



**Austin Youth Orchestra**

**PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
HANDBOOK  
2011-2012**

**Joseph Baird and Anna Macias  
Conductors**

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

*<http://www.AustinYouthOrchestra.com>*

# Austin Youth Philharmonic 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.

## PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONDUCTORS

**Joseph Baird** is the Director of Orchestras at Crockett High School and Covington Middle School in the Austin Independent School District. In the spring of 2002, Mr. Baird received his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education and Certificate in Tuba Performance from The University of Texas at Austin. Having completed all coursework towards a Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting at Indiana University School of Music, he returned to Austin in the fall of 2004. In addition to his conducting post with the Austin Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr. Baird has served as the Music Director/Conductor for the Austin Philharmonic Orchestra. One of his greatest aspirations is to share his love and passion for music with the younger generation in order to ensure its legacy for enriching the human spirit.

**Anna Macias** was appointed as Director of Orchestras for the Lake Travis Independent School District in 1997, where she teaches at Lake Travis High School and Lake Travis Middle School. Ms. Macias has served as organizer for the Texas Music Educators Association High School Region 26 Orchestras for many years. In addition to her work with public schools, she maintains a private double bass studio. Listed in "Who's Who Among American Teachers," Ms. Macias believes that with hard work and dedication, any student can become an excellent musician. A graduate of Southwest Texas State University with a degree in Music, she studied double bass with Xuang Yuan Lu, David Neubert, and Howard Hudiburg. Ms. Macias participated in master classes with Gary Karr and attended the Northwestern Bass Camp, hosted by Jeff Bradetich. She has performed with the Balcones Orchestra, Brazos Valley Symphony, Mid-Texas Symphony, and the Abilene Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Macias currently performs with the Temple Symphony Orchestra. She also enjoys playing the double bass in musical productions and has been involved in several popular productions in the Austin area during the past decade. Ms. Macias is an active freelance bassist who has been a member of two Salsa bands and a Western Swing band. In 1997, she attended the Texas Music Camp, hosted by Johnny Gimble, and fell in love with Texas old time fiddle music and Western Swing. In 2000, she formed the Lake Travis Fiddlers, a group of talented middle and high school students who perform old time fiddle tunes and Western Swing music at various hill country functions.

## **PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

Membership in the Austin Youth Philharmonic Orchestra is open to all interested orchestra students in grade six and above qualify through the audition process. Students may not be considered for membership in the Philharmonic Orchestra prior to grade 6. String students from schools with orchestra programs must be a member in good standing in their school orchestra. Wind and percussion students must be members in good standing in their school band programs. Membership in the AYO program is contingent upon return of the membership acceptance form (last page of this handbook) with the school orchestra/band director's signature verifying that the student is a member in good standing in the school orchestra/band program. Students must provide their own instruments, accessories, 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.

## **PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA MEMBERSHIP TUITION FEES**

There is a \$100.00 per semester tuition fee for each participating member to cover operational expenses for the orchestra, which will be collected at the initial rehearsal of each 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 September (fall semester) and January (spring semester). 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 September (fall semester) or through the month of January (spring semester). There will be no reimbursements of the membership tuition fee after September 30 or January 31. A photocopy of both sides of the cancelled check is required for reimbursement.

## **PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONCERT ATTIRE**

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

- Males - Black dress slacks (no black jeans); black long-sleeved shirt; black long tie; black socks; black dress shoes (no sneakers).
- Females - Below-the-knee black dress or black below-the-knee skirt/full-length black dress slacks (no black jeans) with black 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.**

## **PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES**

The Philharmonic Orchestra rehearses on Monday evenings of the fall and spring semesters, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at Stephen F. Austin High School, 1715 West Cesar Chavez Street, Austin, TX, 78703. In addition to traditional performances, the Philharmonic Orchestra may perform “Music on the Mezzanine” (“MOM”) concerts prior to Austin Symphony Orchestra concerts at the Long Center for the Performing Arts or 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.

## **PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CHAIR TEST AUDITIONS**

Philharmonic Orchestra chair test auditions will be held throughout the AYO season on various dates determined and announced by the conductors. Philharmonic 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 conductors 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  
Austin, TX 78709-0272

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Austin Youth Orchestra  
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Ana Maria Solís-Herrera, Organizer  
Austin Youth Orchestra  
512-414-1251  
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Rita Ellinger, Administrative Specialist  
Austin Youth Orchestra  
512-922-6275  
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Joseph Baird, Conductor  
Austin Youth Philharmonic Orchestra  
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Anna Macias, Conductor  
Austin Youth Philharmonic Orchestra  
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Arnie Yáñez, Percussion Specialist  
Austin Youth Orchestra  
aryanez@austinisd.org

Zachary Waggoner, Website Manager  
Austin Youth Orchestra  
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**AUSTIN YOUTH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE CALENDAR  
2011-2012**

**(Rehearsals are held on Mondays at Austin High School, 7:00-9:00 p.m.)  
(Performances are indicated in boldface.)**

**SEPTEMBER 2011**

Monday 12 Rehearsal  
Monday 19 Rehearsal  
Monday 26 Rehearsal

**OCTOBER 2011**

Monday 3 Rehearsal  
Monday 10 Rehearsal  
**Saturday 15 “Music on the Mezzanine”  
7:00 P.M., Long PAC**  
Monday 17 Rehearsal  
**Sunday 23 AYO Fall Concert  
2:00 P.M., Austin HS PAC**  
Monday 24 Rehearsal  
Monday 31 No rehearsal (Halloween)

**NOVEMBER 2011**

Monday 7 Rehearsal  
Monday 14 Rehearsal  
Monday 21 Rehearsal  
Monday 28 Rehearsal

**DECEMBER 2011**

**Sunday 4 AYO Winter Concert  
2:00 P.M., Austin HS PAC**

**JANUARY 2012**

Monday 9 Rehearsal  
\* Monday 16 Rehearsal  
Monday 23 Rehearsal  
Monday 30 Rehearsal

**FEBRUARY 2012**

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

**MARCH 2012**

**Sunday 4 AYO Spring “Pops” Concert  
3:00 P.M., Westlake HS PAC**  
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**

**Sunday 6 AYO Grand Finale Concert  
3:00 P.M., Westlake HS PAC**

\* Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday; AYO rehearsal will occur. Rehearsals will also be held on school holidays related to staff professional development, planning and preparation, and parent conferences.



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## Austin Youth Orchestra

### PHILHARMONIC 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 Philharmonic Orchestra Handbook and will fulfill the membership expectations for 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 Philharmonic 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 (string students) or band (wind and percussion students).*

➤ School Orchestra/Band 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.**