



The Vail Youth Symphony admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students in the Symphony. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.

Student Handbook 2017-2018

Vail Youth Symphony Student Handbook

Student Responsibilities

We at the Vail Youth Symphony understand that following a few key rules will really enhance the experience of all participants. Since the Vail Youth Symphony is dedicated to providing its participants with the best possible musical education, we ask participants to read the Student Handbook carefully, and to understand that we are only asking you to do what is in the best interest of the group.

Attendance

Promptness and perfect attendance are expected of all VYS participants. Consistent attendance is extremely important to ensure all participants enjoy a rewarding and musically expanding experience. If, as a result of injury, you are unable to play your instrument, you will not be counted absent if you attend the rehearsal, sit with the orchestra, and take notes.

Absences and Exceeding the Limit

The VYS schedule is very carefully considered. Every effort is made to ensure that your schedule doesn't conflict with important school events. We also publish our rehearsal and performance schedule well ahead of time. Please be sure to plan your individual and family calendars carefully, so as to avoid absences. Absences may be excused at the sole discretion of the conductor/director. Please make every effort to notify the conductor/director as early as possible if you are going to be unable to attend a rehearsal. Excessive absences (determined at the discretion of the conductor/director) may result in disciplinary action.

Reporting Absences

All absences, early departures, and late arrivals, except in the case of emergency, must be reported to the conductor/director before the beginning of rehearsal by emailing info@vailyouthsymphony.org or calling (520)647-1919.

Tardiness

Tardiness is particularly troublesome in a group of dedicated musicians. Please make every effort to be at rehearsal at least 15 minutes early. This will allow you to be "on time" for the conductor/director. "On time" means being seated, tuned, and warmed up (possessing all required materials for your instrument, your music, and your pencil) when the conductor/director raises their baton to start rehearsal.

Dismissal from YYS

If a student is persistent in violating the student guidelines or code of conduct, it is possible that they may be asked to leave the Vail Youth Symphony. Likewise, some individual actions may result in the immediate dismissal of the participant from the Vail Youth Symphony. This is the last thing we desire, but the decision is in the sole discretion of the conductor/director. In such cases a refund of tuition will not be possible. Some examples of behavior that would warrant immediate dismissal include (but are not limited to):

1. Possessing a weapon or dangerous object.
2. Possession of illegal drugs, or illegal possession of prescription drugs, or the misuse of chemicals.
3. Any threat to persons or property.
4. Theft, illegal actions, or damage to property.

Vail Youth Symphony Student Code of Conduct

We hope that participants enjoy their experience at the Vail Youth Symphony. In an effort to ensure that every student feels safe and valued, we ask that all students adhere to our Student Code of Conduct.

1. Be respectful and polite to all—fellow musicians, staff, and those who will be on site at Cienega High School or the Vail Theater of the Arts.
2. Foul language will not be tolerated.
3. Give the conductor/director your full attention, and respond immediately to the requests of the staff.
4. Bullying will not be tolerated.
5. All participants must respect the rehearsal and concert venues.
6. All participants must respect the music and equipment of the Vail Youth Symphony. Inappropriate use or treatment of equipment or facilities will not be tolerated.
7. Food and drink (except for re-sealable water bottles) is not allowed in the rehearsal or concert venues.
8. The dress code for VYS participants is the same as the dress code for the Vail School District and students will be expected to adhere to it.

Disciplinary Action

All disciplinary action will be decided on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the conductor/director and the board of directors. Generally it will include one verbal warning, sitting out a rehearsal with an unexcused absence, and contacting the student's parent. If a student has been asked to leave a rehearsal, the director has the right to refuse the student's reentry into the orchestra for the rest of that rehearsal. We sincerely hope that none of these disciplinary actions will ever be needed. Working together, we are confident that we will develop an atmosphere of excitement and professionalism.

Dress Rehearsals

Dress rehearsals are extremely important. Every participant should attend the dress rehearsals. Even if you have received permission to miss a dress rehearsal and consider it an "excused absence," the conductor/director may make some determinations about your participation in the concert. If you are in a leadership position (concertmaster, section leader, etc.) you may lose your position. Such determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Concerts

All concerts are mandatory. If you are unable to attend the concert, you may still rehearse with the group, but you will be unable to serve in a leadership position or audition for solos that will be played at that concert, and you may be asked to sit in the back of your section.

