



Youth Symphony

Member Handbook

75 Higuera Street, Suite 160
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 543-3533
www.slosymphony.org

Welcome

Welcome to the San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony! Through the Youth Symphony, students get a chance to play, learn, and experience the joy of music in a setting that promotes discipline and teamwork. The Youth Symphony has five ensembles so that young musicians at every experience level can take part. As they grow in skill and maturity, the opportunities for a lifetime of musical involvement grow, too! Upon graduation, musicians are prepared to pursue many academic and professional avenues—and can even follow in the footsteps of other Youth Symphony alumni by playing with the San Luis Obispo Symphony.

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Participation

Auditions

To participate in a Youth Symphony ensemble all students must audition. Students joining Super Bows will not need to audition. The audition schedule is as follows:

- All string musicians and Symphonic Winds musicians audition in the spring.
- Concert Orchestra winds, brass, and percussion audition in the fall.

Students who audition later than the scheduled audition sessions (i.e. string players auditioning in the fall) will still need to pay an audition fee.

Audition requirements vary by ensemble and are available on the SLO Symphony website. Accompanists will not be used for auditions.

Late Additions

Youth Symphony welcomes new musicians after the season has already begun. The following steps will be taken to accept new musicians:

- All musicians must be invited to audition by the conductor(s). For audition information, please contact the Education and Administrative Assistant at associate@slosymphony.com.
- Upon acceptance, students need to submit a registration form before participating in rehearsal. For safety reasons, all musicians must be registered to attend rehearsals.
- Tuition for late-additions will be pro-rated based on the number of concert cycles in which the musician participates.

Outside Music Involvement

Youth Symphony supports music in schools and encourages musicians to participate in their school music program.

If a student gets the opportunity to perform with the San Luis Obispo Symphony, or similar non-school organization, it is the expectation that Youth Symphony will remain the student's priority.

Parent Responsibilities

- Be supportive of your child's music studies.
- Be sure your musician's instrument is in good condition for each rehearsal and performance. For questions about the condition or repair of an instrument, please ask the student's sectional coach before or after rehearsal. Youth Symphony is not liable for loss or damage to your child's instrument; you can add a rider to your homeowner's insurance for the instrument.
- Be punctual when dropping off and picking up your child.
- Pay tuition promptly.
- Maintain communication. Should you have any questions or concerns, contact the Symphony office.

Volunteer Requirement

All Youth Symphony families will be required to volunteer during the season. Families may choose to pay a \$100 buy-out in lieu of volunteering. If a family does not fulfill their volunteer requirement by the end of the season, they will be invoiced for \$100.

Concerts and Events

Concert Attire

Concerts provide an opportunity for each ensemble to perform their best – and look their best – as a group. The purpose of this dress code for concerts is to help each musician feel a part of the ensemble as a whole.

Musicians who dress conspicuously or do not adhere to this dress code for concerts will be asked to change or be dismissed from the concert.

Concert Orchestra – All black

Gentlemen: Black button-down shirt, black dress pants, black socks, black shoes, and no tie

Ladies: Long-sleeved or $\frac{3}{4}$ black blouse, dressy black pants or skirt ($\frac{3}{4}$ or floor length), black socks (or hosiery), and black shoes

All other ensembles – Black & White

Gentlemen: White dress shirt, black bow tie, black dress pants, black socks, and black shoes

Ladies: Long-sleeved or $\frac{3}{4}$ white blouse, dressy black pants or skirt ($\frac{3}{4}$ or floor length), black socks (or hosiery), and black shoes

Concerto Competition

An annual Concerto Competition is held for Concert Orchestra members to compete to be a featured soloist with the Concert Orchestra at one of the Youth Symphony concerts. The competition is held in a recital setting with adjudicators. The competition piece must be for soloist(s) and orchestra and must be approved by the Concert Orchestra conductor. Each participant is to provide their own accompanist for the competition.

