



Austin Youth Orchestra

**CONCERTANTE ORCHESTRA
HANDBOOK
2011-2012**

**Corey Spratlan
Conductor**

**Thomas H. Waggoner, Coordinator
Ana Maria Solís-Herrera, Organizer**

<http://www.AustinYouthOrchestra.com>

Austin Youth Concertante Orchestra

THE AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

The Austin Youth Orchestra (AYO) program was established in 1993 to enhance orchestral music education in the metropolitan Austin and central Texas area. The various orchestras accommodate different levels of experience, playing ability, and age groupings:

- Symphony Orchestra* (Grade 8 and above), String/Full Orchestra (Fall and Spring Semesters)
- Philharmonic Orchestra* (Grade 6 and above), String/Full Orchestra (Fall and Spring Semesters)
- Sinfonietta Orchestra* (Grade 4 and above), String Orchestra (Fall and Spring Semesters)
- Camerata Orchestra* (Grade 3 and above), String Orchestra (Fall and Spring Semesters)
- Intermezzo Orchestra* (Grade 2 and above), String Orchestra (Fall and Spring Semesters)
- Concertante Orchestra* (Kindergarten and above), String Orchestra (Spring Semester only)

Membership in the AYO program, which is open to all orchestra students through an audition process, is an enriching, rewarding, and enjoyable experience in that students receive comprehensive and intensive orchestral instruction, including regular performances at various venues of the highest quality of literature in addition to opportunities to observe master classes by Austin Symphony Orchestra guest artists.

CONCERTANTE ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR

Corey Spratlan is the Orchestra Director at Ridgeview Middle School in the Round Rock Independent School District. He began his studies in violin when he was twelve years of age in the Austin area. Mr. Spratlan grew up in the Round Rock Independent School District and earned a Bachelor of Music Education from Baylor University. While at Baylor, he studied violin with Dr. Bruce Berg and Dr. Eka Gogichasvili. Following his undergraduate degree, Mr. Spratlan pursued a Master of Music in violin performance at The University of Texas at Austin where he studied with violinist Brian Lewis and chamber music with the Miro String Quartet. He has taught for the Central Texas String Academy, the Midway Independent School District, Trinity Episcopal School, as well as maintaining a private studio of his own. Mr. Spratlan is a member of the Waco Symphony and has performed with various ensembles throughout Texas.

CONCERTANTE ORCHESTRA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Membership in the Austin Youth Concertante Orchestra is open to all interested orchestra students in kindergarten and above who qualify through the audition process. Students from schools with orchestra programs must be a member in good standing in their school orchestra. Membership in the AYO program is contingent upon return of the membership acceptance form (last page of this handbook) with the school orchestra director's signature verifying that the student is a member in good standing in the school orchestra program. Students must provide their own instruments, accessories, and a black one inch three-ring binder for music and handouts, and a pencil for each rehearsal. Music and music stands will be provided by AYO.

CONCERTANTE ORCHESTRA MEMBERSHIP TUITION FEES

There is a \$100.00 spring semester tuition fee for each participating member to cover operational expenses for the orchestra, which will be collected at the initial rehearsal of the semester. Membership in the AYO program is contingent upon payment of the tuition fee. There will be an additional \$25.00 late fee assessed if the tuition fee is not paid by the end of February. Checks are to be made payable to "AISD." In the event a student decides not to participate in the AYO program after the membership tuition fee has been paid, full reimbursements will be allowed through the month of February. There will be no reimbursements of the membership tuition fee after the month of February. A photocopy of both sides of the cancelled check is required for reimbursement.

CONCERTANTE ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

The Concertante Orchestra rehearses on Monday evenings during the spring semester, 6:00-7:00 p.m., at Stephen F. Austin High School, 1715 West Cesar Chavez Street, Austin, TX, 78703. In addition to traditional performances, the Concertante Orchestra may perform "Music on the Mezzanine" ("MOM") concerts prior to Austin Symphony Orchestra concerts at the Long Center for the Performing Arts and at other community venues.

