



SAN JOSE YOUTH
SYMPHONY

YAIR SAMET, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

San Jose Youth Symphony

MEMBER HANDBOOK

2022-2023

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1. Welcome to the San Jose Youth Symphony

The talented young musicians who successfully auditioned for seats in the SJYS ensembles and their families are the members of the San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS). Without these musicians, there could be no organization. As a nonprofit organization, it is important that the member families, the staff, administration and the Board of Directors communicate freely and work together to further the ends that the organization deems worth pursuing. This Handbook is intended to provide a snapshot of the SJYS organization, its purpose, goals, personnel, rules and communication channels to all members.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide useful information about the San Jose Youth Symphony for member families. Please be aware that even as this document is being printed and published, some of the information presented here could change. For a "living, breathing" document, we encourage everyone to refer to the SJYS website on a regular basis: we will endeavor to keep that regularly up to date.

A Note to New Members

The SJYS organization is large. There are hundreds of incredible young musicians in our orchestras and ensembles, and with their families, the staff, our sponsors, concert audiences and other community interaction, SJYS directly touches the lives of thousands of people. When first joining, it can be a challenge to understand and assimilate all the opportunities and expectations associated with membership. Here is an "executive summary" that we hope will be valuable. Much more detail appears in the sections below.

Attendance at Rehearsals and performances is critical to produce concerts of a quality that your young musician's talents are worthy of, all members of his or her ensemble must practice at home **and together** regularly.

SUMMER CAMP IS MANDATORY. All musicians are expected to participate in the summer camp, as an integral part of the preparation for the season. Remember, this highly focused experience can be a huge contribution to one's musical education, and the hourly cost is a tiny fraction of private lessons.

TOURS ARE ALSO MANDATORY! Members of the Philharmonic Orchestra and possibly some members of the Chamber Orchestra (if spots available) must be committed to the Bon Voyage Concert (late June) and the International Tour, which takes place biannually over two weeks, usually the last week of June through the first week of July.

VOLUNTEERING IS MANDATORY. ALL families are required to contribute 15 hours of volunteer time per season. The SJYS staff makes a tremendous commitment, but we also rely heavily on member families to help with a variety of tasks throughout the season. Volunteers contribute greatly to the overall success of the organization, and SJYS appreciates every bit of support received. Volunteers are needed at rehearsals, concerts & other events, the spring General Auditions, in the office, etc. Volunteer sign-ups are done using ***iVolunteer.com*** and links are sent via email or listed in our Members Only section of the SJYS website.

All volunteers [must provide proof of TB testing](#) as a condition of volunteering with SJYS where you must have contact with minors. [Submission of proof in the current season will provide you automatically with 2.0 hours of volunteer credit.](#)

For families unable to commit to volunteering during the season, it is possible to "buy out" of the required hours by donating an additional \$200.

SJYS Mission Statement

The San Jose Youth Symphony gives young people a foundation for life through orchestral music. We create programs that assure young musicians achieve technical proficiency, musical knowledge and an emotional connection to music. We strive to make each performance for the community uplifting, spirited and exciting.

History of SJYS

The San Jose Youth Symphony, now in its 71st season, is one of the oldest and finest youth orchestras in the United States. Founded in 1951 as part of the former San Jose Symphony, SJYS has a rich tradition of musical performance and education. SJYS operated under the San Jose Symphony's management until 2001, when the San Jose Symphony ceased operation. To preserve and continue the unique ability of SJYS to provide the music education needs of children in San Jose and neighboring communities, the parents of SJYS member musicians mobilized to form a Board of Directors and incorporate SJYS as an independent, non-profit corporation. Not-for-profit 501(c)(3) status was granted in 2002.

The musicians of the San Jose Youth Symphony, ranging in age from 8-21, are chosen from more than 650 applicants in annual auditions. The San Jose Youth Symphony comprises 12 distinct performing orchestras and ensembles. All ensembles perform a regular schedule of two or three concerts per season and rehearse weekly from September through early June, with a mandatory, weeklong summer camp held every July/August.

In 2003 the San Jose Youth Symphony launched "Music Matters", an after-school music education program. This program was developed in response to the demand from educators scrambling to replace programs cut by the state budget crisis.

SJYS has performed several side-by-side concerts with the San Jose Symphony, among them, performances of Arts Express concerts to thousands of local school students. In addition, the orchestra performed side-by-side concerts with the Dublin Youth Orchestra, the Okayama Youth orchestra and others.

SJYS is proud of the free concerts it has performed for various organizations across the community and numerous city events, among them the official inauguration ceremony for Mayor Susan Hammer, the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Palo Alto, the Rotary and the Kiwanis Clubs, Santa Clara University's Christmas Celebration, the 40th Anniversary of Los Gatos Community Hospital, the Child's Advocate, senior homes and homeless shelters.

