



Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra
Student Handbook

Revised 2017

A letter from the Director:

Dr. Timothy Verville

Dear Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra Community,

It is truly a pleasure embarking on the newest season of the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra program. It is amazing to consider what we have achieved together since our inception in 2006. The trajectory we now follow is a direct result of having terrific, dedicated students, supportive teachers in the community, and a first rate artistic and administrative staff.

As a member of GYSO, you are part of the largest youth orchestra program in the southeast. Moreover, you are part of a Georgia Symphony Orchestra family which to date encompasses over 350 jazz and orchestral musicians.

As a musician, what makes GYSO so exciting for me is its noble and important mission: We encourage people to love the arts. One of my favorite quotes comes from Igor Stravinsky, who rightly stated, "The trouble with music appreciation in general is that people are taught to have too much respect for music; they should love it instead." Leonard Bernstein underscored this statement during one of his Young People's Concerts when he said, "A great teacher is one who can light a spark in you, the spark that sets you on fire with enthusiasm for music...That's where real knowledge comes from – from the desire to know." And it is with these ideals that the GYSO program is realized. There is a place for each student to learn and express him or herself musically. All you have to do is bring your passion for music! I invite you to share with us in the joy of making music. There are so many amazing things happening in GYSO, from new commissions, fantastic guest artists, and unique programs, to the inspiring talent level you bring to the ensembles. Our aim is to challenge you musically, and we ask you to join us in the continual effort for artistic excellence. It has been this spirit that brought us to this point, and it will continue to be a trademark of our program. Please feel free to contact me at any point if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you all and seeing the amazing growth that happens throughout the year.

Best,
Timothy Verville

Music Director,
Georgia Symphony Orchestra and Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra

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HISTORY AND MISSION

Founded in 2006, the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra is the largest youth orchestra program in the southeast. The Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra program encompasses three full orchestras, a string orchestra, a jazz ensemble, a percussion ensemble, and a chamber music program.

Gifted and talented musicians from all across Georgia, ranging in age from elementary to high school, are selected through a competitive audition process. Students admitted into the program experience musical development in a nurturing and supportive environment while also being expected to perform at the highest levels. Each ensemble is led by professionals in their respective fields and presents a full season of concerts every year.

The Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra (GYSO) was founded on the idea that students should have the opportunity to create a lifelong partnership with the arts. Young men and women graduate from the GYSO program not only as excellent performers individually, but with a love and appreciation for their art. GYSO strives to give students a comprehensive music experience, a philosophy that permeates all of its activities. True artistry and passion is created through the desire to share one's knowledge and gifts with others as well as the ability to grow independent from formal guidance.

The Mission of the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra is to inspire young people to discover their full potential through creativity and performance, to build and develop discipline and spirit to accomplish their musical goals. Further, we endeavor to provide artistic opportunities for all people and to enhance the quality of cultural life in our communities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Administration

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Sam Skelton, Jazz Ensemble
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Bryan Black, GSO Youth Chorus
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Our website

www.georgiayouthsymphony.org

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

Marietta Performing Arts Center

Sinfonia: 2-3:30PM (Sunday)

Philharmonia: 2-4:30PM (Sunday)

GSO Youth Chorus: 5:30-7:00 PM (Thursday)

Bailey Performing Arts Center (KSU)

Symphony: 3-5:30PM(Sunday)

Camerata: 3-5:00PM (Sunday)

Percussion Ensemble: 5:30-7:00PM(Sunday)

Jazz Ensemble: 5:30-7:00PM (Wednesday, Meets in Music Building, Room 109)

Performances for all groups take place at KSU's Bailey Center unless otherwise announced.

Driving Directions

To Kennesaw State University, Bailey Center:

From I-75:

Take I-75 to exit #271, Chastain Road (if coming from I-75 North, turn right; if coming from I-75 South, turn left). Once on Chastain, proceed into the right lane and make a right onto Frey Road (Shell Gas Station on Right). At the second light on Frey Road, turn left onto Campus Loop Road. Proceed to the traffic circle at the top of the hill. Once on the traffic circle, make your third right and the Bobbie Bailey Building will be directly in front of you. Please park in the lot directly in front of that building. (Parking Lot E)

From I-575:

Take exit #3, Chastain Road (if you are coming from the North, turn right; if coming from the South, turn left). Once on Chastain Road, proceed over I-75 until turning right onto Frey Road. At the second light on Frey Road, turn left onto Campus Loop Road. Proceed to the traffic circle at the top of the hill. Once on the traffic circle, make your third right and the Bobbie Bailey Building will be directly in front of you. Please park in the lot directly in front of that building. (Parking Lot E)

To the Marietta Performing Arts Center:

The Marietta Performing Arts Center is located on the same campus as Marietta High School. 1171 Whitlock Avenue Marietta, GA 30064

Follow I-75 N to South Marietta Pkwy SE in Marietta, exit 263.

Merge onto South Marietta Pkwy SE, and continue for 2.9 miles. Turn right at traffic light onto Powder Springs St SW/South Marietta Pkwy SW, and continue for .4 miles. Turn left at traffic light onto Whitlock Ave NW, and continue for 2.1 miles. Turn left at traffic light onto Carriage Oaks Drive. Turn right immediately into parking lot for MPAC. The performance center is on the left.

MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

Auditions

General auditions for GYSO ensembles are held in the spring. Auditions last 6 minutes and are closed to parents and other listeners. Information regarding audition procedures and specific dates is available at www.gysoauditions.com.

Seating

Seating procedures are at the discretion of each individual conductor and may change throughout the season. Our seating philosophy is intended to provide fair opportunities, new perspectives, and the greatest learning experience for all players. Seating is generally based on audition, as well as maturity, leadership, and the rehearsal habits of the player. Wind and brass seating may rotate on a piece-by-piece basis, at the discretion of the ensemble director.

School Participation

Participation in a school music program is required, provided one exists.

Attendance Policy

The most valuable contribution musicians make to their ensemble is their presence at rehearsal. Membership in the GYSO is a commitment to faithful, consistent and punctual attendance. The success of the organization depends on the contribution each musician makes.

Musicians in all ensembles are allowed no more than two absences per concert rotation, regardless of reason, including illness, school or other music activities, family vacations, homework and tests, college visits, religious holidays, etc. If a musician is unable to play his/her instrument (because of injury to either the student or the instrument), s/he should still attend rehearsal, bring music, sit with the section, and take notes. Starting promptly is very important.

Musicians should arrive early enough to be seated and ready to play prior to the rehearsal start time. Percussionists in particular need to allot extra time in order to set up equipment prior to rehearsal. Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the rehearsal; every three occurrences will be counted as a single absence.

The Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra makes every effort to avoid scheduling conflicts with area school calendars, holidays, and GMEA events, but unfortunately, we cannot always accommodate all the activities in our busy students' lives. Our rehearsal schedule for the year is posted on our website.

All absences should be submitted through the online attendance form.

If a student exceeds the maximum allowable number of absences, continued participation in GYSO will depend on the discretion of ensemble director.

Music

Sheet music is expensive. Some of the music we perform is rented and since replacement charges can range from \$5 to \$50 per part, you should handle your music carefully and return it on time, generally on the day of the concert. Students will be fined the replacement cost for lost, damaged or stolen music. If there is a problem with the music you have been assigned (damaged, marked with pen or colored pencil, etc), or if a particular piece is missing from your folder, please bring it to an Intern's attention immediately.

Code of Conduct

Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra musicians are ambassadors for the organization, and the behavior of each musician reflects upon the entire group. Each student will be expected to use good manners, display common courtesy, and show consideration for others. A successful GYSO experience requires a cohesive group in which each individual accepts and follows the same standards of behavior. As a member of the GYSO, you will also be representing the GYSO in your schools. We expect the same code of conduct that is adhered to at the GYSO to be adhered to in all school settings.

Concert Dress

Ladies: Full-length black skirt or black dress slacks with black top with discreet neckline and long sleeves (past the elbow) or black dress (past the knee) with discreet neckline and long sleeves (past the elbow). If sleeves are short, a matching black jacket or black sweater with long sleeves must be worn as well. Black conservative dress shoes with black tights or black hose (no patterns). Jeans and corduroy pants are not acceptable.

Gentlemen: Preferred is tuxedo or black suit (no tails), white shirt with a black bow tie, black dress shoes and black socks. If acquiring a tuxedo or suit proves to be a hardship, dress is all black: black shirt (with collar and long sleeves), black pants, black shoes, black socks.

No perfume, cologne or aftershave.

The Four Things You Need at Every Rehearsal

Instrument: This includes bow, mouthpiece, working reeds, sticks and mallets, valve oil, extra strings – anything that you need to insure that you will be able to play. For vocalists, this means a good faith effort to be in good voice.

Music: Do not rely on your stand partner. If you lose or forget your music, we cannot guarantee a replacement part will be available for that rehearsal.

Pencil: Bring one and use it. Nothing is more frustrating for conductors or your fellow musicians than reiterating the same rehearsal points every week.

Accessories: Brass and string players should have mutes; oboists should have tuners. Everyone should have any equipment needed to fulfill their duties.

Tuition & Financial Aid:

Membership in GYSO is for the entire season, from the first rehearsal in August through the final concert in May. Musicians are expected to remain active and committed for the entire season. No tuition refunds, total or partial, are provided to students who leave the program mid-year. Annual tuition is \$450, which can be paid in full for the entire year or in three installments of \$150 (see the website for the specific dates for the current year). If you need an alternate payment schedule, contact us and terms will be arranged.

There are multiple ways to pay tuition:

1. Online- Using Paypal, you can pay at <http://georgiayouthsymphony.org/pay-tuition/> (Note: Please include the student's full name.)

2. Credit Card- Call the GSO office at 770-429-2390.

3. Check- Mail or Bring to Rehearsals (Note: Please include student's full name.)

Georgia Symphony Orchestra
1171 Whitlock Avenue
Marietta, GA 30064

Late Tuition:

Tuition not paid in full by the fall deadline will incur a \$10 late fee. In addition, we may hold music for Concert Cycle #2 until payment is received or a payment plan is in place.

Returned Checks:

Bank fees resulting from a check returned to the GYSO will become the responsibility of the paying party and will be assessed to the student's account.

Financial Aid:

The GYSO philosophy is that no student be turned away for financial reasons. Financial aid is available for all or part of the GYSO tuition. Financial aid recipients may be asked to provide small services to the organization. If you are interested in aid, please turn in the aid form and the supplementary materials. Financial information is kept strictly confidential.