



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Important Information for Parents

WHAT IS THE AMARILLO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM?

The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra program is a part of the Amarillo Symphony education programs. ASYO focuses on the continued training and development of young musicians in the Panhandle. The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestras are comprised of four ensembles: *Preparatory Strings*, *Sinfonia*, *Philharmonic*, and the *Youth Symphony*. Musicians in each ensemble participate in coaching sessions with members of the Amarillo Symphony and perform two concerts each season at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts.

WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES TO YOUR PROGRAM?

Students must –

1. Be between the ages of 8-19.
2. Be able to read music.
3. Already have an understanding of his/her instrument. Typically, string players can join after only one (1) semester of playing experience.
4. Provide his/her own instrument.

The only exception is for percussionists. In most cases, instruments will be provided, but percussionists must bring their own sticks and mallets.

HOW DOES MY CHILD EARN A CHAIR IN ASYO?

Students joining **Preparatory Strings** must sign-up online to reserve a spot, and show up at the first rehearsal – Monday, September 11, 2017 at the Amarillo College Music Building (*off Washington St. on the corner of 22nd & Van Buren*).

Students interested in joining the **Sinfonia**, **Philharmonic**, or **Youth Symphony** are required to attend a scheduled audition to be eligible. Each auditioning student will need to sign-up online for a time slot – all times are first come, first served.

Registration and audition materials are available at –

www.amarillosymphony.org

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO PLAY FOR THE AUDITION?

Students will need to prepare the audition excerpts available on the Amarillo Symphony website. You may use the link above to access them.

DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO BE ENROLLED IN THEIR SCHOOL ORCHESTRA/BAND PROGRAM TO PARTICIPATE IN ASYO?

The ASYO is not a substitute for school music programs. We wish to *support* and *enhance*, not replace, music programs. We expect all members to participate in the school instrumental ensemble applicable to the student's focus in ASYO, if available.

To verify that your school music director is aware of your intention to audition, we ask that you obtain their signature. (*The **Required Signatures** form is available for download on the Amarillo Symphony website.*)

Home school, private school, and charter school students are eligible for membership in the ASYO program. **Where a school instrumental ensemble is not available, private lessons are highly recommended.**

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE TAKING PRIVATE LESSONS TO BE ENROLLED IN ASYO?

Although not required, private lessons are strongly encouraged for all students. For recommendations on private instructors, you may call the Amarillo Symphony office and speak with the Education Coordinator.

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO ATTEND ALL OF THE REHEARSALS?

Musicians are expected to make ASYO rehearsals, workshops, and concerts a priority. *Consistent attendance is necessary for the development of a quality musical experience. If you know that you will have significant conflicts, you might wish to reconsider auditioning for the program.*

Musicians are granted no more than –

- **three (3) absences per semester** | *Preparatory Strings & Sinfonia*
- **two (2) absences per semester** | *Philharmonic & Youth Symphony*

WHEN IS THE FIRST REHEARSAL (FALL 2017)?

Sunday, September 10, 2017	2:00-4:30 PM	Youth Symphony Philharmonic	Amarillo College
Monday, September 11, 2017	4:30-6:15 PM	Preparatory Strings Sinfonia	Amarillo College

HOW MUCH IS TUITION?

Preparatory Strings Sinfonia Philharmonic	} \$125/semester
Youth Symphony	\$150/semester

All tuition payments are due by the first rehearsal.

DO YOU OFFER TUITION ASSISTANCE?

All members will be eligible for need-based financial aid. No student accepted into the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestras will be excluded from the program because of financial need. **All members that receive tuition assistance are expected to maintain excellent attendance and participate for the full year.**

Requests for tuition assistance must be made in writing using the *Tuition Assistance or Payment Plan* application (available through the Amarillo Symphony office), and by including supporting documentation. **A minimum \$25.00 deposit is required.**

WHEN DO THE ENSEMBLES PERFORM?

Sunday, November 5, 2017	2:00 PM	Preparatory Strings Sinfonia	Globe-News Center
	4:00 PM	Philharmonic Youth Symphony	Globe-News Center
Sunday, April 29, 2018	2:00 PM	Preparatory Strings Sinfonia	Globe-News Center
	4:00 PM	Philharmonic Youth Symphony	Globe-News Center

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS? CONTACT

Irma-Esther Borup
Education Coordinator
Amarillo Symphony

irma@amarillosymphony.org | O: 806-376-8782 | F: 806-376-7127



The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra is an education program of the Amarillo Symphony.
For more information, visit www.amarillosymphony.org or call 806-376-8782.