Approximately every other year the Philharmonic Orchestra undertakes an international concert tour. This past summer, they traveled to the Baltics for their 2022 Tour: Vilnius, Lithuania; Riga, Latvia; Parnu & Tallinn, Estonia; with a final concert in Helsinki, Finland. They had an extraordinary, once-in-a-lifetime experience during the most recent June 2019 Summer Tour to South America in Montevideo, Uruguay and Buenos Aires and Rosario, Argentina. Before that, they performed in Croatia, Austria and Hungary. In 2015, the Orchestra toured Spain and Portugal and in 2013, they performed five concerts on their Eastern European tour to Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Slovenia, Slovakia, and Prague, Czech Republic. In the summer of 2011, the Philharmonic Orchestra toured and performed in Italy, Germany and Austria, and in other past international concert tours, SJYS traveled to South America, including Santiago, Chile, Ireland, Belgium, The Netherlands, and Japan.

2. The SJYS Organization, Contacts & Rehearsals

Office Address and Phone:

5671 Santa Teresa Boulevard, Suite 210
San Jose, CA 95123
Phone: 408.225.2334
<https://www.sjys.org>

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday | 9 AM – 4 PM

Administrative Staff

Shoko Michael , Executive Director	shoko@sjys.org
Louise Savoie , Accounts Manager	louise@sjys.org
Yuet Doris Wong , Office Manager	sjys@sjys.org
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Artistic Staff

Yair Samet Music Director & Conductor Philharmonic & Chamber Orchestras	yair@sjys.org
Christy Crews Conductor, Concert Orchestra	c crews@sjys.org
Eric Bolvin Conductor, Jazz Ensemble	ebolvin@sjys.org
Sarah Benton Conductor, Avancé & Avant Flute Choirs	sbenton@sjys.org
Charles Ancheta Conductor Concert Winds & Saxophone Ensembles	cancheta@sjys.org
Virginia Smedberg Conductor, Intermezzo String Ensemble	vsmedberg@sjys.org
Christina Wong Conductor, Prelude String Ensemble	cwong@sjys.org
Kristal Schwartz Conductor, Harp Ensemble	kschwartz@sjys.org
Shota Otaguro Conductor, Percussion Ensemble	sotaguro@sjys.org

Board of Directors

The current SJYS Board of Directors comprises parents of current or past members, as well as community leaders who volunteer their time. Communication with Board members is handled via email to sjys@sjys.org.

Stephen Gomes , Chairman	Vicki Neil , Secretary	Basanthi Bhat	Daryl Tempesta
Yvette Marchand , Vice Chairman	Gary Sargenti , Treasurer	Ivy Chesser	Tami Ozubko

COMMUNICATION

Members Only Section of SJYS Website

The Members Only section of the SJYS website can be accessed by selecting the **MUSICIANS** drop down and clicking on the **FOR SJYS MEMBERS** link. This is a password-protected section of the website for current SJYS members and their families. New members need to register and submit the form. Once you are registered, simply log-in to gain access. Information you can find here includes:

- Season Schedule/Calendar (the most up-to-date info is [HERE!](#))
- Link to Absence Forms (also accessible on the **Contact** tab of the website)
- Links to Volunteer Opportunities
- Links to Recordings for Philharmonic, Chamber and Concert Orchestra musicians
- Competition Rules and Applications

E-Mail

Nearly ALL SJYS updates and information will be sent via email to members and their families, so it is **vital that we have current email addresses of all parents and member musicians**. We have created Google Groups for each orchestra or ensemble, so that we can send information easily and effectively. The email address(es) you provided when you initially completed the SJYS online audition application form are the ones we use in all our communications to you. Please let us know of any changes or additions so we can update our records and Google Group accordingly. We ask that you check your email regularly to keep abreast of important news and events concerning SJYS.

Remind Text Messages

SJYS uses “**Remind**” texts as an additional communication tool for orchestra and ensemble members and families. We use this system to send timely reminders about important events such as extra rehearsals, last-minute changes to a scheduled rehearsal, reminders about start times for dress rehearsals, to avoid tardiness issues.

Rehearsal Schedules & Venues

(check season schedule or SJYS website for specific dates and details)

LOS GATOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (LGUMC):

111 Church Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030

Group	Location	Day/Time
Chamber Orchestra	Social Hall	Sunday 3:00 – 6:00 PM
Concert Winds Ensemble	Social Hall	Sunday 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Saxophone Ensemble	Fireside Room	Sunday 5:30 – 6:15 PM
Prelude Yellow	Sanctuary	Monday 5:00 – 6:30 PM
Prelude Blue	Sanctuary	Monday 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Philharmonic Orchestra	Social Hall	Monday 6:30 – 9:30 PM
Harp Ensemble	Fireside Room	Saturday 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH (FLC)

16548 Ferris Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95032

Group	Location	Day/Time
Concert Orchestra	Ross Hall	Monday 6:30 – 9:00 PM
Avant Flute Choir	Fireside Room	Monday 6:00 – 7:30 PM
Avancé Flute Choir	Fireside Room	Monday 7:45 – 9:15 PM
Intermezzo Yellow	Sanctuary	Monday 5:00 – 6:30 PM
Intermezzo Blue	Sanctuary	Monday 7:00 – 8:45 PM
Jazz Ensemble	Ross Hall	Saturday 9:30 – 11:30 AM