Students are expected to be attentive and to behave appropriately at all rehearsals and performances. **Inappropriate behavior by students may result in removal from rehearsals and performances or dismissal from the AYO program.**

Prompt attendance is expected of students at **all** rehearsals. The **Administrative Specialist** is to be notified **in advance** via e-mail in the event of an illness, family/personal emergency, or unavoidable conflict that will prevent the student from attending a rehearsal. **More than two absences within each rehearsal period between concerts will not be allowed, and the two absences may not be in succession. More than two absences or two successive absences within a rehearsal period prior to a concert and/or excessive tardiness will result in the student's dismissal from the AYO program for the remainder of the season.**

Prompt attendance is expected of students at **all** concerts. Absences from a concert will be excused **only for the reasons of illness or family/personal emergency** – not conflicts with other activities – and if the Administrative Specialist is notified **in advance**. **An absence from a concert for a reason other than illness or family/personal emergency and/or excessive tardiness will result in the student's dismissal from the AYO program for the remainder of the season.**

If the absence/tardy from a rehearsal or concert is a last-minute unexpected circumstance, you may notify the Administrative Specialist via text message or the Organizer by telephone. Contact information and a rehearsal/performance schedule have been included in this handbook as a reference for your convenience.

CONCERTANTE ORCHESTRA CONCERT ATTIRE

Each Concertante Orchestra member is required to perform concerts in proper attire. The formal concert attire is as follows:

Males - Black dress slacks (no black jeans); white long-sleeved shirt; black long tie; black socks; black dress shoes (no sneakers).

Females - Below-the-knee black skirt or full-length black dress slacks (no black jeans); white sleeved blouse; black dress shoes (no sneakers or flip flops). Dresses or blouses may not be sleeveless, shoulderless, or have spaghetti straps.

Failure to comply with the concert attire requirements will result in the student not being allowed to perform in the concert.

CONCERTANTE ORCHESTRA CHAIR TEST AUDITIONS

Concertante Orchestra chair test auditions will be held throughout the AYO season on various dates determined and announced by the conductor. Concertante Orchestra members must be present for the chair test auditions. If not present for the chair test auditions, the student will be placed at the end of the instrumental section for the next concert. If an absence for the chair test audition is unavoidable, the student may submit to the conductor a recording of the assigned music in advance or on the date of the chair test auditions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Austin Youth Orchestra
P. O. Box 90272
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Thomas H. Waggoner, Coordinator
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Rita Ellinger, Administrative Specialist
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Corey Spratlan, Conductor
Austin Youth Concertante Orchestra
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Zachary Waggoner, Website Manager
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**AUSTIN YOUTH CONCERTANTE ORCHESTRA
REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE CALENDAR
2011-2012**

**(Rehearsals are held on Mondays at Austin High School, 6:00-7:00 p.m.)
(Performances are indicated in boldface.)**

JANUARY 2012

Monday 23 Rehearsal
Monday 30 Rehearsal

FEBRUARY 2012

Monday 6 Rehearsal
Monday 13 Rehearsal
Monday 20 Rehearsal
Monday 27 Rehearsal

MARCH 2012

Monday 5 Rehearsal
Monday 12 No rehearsal (Spring Break)
Monday 19 Rehearsal
Monday 26 Rehearsal

APRIL 2012

Monday 2 Rehearsal
Monday 9 Rehearsal
Monday 16 Rehearsal
Monday 23 Rehearsal
Monday 30 Rehearsal

MAY 2012

**Saturday 5 “Music on the Mezzanine”
7:00 P.M., Long PAC**
**Sunday 6 AYO Grand Finale Concert
3:00 P.M., Westlake HS PAC**



Austin Youth Orchestra

CONCERTANTE ORCHESTRA MEMBERSHIP ACCEPTANCE FORM (Complete and Return to AYO)

➤ Student Name _____ School _____

I have reviewed the requirements, policies, procedures, and rehearsal/ performance calendar in the Concertante Orchestra Handbook and will fulfill the expectations for membership in the AYO program.

➤ Student Signature _____ Date _____

I have discussed membership in the AYO program with our daughter/son, and we agree to the following (check all that apply):

_____ *Our daughter/son will fulfill the expectations for membership in AYO as prescribed in the Concertante Orchestra Handbook, including membership requirements, membership tuition fees, rehearsals and performances, and concert attire.*

_____ *The name, likeness, and photographs of our daughter/son may be used for AYO publicity purposes (e.g., website, flyers, print/electronic media, etc.). We release AYO and their affiliates from any and all liability, claims, or causes of action with this consent and release.*

➤ Parent or Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

My signature below verifies that this student is a member in good standing in her/his school orchestra.

➤ School Orchestra Director Signature _____ Date _____
(if any)

This completed membership acceptance form and payment of the \$100.00 per-semester membership tuition fee are required for participation in the AYO program. A \$25.00 late fee will be assessed if the membership tuition fee is not paid by the deadline date.