

Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey

434 Cranbury Road • West Windsor, NJ • 08550 • 609-936-9797 • www.yocj.org

Student Handbook



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The Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey



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Membership Rules

Students must be in good standing in their school orchestra or band in order to participate in YOCJ's program. Exceptions will be considered only if students have an acceptable conflict precluding participation in the school music program and with the approval of the YOCJ directors.

Every musician is important to the orchestra. Good attendance, behavior and commitment are necessary for the excellent performance of music. At the discretion of the conductors, grounds for dismissal include the following:

- Failure to meet or maintain YOCJ requirements
- Failure to meet financial obligations
- Lack of musical preparation
- Excessive absences or unexcused absence from a concert performance
- Disruptive or dangerous behavior or conduct reflecting unfavorably on YOCJ

All music is the property of YOCJ and must be returned at the end of each concert or there will be a charge of \$10.00 per piece of unreturned/damaged/lost music for its replacement.

All students must behave responsibly and be careful not to endanger himself or herself, another student, or any musical instrument including their own.

Participation in YOCJ is at each person's own risk, YOCJ is not responsible for any injury to any student or instrument before, during, or after any YOCJ event.

YOCJ is not responsible for any damage/loss of instruments, currency, and personal properties. There is to be no refund of tuition should any student decide to withdraw from YOCJ. If a student must withdraw from the orchestra within the first two rehearsals of the season, the board will consider a refund of tuition after all music has been returned. There will be a non-fundable administrative fee of \$50.00.

The Role of Parents

Our volunteer administrators are parents of current or former members of the orchestras. Please note that the organization employs no paid administrators and depends entirely on parental support to make this excellent orchestral training available at a reasonable cost to all qualified students.



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The YOCJ board meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00. The meetings are hosted at the home of one of the board members. All parents are encouraged to attend. Parents interested in attending a board meeting should email board@yocj.org

Throughout the year, we will need help from all parents. Most jobs do not require any musical knowledge or experience. If you have not already filled out a volunteer questionnaire and would like to help, please contact one of our current officers. Their names and email addresses can be found on "contact us" page of www.yocj.org. We appreciate any comments, suggestions, or help parents have to offer.

Contributions

The effort involved in helping our young musicians to mature requires a great deal of time and financial support. As always, we must turn to the public to help with these activities. We urge you to join our growing list of contributing members. We encourage those whose employers provide matching contributions to use this source of funding to help support our orchestra. Checks should be made payable to "YOCJ." Contributions can also be made through our website www.yocj.org by clicking on "Donations."

Volunteer as a Chaperone

In the past we have undertaken day trips as well as tours of Boston, and Toronto. Last year we spent a day in Ocean City, New Jersey and plan to undertake the same trip this year and may need some chaperones.

Help with Auditions

We conduct our seating auditions via videotape during a pre-announced rehearsal and ask parent volunteers to run the cameras for us. The tapes are then reviewed by the conductors. This procedure allows the conductors more time to carefully review the students' skills and also become more familiar with each child individually.

Volunteers will use school cameras and will be completely coached on which buttons to push. Parents do not tape their own child's orchestra section.

We are perfecting this process as we go along and your input is welcome.



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Please email us if you wish to volunteer or have any helpful comments or concerns.

Concert Seating Auditions

A few weeks before our concerts, seating auditions will be held during rehearsal for string students. Students should work with their private teachers on the concert music. Concert seating will reflect performance from these auditions. Students who do not play at seating auditions will be seated at the conductor's discretion.

If a student's audition is deemed unacceptable, s/he must re-audition two weeks later. If the re-audition is still unacceptable, the student will not be permitted to play the concert. If the re-audition is deemed acceptable, the student will be permitted to play the concert but will be placed on probation for the next semester.

Probation: Students placed on probation must re-audition after the fourth week of the semester. They will play their music for the conductor(s), at which time the conductors will determine whether the student may continue as a member of YOCJ. If the probation audition is deemed acceptable, they will remain in YOCJ and re-audition with the other students at the regular concert auditions. Students whose probation audition is deemed unacceptable will be dismissed from YOCJ.

Concert Information

ATTENDANCE

Performance at all concerts in which your group is performing is MANDATORY. Please arrange your schedule accordingly.

MUSIC AND MUSIC FOLDERS

You are required to return ALL music with your folder immediately after each concert. If you have lost any of your music, you will be asked to reimburse the orchestra \$10.00 per each lost piece of music for its replacement. Music is



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expensive and precious and none of us can afford to be careless with it. Please cooperate by keeping your music in good condition and returning it promptly.

REQUIRED CONCERT ATTIRE

(ALL GROUPS EXCEPT Symphony Orchestra and Saxophone Choir)

Girls

- Solid, all-white opaque top with sleeves (no sleeveless tops and no bare midriffs).
- Long, black opaque or fully lined skirt (no slits), preferably ankle length but mid-calf is acceptable. (Skirt must be full enough so that it does not have to be pulled up to play the instrument)
- Black formal dress slacks may be worn. Pants must be full length. (No cropped or tight pants)
- Black stockings and black shoes. (no sneakers or sandals)

Boys

Solid, all-white long sleeve dress shirt

- Black bow tie
- Black dress slacks
- Black socks and black shoes (no sneakers or sandals)



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Symphony Orchestra ONLY

GIRLS

SAME AS ABOVE EXCEPT WEAR SOLID, ALL-BLACK OPAQUE TOP WITH SLEEVES (NO SLEEVELESS TOPS AND NO BARE MIDRIFFS).

BOYS

TUXEDO

- Solid, all-white long sleeve dress shirt
- Black bow tie
- Black dress slacks
- Black socks and black shoes (no sneakers or sandals)

Saxophone Choir ONLY

All participants will wear the following:

- Black dress slacks
- Black dress long sleeved shirt
- Black dress shoes



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Cancellations & Snow Closings

Please refer to the YOCJ homepage in the event of inclement weather

As a general rule, if the West Windsor-Plainsboro schools are closed or have an early dismissal, all rehearsals are cancelled.