MONTA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL:

21840 McClellan Road, Cupertino CA 95014

Group	Location	Day/Time
Percussion Yellow	Instrumental Music Room	Sunday 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Percussion Blue	Instrumental Music Room	Sunday 2:15 – 3:45 PM

3. SJYS Orchestras and Ensembles & Audition Requirements

Philharmonic Orchestra

The Philharmonic Orchestra is the premier orchestra of the San Jose Youth Symphony. Membership is reserved for outstanding players who demonstrate strong musicianship, have highly advanced technique, and are capable of the discipline necessary to perform in a pre-professional orchestral setting. Musicians have the opportunity to study and perform a wide range of challenging masterpieces from the standard symphonic repertoire, and select musicians have the opportunity to play in chamber music groups that perform at various venues throughout the year.

Minimum Artistic Standards

- All candidates are required to know all the major and minor scales and corresponding arpeggios.
- **Strings:** Ability to play any scale or arpeggio in three octaves; a strong command over a variety of bowing techniques including spiccato, staccato, détaché, martelé, ricochet, and legato. Viola and cello must be proficient in reading treble clef.
- **Woodwind and Brass:** Woodwinds must have the ability to play any two-octave scale in arpeggio (three octaves where applicable). Flutists should be proficient in piccolo. Brass must have the ability to play any two-octave scale and arpeggio. Transpositions and clef proficiencies are required where applicable. All woodwinds and brass must be able to play the chromatic scale throughout the range of the instrument.
- **Piano, Saxophone:** Applications will be accepted for these instruments, as needed.
- **Harp:** Major and minor scales and arpeggios of up to four sharps or flats; Two contrasting solo pieces: one fast to demonstrate technical ability and one slow to demonstrate lyricism. Candidates may prepare either two solo pieces of contrasting styles or one that includes both fast and slow sections.
- **Percussion:** Proficiency on snare, timpani (including tuning) and mallets.

Chamber Orchestra

The Chamber Orchestra is one of the San Jose Youth Symphony's premier ensembles alongside the Philharmonic Orchestra. It is for musicians of high school age at the advanced musical level. Rehearsals will focus on the full chamber orchestra as well as small chamber music groups coached by professional musicians. Our goal is to involve as many Chamber Orchestra musicians as possible in small chamber music groups in addition to the full orchestra. Some Chamber orchestra musicians will be invited to be members in the Philharmonic orchestra as well with the possibility to participate in tours, depending on available spots in the Philharmonic.

Minimum Artistic Standards

- All candidates are required to know all the major and minor scales and corresponding arpeggios.
- **Strings:** Ability to play any scale or arpeggio in 3 octaves; a strong command over a variety of bowing techniques including spiccato, staccato, détaché, martelé, ricochet, and legato. Viola and cello must be proficient in reading treble clef.

- **Woodwind and Brass:** Woodwinds must have the ability to play any two-octave scale in arpeggio (3 octaves where applicable). Flutists should be proficient in piccolo. Brass must have the ability to play any two-octave scale and arpeggio. Transpositions and clef proficiencies are required where applicable. All woodwinds and brass must be able to play the chromatic scale throughout the range of the instrument.
- **Percussion:** Proficiency on snare, timpani (including tuning) and mallets.

Concert Orchestra

The Concert Orchestra provides intermediate musicians the opportunity to learn rehearsal techniques and performance practices in a full orchestral setting. The musicians of the Concert Orchestra study and perform a repertoire that is challenging, yet within the abilities of the ensemble's overall musicianship.

Minimum Artistic Standards

- All artistic standards described in the Prelude and Intermezzo String Ensembles plus:
- **Strings:** Ability to play 3 octave major and minor scales including C, G, D, A, B Bb, Eb. Solid knowledge of positions one through five. Familiarity with a variety of bowing techniques including spiccato, staccato, détaché, martelé, ricochet, and legato. Viola and cello must have a basic understanding of treble clef.
- **Woodwind and Brass:** Woodwinds must have the ability to play two-octave major and minor scales.
- **Piano, Harp, Saxophone:** Applications will be accepted for these instruments, as needed.
- **Percussion:** Proficiency on snare, timpani (including tuning) and mallets.

Avancé Flute Choir

The **Avancé Flute Choir** is tailored to bring together young flutists of advanced level. The repertoire includes the most challenging pieces written and arranged for flute ensembles. Questions of musical phrasings, meanings, composers' lives and music history, are addressed during the rehearsals, that are both lively and motivating. In addition, the members of the choir can participate in their annual **Solo Competition**. Winners receive cash prizes as well as the chance to perform as soloists at one of the choir's concerts.