Withdrawing From the Program

We understand that individual circumstances sometimes require that a participant leaves the program. After you have filled out your paperwork and paid your tuition, you have the first two weeks of rehearsals to consider withdrawing from the program. If you withdraw before the third rehearsal, you may be entitled to a refund of up to half of your tuition. If you elect to withdraw from the program after the beginning of the third rehearsal, you will not be eligible to receive any refund.

School Participation

We expect all students to participate in their school programs. Such participation helps students to act as leaders within their school programs, and it helps other students learn and progress so that they may eventually join the Vail Youth Symphony as well. School programs, when experienced in conjunction with the Vail Youth Symphony, will help elevate the skill level of our participants. Private lessons offer many of the same benefits. For these reasons, we are offering a tuition scholarship of \$75 to students who participate in their schools' programs or who regularly attend private lessons. Questions regarding this policy may be directed to your conductor/director.

Rehearsal/Concert Cancellation Policy

The Vail Youth Symphony makes every effort, including having substitute conductor/directors available, to provide the participants with a consistently excellent experience. In the case of an extreme emergency, a rehearsal or concert may be cancelled. In such an instance, a refunded tuition will not be possible.

Vail Youth Symphony Student Guidelines

We are aware that many of our participants are new to auditioned groups, and they may be in need of guidance. In an effort to help rehearsals run smoothly and to help participants know what is expected of them, we have provided the following guidelines.

1. We will not require you to bring music stands to rehearsals or concerts without advanced notice. Both Cienega High School and the Vail Theater of the Arts have music stands available for our use.
2. You must bring all of your music in its folder to all of your rehearsals and the performances.
3. Bring a pencil and an eraser to all rehearsals. Be ready to mark your music!
4. Do not wear hats to rehearsal.
5. Do not chew gum, or eat food during rehearsal. No open drinks will be allowed in the rehearsal area or in the Vail Theater of the Arts. You may bring a water bottle with a sealable top.
6. Turn off and stow away all electronics during rehearsal. You may text or make phone calls during the break or after the rehearsal. If you use electronics during the rehearsal, you will be asked to surrender those devices to the conductor/director until the end of rehearsal.
7. Make sure you have all of the items your instrument may need with you at all rehearsals. Violinists and violists need shoulder rests, and cellists and bassists need cello straps or endpin anchors to secure their endpins.
8. Do not talk with your neighbor during rehearsal. We have a limited amount of rehearsal time, and we want to make the most of it.
9. Turn your music in to the Vail Youth Symphony directly after the concerts. Please erase all of the markings you made in your music before you turn it in.

Student Safety

For the safety of our participants, we must insist that they are picked up promptly at the end of rehearsal. Students must not arrive to rehearsal more than 20 minutes early. The Vail Youth Symphony cannot be responsible for the safety of participants before or after rehearsal.

Seating

Seating placement within sections will be made at the sole discretion of the conductor/director, and may be made with a variety of concerns in mind. If you have a problem with where you have been asked to sit, discretely direct an inquiry to your conductor/director.

Student Preparedness

All participants must be prepared for every rehearsal. The Vail Youth Symphony Board is comprised of dedicated musicians who love to teach—if a student is having difficulty with any of the music, we will make every effort to help that student. We may elect to hold sectionals, pull a student out of rehearsal for one-on-one help, etc. If the student elects not to adequately prepare himself/herself despite the best efforts of the staff, the student may be asked to play individually and privately for the conductor/director, who may choose to place the student on probation. The nature of the probation and the time period allowed for the student to improve before they may be asked not to participate in the next concert are in the sole discretion of the conductor/director.

Music and Fees

Sheet music is one of the most significant expenses for a group like the Vail Youth Symphony. Replacing lost or damaged music or folders can be difficult and extremely costly. If you lose or damage your music or folder, or fail to turn it in on time (especially in the case of rented music) YOU WILL BE CHARGED.

Concert Attire

As an auditioned group, the Vail Youth Symphony wants to project professionalism to its audience.

We ask that women wear all black. Concert attire may be dress pants and a shirt, or a floor length dress, skirt, etc. Tops must cover the shoulders and adhere to the dress code. Please wear black closed-toe shoes and black hose or socks. We are performing as a unified group, so please consider whether or not your choices may distract the audience from our performance. If you are uncertain about the concert attire you've chosen, consider choosing something else.

We ask that men wear a black suit or tuxedo with a white shirt and a black bow-tie. Please wear black shoes and black socks. Just as for the women, please ensure your chosen attire does not distract the audience from our performance. If you are uncertain about the concert attire you've chosen, consider choosing something else.