

Longmont Youth Strings Ensemble Orchestra Handbook 2012-2013

Introduction

Congratulations and welcome to the Longmont Youth Strings Ensemble (LYSE). This season our orchestra 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. If we can do that, we will be successful.

The purpose of this handbook is to give members of the Longmont Youth Strings Ensemble information about our philosophy, policies, expectations, and procedures. Your input is necessary and welcome, so please let us know your suggestions.

General Information

The Longmont Youth Strings Ensemble is part of the **Longmont Youth Symphony (LYS)** organization, an orchestra committed to serving the young musicians of the St. Vrain Valley and outlying areas. Its purpose is to provide a resource for young people wishing to further develop their musical abilities under the guidance of professional musicians.

Orchestra Philosophy

The LYS 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 music and arts in the community.

The LYSE is an honors orchestra. Acceptance is by audition.

LYS encourages and supports efforts by members to form ensembles and to share their expanding skills, ability, and talent through community service. The LYS 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 LYSE 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.

Musical Expectations

Admission to the LYSE is based on audition. The student is expected to prepare one piece that demonstrates his/her highest level of playing. Each student will be asked to sight read a short excerpt and play a two-octave scale of his/her choice. There is no fee charged to audition. Applicants may be asked to re-audition if the auditors believe additional technical proficiency is needed. The Music Director makes the final decisions with input from the Audition Committee.

The first rehearsal will be an introduction to the music and means sight-reading! The week following your first rehearsal will be a busy one for you because you are expected to have

learned the notes *before* the second rehearsal. Technically difficult sections will be identified for special attention, and you are encouraged to take the music to your private teachers. In addition, LYS players may sometimes be hired to provide coaching at sectionals. Remember, rehearsal time is not where notes are learned, but rather ensemble is perfected and music is created.

Because of the difficulty of the music and the challenges that lie ahead for you this season, the Music Director urges you to get help with your parts from your private teacher. It is recommended that all members of the orchestra study privately with a qualified teacher. If you do not have private lessons now, LYS can refer you to one of the qualified teachers in the St.Vrain area.

Proper Posture and Deportment

Members of the LYSE are required to maintain good posture and proper positioning of their instruments while rehearsing and performing. Sitting forward on the chair, with back straight and both feet on the ground is essential. Proper positioning of your instrument and bow indicate to the audience that you are an advanced and competent musician. In addition, these appearance requirements greatly enhance the beauty and vitality of your musical expression.

Concert Preparation and Responsibility

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.

An orchestra is 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
orchestra's endeavors is expected and is prerequisite for
continued membership in the LYSE.

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 the concert.

Orchestra members are required to wear concert dress at all
performances. Concert dress for LYSE girls: **white tops with
black skirts/slacks, without excessive accessories; black
shoes and black hosiery.** Concert dress for boys: **black
pants; white shirt; black shoes and socks.**

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

Attendance

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. LYS 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.

LYSE: Danielle Crisman 970-290-1382

LYS: Keynes Chen 303-908-6784

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

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 per season, per family. Volunteer hours can be paid through participation, as requested, in the following capacities:

- Notes & Noodles
- Silent Auction
- Retreat Chaperone

- LYS Concert help
- Board of Directors membership
- Sub-committee involvement
- other capacities as requested by 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 LYSE is operated under the LYS Board of Directors. It is overseen by a nine-member 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 orchestra. LYSE fees for the full season, including orchestra and coaching, will be \$375 for the first child, and \$325 for the second child in the same family. Tuition is non-refundable for any reason. Please note that tuition covers only a portion of the expenses of the orchestra. 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 orchestra. 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

and should be mailed to the LYS office. A payment plan is available upon request.

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 problems during the season, please feel free to contact a LYS staff member:

Danielle Crisman, LYSE Music Director/Conductor
970/278-0320 andydani@q.com

Board Chairperson, Dmitri Routkevitch 303/774-9257
droukevitch@gmail.com

LYS Office:

Beth Robison, Administrator
PO Box 1065
Longmont, CO 80502
303/351-1452

Email is the preferred method of contact:
info@longmontyouthsymphony.org

Please visit our website at www.longmontyouthsymphony.org