Minimum Artistic Standards

- All major scales (3 octaves when applicable).
- Full range chromatic scale.
- Two pieces or études of contrasting pieces: one piece or excerpt should be of fast tempo to demonstrate technique; and the other selection should be of slower tempo and more lyrical to demonstrate musicianship, phrasing, etc.
- Excellent sight reading.

Avant Flute Choir

The **Avant Flute Choir** consists of intermediate-level flutists and sets its goals as teaching young musicians the needed skills for playing in a group. Rehearsals are focused on improving techniques through various scale warm-ups, work on tuning and intonation issues, introducing the concepts of ensemble playing, as well as working on a wide range of repertoire. The friendly and inviting atmosphere of the choir encourages students to learn in collaborative and inspiring ways. Section leaders are chosen based on their participation, attendance and overall involvement as teamwork is very important.

Minimum Artistic Standards

- Major scales up to four sharps and flats (two octaves).
- G chromatic scale.
- One piece or étude
- Good sight reading
-

Jazz Ensemble

Members of the ensemble are advanced musicians. They will be exposed to the styles of Swing, Latin, Modern and Contemporary Jazz, as well as learning the art of improvisation.

Minimum Artistic Standards

- Scales: Chromatic 2 octaves (1 octave for brass); Major scales up to 4 sharps/flats.
- Solo: Jazz tune, Jazz etude or any solo of your choice.
- Sight-reading: Short piece with some syncopation.
- Optional: Improvisation – solo on F blues.
- **Guitar & Piano** – Comping ability on Major 7th, minor 7th, dominant 7th. Ability to read notes & rhythm.
- **Upright & Electric Bass** – Simple note-reading; Swing Latin and Rock styles from chord changes.

Saxophone Ensemble

The Saxophone Ensemble was formed to provide challenging repertoire to the saxophone players belonging to the Concert Winds Ensemble. Led by conductor, Charles Ancheta, **these players rehearse and perform in their own group, as well as with the Concert Winds**, and play a wide range of repertoire, including classical, chamber and band music, and jazz.

Minimum Artistic Standards

- Ability to perform Major Scales up to four sharps and four flats – C, G, D, A, F, B flat and A flat one octave (two octaves if possible).
- Two contrasting pieces/excerpts (up to 3 minutes total): Prepare one piece/excerpt at a fast tempo to demonstrate technique and one piece/excerpt at a slow tempo to demonstrate musicianship, phrasing, etc.
- Sight-reading.

Concert Winds Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is for intermediate woodwinds and brass players. Musicians will learn a variety of music specifically for band, as well as arrangements of standard orchestral music.

Minimum Artistic Standards

- **Woodwinds and Brass:** Ability to perform Major Scales up to four sharps and four flats – C, G, D, A, E, F, B flat, E flat, and A flat one octave (two octaves if possible).
- **Percussion:** Ability on pitched or non-pitched instruments, both are desirable. Mallets: Ability to perform any six of the 12 Major Scales two octaves. Snare Drum: Ability to demonstrate at least half of the standard 24 rudiments including a closed roll.
- **String Bass:** Ability to perform at the same minimum artistic standards as listed under the Concert Orchestra.
- **ALL:** Two contrasting pieces/excerpts (up to 3 minutes total): Prepare one piece/excerpt at a fast tempo to demonstrate technique and one piece/excerpt at a slow tempo to demonstrate musicianship, phrasing, etc.
- Sight-reading.

Percussion Ensemble

The Percussion Ensemble is for beginning and intermediate percussion players as well as piano players. The Percussion Ensemble offers an opportunity for percussionists to perform percussion ensemble music from the 20th and 21st centuries and performs regularly each season. Members are encouraged to play many different percussion instruments including timpani, snare drum, bass drum, accessory instruments, xylophone, marimba, and ethnic percussion. Students are taught valuable chamber music skills and instructed on performing techniques, proper set-up of multiple percussion parts, playing advanced rhythms and taking care of instruments.

Minimum Artistic Standards

- Ability on pitched or unpitched instruments, both are desirable.
- **Mallets:** Ability to perform any 6 of the 12 Major Scales two octaves.
- **Snare Drum:** Ability to demonstrate at least half of the standard 24 rudiments including a closed roll.

Harp Ensemble

The Harp ensemble provides an opportunity for musicians to play with other harpists and learn ensemble techniques. This ensemble is led by Kristal Schwartz Barlaan, who is a professional harpist with over a decade of teaching and performing experience.

Minimum Artistic Standards

- Perform two contrasting pieces of level 2-3+: one piece/excerpt should be of fast tempo to demonstrate technique; the other selection should be of a slower tempo and more lyrical to demonstrate musicianship, phrasing etc.

- One scale (two hands, three octaves in eighth notes) and one arpeggio – V7 chord; four octaves in eighth notes.
- Intervals and chord inversions.
- Sight-reading.

Intermezzo String Ensemble

The goal of this string ensemble is to prepare young musicians for progression to playing in a full orchestra. Members will perform string music that will build upon theoretical and musical concepts covered in the Prelude String Ensemble. Emphasis will be given to listening skills as related to playing in a large ensemble.

