

Longmont Youth Symphony Wind Ensemble Program 2012-13 Handbook

Introduction

Congratulations and welcome to the Longmont Youth Symphony Wind Ensemble Program. This season our ensemble will work together to improve our individual and collective musical skills. We want you to have fun, work hard, and produce music our community can enjoy.

General Information

The Longmont Youth Symphony is an organization committed to serving the young musicians of the St. Vrain Valley and surrounding areas. The Youth Symphony provides a resource for young musicians to further develop and excel in their musical abilities through the guidance of professional leadership and direction. By doing so, we enable our youth to entertain, educate, and expand appreciation of music within the community.

The Wind Ensemble Program's goal is to provide an optimal music experience for youth in 7th through 10th grade. Reaching this goal requires the commitment and full participation of our staff, parent volunteers and ensemble members.

Each Ensemble Member is responsible for:

- Working continuously to improve individual music skills
- Engaging with peers to improve the performance of the group
- Considering the needs of others by being respectful & attentive
- Paying close attention to ensemble masters
- Being on time and ready to practice or perform
- Demonstrating commitment to the
Ensemble and the community

Wind Ensemble Philosophy

The LYS organization is unique in that it is committed to the development of its members' individual and collective musical abilities, and to the appreciation of and participation in the music and arts program of the community.

The WEP is an Honors Ensemble. Acceptance is by audition. Committed to serving the young musicians of the St. Vrain Valley, members work under the guidance of professional musicians. In return, and as part of that process, the LYS encourages and supports efforts by members to form ensembles and to share their expanding skills, ability, and talent through community service. The WEP fosters a climate that encourages members to develop a sense of responsibility and need to participate in the life of the community. It is an important component of our program, and one that will enable our musicians to share their talents with a broad, varied audience while simultaneously experiencing the pleasure of giving of themselves.

All members of the WEP are required to participate in a school music program. We recognize that extenuating circumstances will sometimes occur. In this case, we ask the student and parent to write a letter to the LYS Board explaining the reasons he/she may be unable to participate in such a program. The Board will review the letter, may ask to speak to the member directly, and will notify the member of its decision. LYS acknowledges the indispensable role the schools play in providing students with the desire, interest, and musical development necessary to participate in the LYS. To that end, it is the intent of the LYS to require that every member that attends a school that offers music programs participate in those programs.

Rehearsals and Practice

Daily practice, even for a short period of time, should be part of every student's schedule. Sectionals for ensemble members provide additional instruction on individual instruments. Ensemble members should consider getting private instruction in addition to home practices in order to make significant progress on challenging pieces that are part of the repertoire at this level.

A schedule of rehearsals, sectionals and performances is available for review on the LYS

website at www.longmontyouthsymphony.org.

All students should bring a pencil to each practice and use it appropriately to make notations on the music as directed by the director.

Each member should have all necessary materials and supplies on hand. Reed instrument players need at least two spare reeds of recommended quality; brass players need valve or slide oil and mutes (as required); percussion players need a kit bag for sticks.

All ensemble members must assist in the setup or take down of chairs and stands at each rehearsal.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected at all rehearsals. The participation of all orchestra members in every rehearsal is critical in the preparation for the orchestra's performance. While it is recognized that there may be times where there is a scheduling conflict, all absences can adversely affect the preparation of the orchestra as a whole.

Two absences in a concert block will result in the musician having to re-audition for the Music Director for that concert. Three absences may disqualify the player from the upcoming concert. Late arrivals and early dismissals from dress rehearsals are not permitted.

Any student who misses a concert or dress rehearsal may be required to pay a \$75.00 fee to cover the expense of a professional substitute.

All absences, tardiness, or early dismissal for legitimate reasons must be presented to the Music Director in writing at least two weeks in advance. Longmont Youth Symphony supplies these forms at all orchestra rehearsals and on the website.

Absences due to illness or emergency must be reported to the Music Director before the beginning of said rehearsal.

