the performances is allowed during formal performances, but only in specific designated areas of the performance hall. Please see the SDSYO Administrator for more information.
- **Tickets** for any SDSYO concert are available at the door of any SDSYO concert. Adults are \$10. Students (with valid ID) are \$5. Family Passes are available for purchase by mailing the concert ticket order form and payment to the office, or by handing it in to the Youth Orchestra Administrator, at any point in the SDSYO season.
- **Concert Attire**

The purpose for the following dress code is so the audience will stay focused on the music during the performance and won't be distracted by individuals in the ensemble. Therefore, if a musician comes to a concert in unacceptable attire, he or she will not be allowed on stage until the problem has been resolved. [Dress other than the list below may be announced at the rehearsals for special concerts.]

 - Please see next page for concert attire.

SDSYO Concert Attire

Please try on concert attire several days before each scheduled performance date to make sure no last-minute alterations or repairs are necessary.

Sinfonia/Prelude Strings Boys:

- White button-down dress shirt (no suit jacket and no tie)
- Black dress pants
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes

Sinfonia/Prelude Strings Girls:

- White dressy shirt (no sleeveless, prints or patterns)
- Ankle-length black skirt or long black dress pants
- Black closed-toe dress shoes

Philharmonia Boys:

- Black suit
- White button-down dress shirt
- Long tie (any pattern)
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes

Youth Orchestra/Philharmonia Girls:

- Black $\frac{3}{4}$ length or long-sleeved dressy shirt (no short-sleeves or sleeveless; no prints or patterns)
- Ankle-length black skirt or long black dress pants
- Black closed-toe dress shoes

Youth Orchestra Boys:

- Black tuxedo or suit
- White button-down dress shirt
- Black long tie
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes
- Red or white pocket square (optional)

Tuition

All students are required to pay an annual tuition based on the rate of their orchestra. Tuition includes all SDSYO events and an SDSYO t-shirt. Rates are per student.

- Youth Orchestra:
 - \$370 (September - May)
- Philharmonia:
 - \$320 (September – May)
- Sinfonia:
 - \$270 (September - May)
- Prelude Strings:
 - \$45 (January-May)

Payment Plan

Tuition may be paid in full at the start of the season, or in installment plans as outlined below. Payments for each installment must be received in full by the due date, or the student may not participate in the following concert. If the payment plans below do not work for your family, please contact the Development Manager – we are happy to work with your family to create a suitable option.

Ensemble	Payment 1 Due Sep 13, 2019	Payment 2 Due Dec 6, 2019	Payment 3 Due March 6, 2020
Youth Orchestra	\$150	\$110	\$110
Philharmonia	\$120	\$100	\$100
Sinfonia	\$100	\$90	\$80

Sibling Discount

SDSYO offers discounted tuition for families with multiple students participating in the program. The oldest child is charged full tuition. Each additional child will receive a 20% discount on tuition. 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.

Refund Appeal Process

SDSYO tuition is non-refundable and due by the final payment date. However, if a student withdraws from SDSYO, and parents feel there are extenuating circumstances which may warrant a partial refund, parents may communicate **in writing** to the SDSYO office. SDSYO will consider the request and advise the family of its decision within 30 days.

Scholarships

The SDSYO has worked to establish and develop funds to ensure that qualified musicians have financial support for SDSYO membership. In addition to payment plans, SDSYO tuition scholarships are available to a limited number of students; these awards are based primarily on financial need. Students may apply for a tuition scholarship by filling out a scholarship form available from the Youth Orchestra Administrator at the start of each season. Students who receive a scholarship may be asked to help with rehearsal set-up, clean-up or general help during the season.

Completed scholarship forms must be submitted to the SDSYO office no later than September 13th for Cycle 1 submissions, and December 13th for Cycle 2 submissions.

SDSYO CONCERT TICKETS

Seats are general admission.
 Ticketing is done through the Washington Pavilion Box Office,
 if you have any questions please call (605) 367-6000.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

_____ **Family Pass: \$75** total (all four concerts for family members)*

_____ **Single Tickets: \$10** adults, **\$5** students

	Number of Adults	Number of Students	Total
November 24, 2019			\$
February 23, 2020			\$
May 3, 2020			\$

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Method of payment:

Cash _____

Check (made out to "Washington Pavilion") _____

Credit Card _____ **CC#** _____ **Exp. Date** _____

*Limit of six (6) tickets per concert per family.