Minimum Artistic Standards

- All students are expected to be able to play two octave scales in keys up to A flat major.
- **Violinists** are expected to have started three octave scales in the keys of G and A major.
- **Violists** are expected to have started three octave scales in the keys of C and D.
- **Cellists** are expected to have started three octave scales in the keys of C and D.
- All members should have some experience in second position up to fifth.
- All members should be able to incorporate vibrato in their playing.
- All member should understand the following bow strokes: detaché, martelé, legato and spiccato.
- **Bassists** are expected to play one or started two octaves in the key of F Major, play one octave in the key of D Major, and possibly one minor scale (not required).

Prelude String Ensemble

This ensemble provides a high-quality introduction to important concepts of performing in an ensemble. Members will apply their technical knowledge of how to play their instrument to string orchestra literature, learn orchestra rehearsal techniques, learn musical terms, and understand basic music theory. Instruction includes understanding the role of the conductor and learning to follow the conductor.

Minimum Artistic Standards

- Ability to play major scales in C, G, D, A in two octaves;
- Solid knowledge of first position with a beginning understanding of third position;
- Beginning vibrato is welcomed but not required;
- Ability to use basic bow strokes including legato, staccato, and detaché.
- **Bassists** are expected to play one octave in the keys of F Major and D Major.

4. Auditions

Application and Audition Process

The San Jose Youth Symphony holds auditions each spring for all qualified applicants as well as all returning SJYS members who plan to continue the following season (*except current Philharmonic Orchestra musicians who will participate only in seating auditions at summer camp*). Application forms are available online at www.sjys.org. Applications must include a **non-refundable** application fee. Each SJYS applicant must be prepared to play the following at a live audition:

Solo: Candidate must play two contrasting selections of music: one fast piece to demonstrate technical ability and one slow piece to demonstrate lyricism. Candidate must prepare either two solo pieces of contrasting styles or one solo that includes both fast and slow sections.

Scales: Candidate will be asked to demonstrate a scale in two - three octaves. Judges will determine the key, mode (major or minor), and number of octaves.

Sight Reading: The candidate will be expected to sight-read and accurately demonstrate recognition of key and time signatures, rhythm and accidentals.

Any young musician meeting the minimum artistic standards as outlined in the audition guidelines is eligible to apply to audition. While many of the members are K-12 students, musicians attending college locally are also encouraged to apply. SJYS audition panels determine which SJYS ensemble is most appropriate for each candidate. Placement decisions are determined by a variety of musical parameters, including quality of tone, intonation, vibrato, dynamic range, musicality, and accuracy. Seating within each ensemble and progression between ensembles is determined solely by the SJYS artistic staff.

Wait List: Students may be offered membership into an Orchestra or Ensemble while being placed on a wait list for another. If there is an opening, they will be asked to join the other group, but please note, ***there is absolutely no guarantee that a spot in the section will open prior to the start of the season or even during the season, as openings are limited and highly competitive.***

Referrals:

We greatly appreciate your help in spreading the word about SJYS!! SJYS members will receive a **\$50** "Referral Award" credit towards tuition if he/she refers the following instruments:

violin | cello | flute | clarinet | saxophone

SJYS members will receive a **\$125** "Referral Award" credit towards tuition if he/she refers the following instruments:

**trumpet | French horn | trombone | tuba | oboe or English horn
bassoon | percussion | viola | double bass**

To receive the Referral Award, the new student (1) must pass the regular audition; and (2) must join one of SJYS's orchestras or ensembles. The SJYS office will notify the student who brings in a new

member and will credit the \$50/\$125 Referral Award against his/her tuition fee, once it confirms that the new student has joined SJYS, and all the necessary paperwork has been processed accordingly.

For senior members of the Philharmonic Orchestra who are graduating, the Referral Award will be paid directly to the student in the form of a check. Please remember to inform the office as soon as you have initiated a referral and be sure that the student you refer mentions the SJYS member's name on his/her audition application.

5. Membership

The San Jose Youth Symphony is committed to providing the highest quality musical experience possible to its members. SJYS believes that professional responsibility goes hand in hand with musical excellence. Each member is encouraged to meet the standards of conduct required to achieve this goal.

Membership Requirements

Members range in age from eight to 21 years. Exceptions to this age range may be made at the sole discretion of the artistic staff.

Membership in SJYS is by audition and invitation only and requires a commitment to participate for the entire season. One exception to this is for students who participate in their school Marching Band. They will be allowed to join SJYS in January at the start of the second concert set.

Membership in an orchestra or ensemble is not a guarantee and may be subject to review if musical skills fall below the artistic standards for that ensemble.

The Philharmonic, Chamber, and Concert Orchestras will conduct seating auditions near the start of new Sets, starting in January, giving members an opportunity to show their improvement throughout the year. Other groups will have seating auditions at the discretion of their conductors.