Student participants will be adjudicated on technical and musical aspects of their performance. Final decisions will be based on the recommendations of the adjudicators in consultation with the Concert Orchestra conductor. The adjudicating team withholds the right to not name a Concerto Competition winner if no participants qualify.

Principals' Recital

The Principals' Recital is an annual recital opportunity offered to the Concert Orchestra musicians. This performance is open to the public and attendance is highly encouraged.

Use of the Youth Symphony Name

To use the Youth Symphony name for performance opportunities involving students outside of official Youth Symphony events, please contact the SLO Symphony office.

Rehearsals

Attendance Policy

Youth Symphony believes that professionalism is as important as musical excellence. Attendance at every rehearsal and performance is mandatory. The conductors and coaches prepare their rehearsal schedules based on full attendance from every section.

We realize, however, that a rehearsal absence may be unavoidable due to certain circumstances. For this reason, **a student is permitted a maximum of two absences per concert cycle**. If a student misses more than two rehearsals in a cycle, they will not be prepared to perform. A concert cycle encompasses the rehearsals leading up to a concert and the concert itself. All decisions regarding attendance and absences will be at the discretion of Symphony staff and conductor(s).

Important family events (i.e. weddings, vacations, etc.) are excused if Symphony staff is notified no less than one month in advance of the event. Please report absences on the SLO Symphony website.

PLEASE NOTE

- Absences due to meeting the obligations of school music programs will be counted as an excused absence.
- Unexcused absences may result in re-assignment of parts, re-seating in the section, loss of principal status, or dismissal from Youth Symphony.
- Absences from performances and dress rehearsals will not be excused.

Tardiness

When students arrive on time and are well prepared, it allows for the best possible experience for all Youth Symphony students. Students should arrive 15 minutes before rehearsal begins in order to get settled and tune their instruments. A student will be marked tardy if they are not in their seats at the start of rehearsal. Arriving late impacts the entire rehearsal; two counts of tardiness will count as one absence.

Dress Rehearsal and Sound Check Attendance

Musicians must attend and be prompt to dress rehearsals and sound checks

in order to play the concert. Performers need to be on time in order to have the most efficient rehearsal possible. Punctuality and flexibility are of utmost importance.

Rehearsal Procedure

Musicians are expected to be ready to perform on time at every rehearsal and concert. Students should arrive 15 minutes before the rehearsal starts in order to allow time to set up and tune instruments.

Listed below is the procedure for rehearsals, including policies to ensure the greatest enjoyment, efficiency, and progress of all students.

1. **Prompt arrival and departure.** Arrive 10-15 minutes before your rehearsal begins.
 - Super Bows 4:00 – 5:00pm
 - Preparatory Strings 4:00 – 5:00pm
 - Symphonic Winds 5:15 – 7:15pm
 - Academy String Orchestra 5:15 – 7:15pm
 - Concert Orchestra 5:15 – 7:15pm

Musicians are to be picked up promptly as their rehearsal ends unless otherwise noted.

2. **Make sure you are checked in when attendance is taken.** Attendance will be taken at each rehearsal for every ensemble. To be marked “on time,” students must be in their seat at the very beginning of rehearsal or they will be marked tardy. In the event of sectionals, musicians must still be seated, tuned, and ready to play at the very beginning of rehearsal.
3. **Warm up.** Be sure to allow yourself time to warm up and tune your instrument at least 5 minutes prior to the beginning of rehearsal.
4. **Respect for conductors, coaches, fellow musicians, venues, and SLO Symphony staff.** This would include addressing staff by their desired name(s), being courteous towards others, and cleaning up after yourself in rehearsal and during breaks. Disrespect towards anyone will not be tolerated.

