



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Important Information for New Families

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 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. *

* *Percussionists are the exception; 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 plan to be at the first rehearsal – Monday, September 10, 2018 at the Amarillo College Music Building (*off Washington St. on the corner of 22nd & Van Buren*). **No audition necessary.**

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 register online.

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 (*follow Education → Youth Orchestra Programs*).

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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 participate in the ASYO, 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 Manager.

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 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 2018)?

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Sunday, September 9, 2018 | 2:00-4:30 PM | Youth Symphony Philharmonic | Amarillo College |
| Monday, September 10, 2018 | 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?

Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra • Fall Concert 2018
Sunday, November 4, 2018
Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

***Dress rehearsals for the Fall Concerts are on Saturday, November 3, 2018. *
This rehearsal is mandatory for all musicians.***

** Visit the Amarillo Symphony website for your ensemble's full season schedule & specific times.*

Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra • Spring Concert 2019
Sunday, April 28, 2019
Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

***Dress rehearsals for the Spring Concerts are on Saturday, April 27, 2019. *
This rehearsal is mandatory for all musicians.***

** Visit the Amarillo Symphony website for your ensemble's full season schedule & specific times.*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

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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.