Participation at seating auditions is mandatory. Consequences for missing seating auditions include re-seating and loss of principal status. SJYS emphasizes that although seating placement is necessary for the organization of each ensemble, it does not lessen the importance of each member to the ensembles' musical success.

Expectations at Rehearsals

Member musicians are expected to practice regularly and to have prepared the rehearsal material. Rehearsals begin promptly at the announced times. **Arrive to rehearsal at least 15 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal with your instrument, music in a binder, music stand, a sharpened pencil, and any other equipment needed for that rehearsal.**

Attending rehearsal late is extremely disruptive. Conductors may exercise their discretion to ask late comers to wait and not join rehearsal until the break, based on the circumstances. Please note that late arrivals to rehearsals during the set will count towards the equivalence of an absence (see our Attendance Policy, pp. 14- 16, for specific details).

Extra rehearsals for performance preparation may be scheduled, when needed, at the discretion of the ensemble/orchestra conductor and SJYS Music Director.

No food, drink (except for bottled water), or gum chewing is allowed during rehearsals or performances. Member musicians are responsible for their own trash. Members will not do homework, talk, or use their cell phones, during actual rehearsal time. Members will not leave the rehearsal site for the ENTIRE rehearsal period.

Conflicts

At the start of each Set, **all musicians are required to submit a Conflict Form for EACH SET by the stated deadline** identifying all known conflicts (with the specific reason for the conflicts) for the upcoming Set – including all rehearsal and concert dates. Students who do not turn in their conflict form before the deadline may be fined **\$25**.

Concerts

During concert performances and dress rehearsals, members are expected to follow the directions of the artistic and administrative staff. It is imperative that students cooperate with the concert coordinators to facilitate the on-stage and back-stage activities and behavior during a concert.

When multiple groups are having a combined concert, following their performance, **students are expected to return to the audience for the remainder of the concert**. Students are expected to listen quietly and to be considerate of the other members of the audience. Leaving the concert prior to its completion is disturbing to the audience and the remaining performers. No gum chewing is permitted at rehearsals or concerts.

Concert Dress

Philharmonic, Chamber & Concert Orchestras; Avancé & Avant Flute Choirs:

Men: Black suit (or black slacks and blazer), white, long-sleeve shirt, black tie, black belt, black socks, and black dress shoes with black heels and soles. No jeans or sneakers allowed.

Women: Black dress or black skirt (knee length preferred) or dress slacks with black blouse, black stockings or socks, and black dress shoes with black heels and soles. No jeans or sneakers allowed.

Concert Winds, Saxophone, Intermezzo String, Prelude String & Percussion Ensembles:

Boys: Black slacks or pants, white, long-sleeve shirt, black belt, black socks, and black dress shoes with black heels and soles. No jeans or sneakers allowed.

Girls: Black dress or black skirt (knee length preferred) or dress slacks with white blouse, black stockings or socks, and black dress shoes with black heels and soles.

Harp Ensemble:

Girls & Boys: Concert Dress is provided.

Jazz Ensemble:

Boys: Dark Slacks, nice shirts, dress shoes, tie and jacket are optional.

Girls: Dresses are an option.

Summer Camps

All SJYS members in participating orchestras and ensembles are expected to attend summer camp. SJYS holds two back-to-back weeklong, overnight camps in late July, as well as one weeklong day camp for the two string ensembles. Camp prepares our members for the coming season, where they become acquainted with the repertoire, attend rehearsals, receive coaching, and for the orchestras and older ensemble groups, attend masterclasses presented by highly regarded, professional musicians, who perform locally in the Bay Area.

2023 Summer Camp Dates

Camp Week 1 [overnight]:

Santa Clara University

7/16/23 [SUN] – 7/21/23

[FRI]

(Chamber & Concert Orchestras; Avancé & Avant Flute Choirs)

Camp Week 2 [overnight]:

Santa Clara University

7/24/23 [SAT] – 7/28/23

[FRI]

(Philharmonic Orchestra; Concert Winds & Sax Ensembles)

Day Camp [9 am – 4 pm]:

Union Middle School

7/10/23 [MON] – 7/14/23 [FRI]

(Intermezzo & Prelude String Ensembles)

6. Attendance Policy

PHILHARMONIC AND CHAMBER ORCHESTRAS: *[Also pertains to the Concert Orchestra and all the Ensembles, except for the String Ensembles - see their separate policy details below]*

General Principles

Membership in the SJYS Philharmonic and Chamber Orchestras is both a privilege and a responsibility. To maintain our highest standards, we count on the commitment and dedication of its musicians. Our Attendance Policy defines each musician's individual responsibility in ensuring the collaborative success of the whole orchestra.

Absences and tardiness destroy musical quality and group morale. To limit such behavior as much as possible, we define timeliness, absence limits, and resulting penalties below.

Tardies & Absences at Regular Rehearsals

Tardiness: Musicians will be recorded as **TARDY** if they are not in their seats by the time tuning for rehearsal begins.