5. **Treat instruments with care.** Instruments are the sole responsibility of the musician. SLO Symphony is not liable for lost or damaged instruments during attendance at any Youth Symphony function.
6. **Be professional during rehearsal breaks.** The mid-rehearsal break is a privilege. Students are expected to respect the facilities, authorities, and fellow musicians at all times. Disrespect of any of the above is grounds for expulsion from Youth Symphony. Musicians are welcome to bring a snack, but must eat outside during mid-rehearsal break as food and drinks are not allowed inside any facility used by Youth Symphony.
7. **Return on time after rehearsal breaks.** Musicians must be ready to perform by the end of their allotted break time.
8. **Help clean up after rehearsal.** It is the responsibility of students to assist in the clean up after rehearsal. At the close of each rehearsal, please stack chairs, put away stands, throw away trash, and gather your belongings.

SLO Symphony Discipline Policy

Professional behavior is expected at all times from Youth Symphony students, along with representing the organization in a positive manner to the community. Disruptive behavior during any Youth Symphony function may result in disciplinary action. Parents will be notified of disruptive behavior and, should the behavior persist, the musician may be dismissed from the SLO Symphony organization. Please make note that tuition is non-refundable.

Financial Information

Audition Fees & Tuition

Auditioning musicians pay an audition fee of \$35 before their audition. This fee does not apply towards tuition. Tuition and fees are non-refundable and not tax deductible.

Tuition Agreement

Earning a position in Youth Symphony commits the student to perform at all rehearsals and concerts. This agreement is an obligation to pay tuition in full for the entire concert season. Tuition is neither reduced nor pro-rated for concerts missed. Circumstances that affect the student's ability to attend and perform can be addressed on a case-by-case basis with SLO Symphony staff and conductor(s).

All families must be current with the previous year's tuition to audition.

Failure to pay tuition may result in withholding the student from performing at the YS Finale Concert.

Payment Procedures

Tuition may be paid in full at the beginning of the season or in three installments by the tuition deadline. It is the family's responsibility to make prompt payments. If tuition is not met by the deadline, the student will be ineligible to play in the concert.

Payments can be made on the Symphony [website](#) or mailed to:

SLO Symphony – Youth Symphony
75 Higuera Street, Suite 160
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Please make checks payable to "SLO Symphony".

School Music Discount

Musicians participating in their school music program are eligible for a \$50 credit towards their tuition (this includes band, choir, guitar, piano, etc.). A

School Music Form must be filled out and submitted by the student with a signature by their music teacher (available on the Symphony website). Private lessons are not applicable to the school music discount. Discounts will expire after the final tuition deadline. For discounts to be valid, discount forms must be submitted before the final tuition payment deadline.

Multiple Student Discount

If there are two or more musicians from one family participating in Youth Symphony, tuition will be reduced by \$50 for the second child (and third, fourth, etc.).

Discounts will expire after the final tuition deadline. For discounts to be valid, tuition payments must be made before the final tuition deadline.

Tuition Scholarships

San Luis Obispo Symphony is committed to providing music education to all musicians. Scholarship applications may be found on the Symphony website at the beginning of each season. Scholarship amounts awarded will rely on funds available, the number of applicants, and financial need.

Musician Safety

Medical Emergencies

In the event of an accident or sudden onset of illness, the San Luis Obispo Symphony will seek proper care for the student. An immediate attempt will be made to contact the responsible parent or designee, as detailed in the "Medical Information and Release" on the registration form. In extreme cases, paramedics will be called. The medical release form parents/guardians have signed will be available with Symphony staff so that treatment can be given immediately in the absence of a parent/guardian. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to keep medical forms up to date by notifying Symphony staff.

Child Safety

In our efforts to promote child safety, all Symphony staff, conductors, and coaches in a San Luis Obispo Symphony music education program will have gone through and cleared a background check.

Youth Symphony Contributions

Youth Symphony is part of the San Luis Obispo Symphony, a non-profit organization supported through ticket sales, community donations, and grants. Tuition covers less than half of the Youth Symphony operating expenses each year. Outside contributions are vital to the success of this organization, which is the very foundation of future orchestras.

Donations may be made at www.slosymphony.org or sent to:

SLO Symphony
75 Higuera St, Ste 160
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

All donations in any amount are gratefully accepted, appreciated, and tax-deductible.

Effective July 2019



SAN LUIS OBISPO
SYMPHONY