WEP: TBA

LYS: Keynes Chen 303-908-6784

LYSE: Danielle Crisman 970-290-1382

More than two unexcused absences in a season may be grounds for dismissal from the ensemble. Note that tardiness or absence because you have misread (or not read) the schedule will be considered unexcused.

Concert Preparation and Responsibility

Ordinary rules of courtesy apply at all Ensemble rehearsals and functions. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Playing your instrument out of turn or when the Director is speaking
- Talking during practice
- Leaving your seat without requesting permission

Attention to and showing respect for the Director and Sectional Instructor is essential and mandatory. The same respect is to be shown to guests or adults who may address the ensemble at practice, or parent volunteers or other chaperones at performances and social events.

Each student must put away his/her music stand and chair at the end of each practice.

Our goal is to make good music. Any conversation during rehearsals must be kept to a minimum. Out of respect for your fellow members and the Music Director, please keep all talking to a minimum and only discuss the music being prepared. Text messaging and phone use is not permitted during rehearsals.

An ensemble is a sum of its participants -- individual musicians -- and each person must be committed to working together to make music. Behavior that supports and is conducive to the ensemble's endeavors is expected and is prerequisite for continued membership in the WEP.

Concerts and Dress Code

Concerts represent the culmination of our members' work. It is important that members have mastered their music and carry themselves in a professional manner. To that end, members are to be on stage and seated ten minutes prior to each concert.

Ensemble members are required to wear concert dress at all performances. Concert dress for WEP ladies: white dress shirt or blouse (must have a collar and sleeves); long black skirt or pants; black shoes and black hosiery. Concert dress for WEP gentlemen: black pants; white, long sleeve dress/tux shirt; black shoes and socks.

The Music Director will review concert etiquette (e.g., dress, tuning order, etc.) prior to each concert.

Community Service

Good music brings joy and pleasure. It builds community. Our members are encouraged to design and participate in programs that place music throughout the community. We

support and encourage efforts to play at retirement homes, provide music to those in need, as well as efforts to support the schools and charitable organizations.

Volunteer Requirement

LYS is largely a volunteer organization and its success is dependent upon the work of parent volunteers. As a volunteer organization, the LYS will rely on parents to shape our vision, develop programs and implement objectives. LYS needs your participation.

Five volunteer hours are required and logged per season, per family. Volunteer hours can be paid through participation, as requested, in the following capacities:

- Notes & Noodles
- Silent Auction
- LYS Concert help
- Retreat chaperone
- Board of Directors membership
- Sub-committee involvement
- Other capacities as requested by an LYS official.

If you prefer to contribute monetarily, rather than donate your time, one volunteer hour each can be paid through providing the following:

- Notes & Noodles dessert donation
- Each Silent Auction donation valued at \$50 or more
- \$50 cash donation.

Fees

The LYS WEP is overseen by our Board of Directors which meets monthly to determine policy, review the budget, and address questions.

1. The LYS Board of Directors sets a tuition amount which will be charged to all members of the ensemble. WEP tuition for the season is \$250. Once paid, this tuition is not refundable. Please note that tuition covers less than half of the expenses of the ensemble. The remainder of LYS funding comes from grants, donations, and fund-raising activities.
2. The LYS Board does not want its fees to prevent qualified students from playing in the ensemble. A limited scholarship fund is available to those who qualify. Students can request scholarship information from the LYS office.
3. All fees are due in full at the beginning of the season. A payment plan is available, if requested.
4. Each musician will be provided with a copy of the music and will be held responsible for these parts. There will be a minimum of \$1.00 replacement fee for each lost and/or damaged part.

Important Phone Numbers

If you have any questions or concerns during the season, please feel free to contact a LYS staff member:

Music Director/Conductor: TBA

Board Chairperson, Dmitri Routkevitch 303/774-9257 HYPERLINK
"mailto:droukevitch@gmail.com" droukevitch@gmail.com

LYS Office:

Beth Robison, Administrator

PO Box 1065

Longmont, CO 80502

303/351-1452

Email is preferred:

HYPERLINK "mailto:info@longmontyouthsymphony.org"

info@longmontyouthsymphony.org

Please visit our website at www.longmontyouthsymphony.org

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