Absences: For all absences not previously submitted at the start of the set via Conflict Form, musicians **MUST** submit an online **Absence Form** (on the **Contact Us** page of SJYS website) IN ADVANCE of the rehearsal in question. Failure to do so will result in Probation.

Tardies & Absences are *permitted/excused ONLY* for the following reasons:

- Significant Illness/Injury or family emergency accompanied by a doctor's note or evidence of school absence (if questioned);
- **TIMELY NOTICED** Mandatory school event accompanied by note or evidence supporting (if questioned).

***IMPORTANT: LAST-MINUTE NOTICES OF MANDATORY SCHOOL EVENTS WILL NOT BE EXCUSED.**

NOTE: 2 Tardies = 1 Absence

Dress Rehearsals & Concerts are MANDATORY

All musicians **MUST** attend dress rehearsals and concerts. An absence or tardy from these events will result in being placed automatically on Probation &/or seating demotion or dismissal &/or payment of a fine at the discretion of the SJYS Staff, unless the absence is excused as described above.

Absence Limits, Warning Procedures & Penalties

The number of Allowed Absences per Set:	One (1) for any reason
After ONE (1) Absence:	Automatic Warning Letter Sent
After 2 nd <u>Unexcused</u> Absence:	Placed on Probation*
Absence Without Prior Notice:	Placed on Probation*
THREE (3) or More <u>Unexcused</u> Absences:	Demoted Seating &/or Fine &/or Dismissal (at SJYS Staff's discretion)

* Probation Defined & Procedure

Musicians will be placed on probation for the following reasons:

- Absence without submitting advanced notice;
- 2nd Absence (*if unexcused*) in one Set (including excessive tardies);
- Missing a Dress Rehearsal or Concert;
- Inadequate preparation at rehearsals & seating auditions; and
- Disruptive and/or disrespectful behavior towards fellow musicians, SJYS staff or volunteers.

Musicians who are placed on probationary status will be expected to:

- Complete the REMAINDER of the Set without any further excessive absences; **and/or**
- Re-audition at the discretion of the Conductor; **and/or**
- Atone for misbehavior in a way that applies to the circumstances (letter of apology, assisting with set-up or take-down, etc.); **and/or**
- Payment of a Fine -- to cover the cost of a substitute replacement musician, if necessary.

PRELUDE AND INTERMEZZO STRING ENSEMBLES:

General Principles

Membership in the San Jose Youth Symphony is both a privilege and a responsibility. To maintain our highest standards, we count on the commitment and dedication of its musicians. Our Attendance Policy defines each musician's individual responsibility in ensuring the collaborative success of the whole ensemble.

Absences and tardiness destroy musical quality and group morale. To limit such behavior as much as possible, we define timeliness, absence limits, and resulting penalties below.

Tardies & Absences at Regular Rehearsals

Tardiness: Musicians will be recorded as **TARDY** if they are not in their seats by the time tuning for rehearsal begins.

Absences: Musicians **MUST** submit an **Absence Form** (on the **Contact Us** page of SJYS website) IN ADVANCE of the rehearsal in question. Failure to do so will result in probation.

Tardies & Absences are *permitted/excused ONLY* for the following reasons:

- Significant Illness/Injury or family emergency accompanied by a doctor's note or evidence of school absence (if questioned);
- Mandatory school event accompanied by note or evidence supporting (if questioned).

NOTE: *Three (3) Tardies = 1 Absence*

Dress Rehearsals & Concerts are MANDATORY

All musicians **MUST** attend dress rehearsals and concerts. An absence or tardy from these events will result in being placed automatically on probation &/or seating demotion or dismissal at the discretion of the SJYS Staff, unless the absence is excused as described above.

Absence Limits, Warning Procedures & Penalties

The number of Allotted Absences per Set:	Two (2) for any reason
After TWO (2) Absences:	Automatic Warning Letter Sent
After 3 rd <i>Unexcused</i> Absence:	Placed on Probation*
Absence Without Prior Notice:	Placed on Probation*
FOUR (4) or More <i>Unexcused</i> Absences:	Demoted Seating &/or Dismissal (at SJYS Staff's discretion)

*** Probation Defined & Procedure**

Musicians in the Prelude & Intermezzo String Ensembles will be placed on probation for the following reasons:

- Absence without advanced notice.;
- 3rd Absence (*if unexcused*) in one Set (including excessive Tardies);
- Missing a Dress Rehearsal or Concert;
- Inadequate preparation at rehearsals & seating auditions; and
- Disruptive and/or disrespectful behavior towards fellow musicians, SJYS staff or volunteers.

Musicians who are placed on probationary status will be expected to:

- Complete the REMAINDER of the Set without any further excessive absences; ***and/or***
- Re-audition at the discretion of the Conductor; ***and/or***
- Atone for misbehavior in a way that applies to the circumstances (letter of apology, assisting with set-up or take-down, etc.).

7. Expectations

Personal Behavior

All SJYS Musicians are expected to maintain an appropriate standard of character and conduct that will be a credit to them, their parents, schools, and communities. You are expected to preserve and to contribute to the wholesome atmosphere of devoted work and serious performance that distinguishes the San Jose Youth Symphony.

Care of Music

Music for each ensemble is distributed at or prior to summer camp or at the start of rehearsals. Students must place music in black binders and bring their music to **EVERY REHEARSAL and CONCERT**. Links to scanned music will also be provided so that students can print lost or mis-placed music.

Care of Personal Items

Each member is responsible for the proper care and security of personal instruments and property. The San Jose Youth Symphony is not responsible for any stolen, lost, or damaged instruments or personal property.

Supplies

All SJYS members must bring their own music stands, sharpened pencils and binder with music to every rehearsal. PLEASE label all music stands AND music binders with the first and last name of the musician. SJYS will provide stands at **SOME** dress rehearsals and concerts. However, music stands may be required at some concert venues. Concert details will be provided to the musicians by the SJYS office prior to a performance.

Private Study, School Ensembles

All members are expected to demonstrate and maintain a high degree of musical proficiency and are expected to continue the private study of their instruments. If needed, the SJYS office can provide names of private teachers. **Membership in your school band, choir, or orchestra is strongly encouraged.**

Ticket Sales

A successful music organization requires both staff and members working together to develop audiences. The goal of SJYS is to reach out and share the gift of music with the community.

Philharmonic Orchestra: Each family is required to purchase at least 4 tickets for concerts. They will be available at rehearsals leading up to the concert for a discounted rate. Families are welcome to sell or share unused tickets to others, to help with audience at the concerts.

Scholarships Based on Financial Need

SJYS awards a limited number of scholarships to qualified students/families. Funds will be awarded based on need. Financial need scholarship applications are available from the office upon request and must re-submitted annually.

Other Scholarships

Jean M. Greene

The San Jose Youth Symphony awards two **Jean M. Greene** scholarships to qualifying musicians each year. Each scholarship is valued at \$150 and will be applied as a tuition credit to the awarded member. In the event the recipient of the award is a graduating senior, then the award will be in cash.

The Jean M. Greene Scholarship was established to recognize deserving students who have not received any other financial scholarships from SJYS during the season. “Deserving” is defined as those individuals that display in both attitude and deeds qualities that best reflect the values of our organization: *passion for music, trust from and respect for other members, integrity and teamwork.*

Richard Sim Memorial Scholarship

A scholarship fund was created in 2011 in the memory of former Philharmonic Orchestra Concertmaster, Richard Sim, who passed away unexpectedly at age 19 in 2008. This scholarship, intended to cover the costs of private lessons, will be awarded annually to deserving members who also establish financial need.

More information about these scholarships can be found at <https://sjys.org/musicians/scholarships/>

Community Service

The strength of a community can be measured by the willingness of its members to assist those in need. The San Jose Youth Symphony is committed to being an artistic and social force in the community. SJYS community service projects will highlight the talent, compassion, and leadership of the members of SJYS ensembles and orchestras. Each member of SJYS may be called upon to participate in projects that support the needs of the community. It is our belief that by exhibiting leadership in the community, we help create the leaders of tomorrow in industry, government, medicine, education, arts, research, and science.

Leadership and Teamwork

Members are encouraged to support their fellow SJYS members. Each SJYS member is encouraged to exhibit leadership and teamwork skills that promote and advance the level of performance and training of SJYS. Selection of section principals and seating are dependent not only upon artistic capabilities but includes the exhibition of leadership and teamwork skills.

PARENTS:

Support Areas for SJYS Operations

Critical aspects of SJYS's operations are enhanced by parent participation in areas where they have interest and expertise. We ask all parents to let us know (via email or the online Agreements and Permission Form) if they can assist in any of the areas listed below. We contact individuals on an as-needed basis.

Fundraising

Provides financial support for SJYS programs, organizing and putting on a variety of fundraising events, helping with annual See's Candy fundraiser, etc. The Fundraising volunteers work with the PR/Marketing group to promote these events in the community.

Silent Auction (bi-annual)

To support our International Tour, we hold a silent auction (online and in person at the Bon Voyage Concert). Help is needed organizing and soliciting auction items, etc.

PR/Marketing

Responsible for communications between SJYS and the public; including preparing press releases of upcoming concerts and important events for media, developing additional media contacts, and helping the Fundraising volunteers to promote special fundraising events. etc.

Graphic Design

Assist office staff as needed throughout the season with help creating brochures, concert program graphics, posters, recruitment flyers, advertisements, website graphics, etc.

Recruitment & Auditions

Volunteers reach out through private teachers and local schools to find and recruit talented prospective members for the upcoming season. Volunteers primarily help during the audition process each year in the spring.

Office/Admin

Occasional administrative tasks require volunteers in the SJYS office. If you have time during the work week, let us know and we will be in touch as needs arise.