



Austin Youth Orchestra

**SINFONIETTA ORCHESTRA
HANDBOOK
2011-2012**

**Elizabeth Compton
Conductor**

**Thomas H. Waggoner, Coordinator
Fidencio Solís, Organizer**

<http://www.AustinYouthOrchestra.com>

Austin Youth Sinfonietta 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.

SINFONIETTA ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR

Elizabeth J. Compton is director of orchestras at West Ridge Middle School in the Eanes Independent School District (ISD) in Austin, Texas – a position she has held since 2003.

Ms. Compton is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin where she received her Masters in Music (2003), and of Linfield College where she received her Bachelors of Arts in Violin Performance. While at The University of Texas, Ms. Compton studied violin with Dr. Eugene Gratovich and string pedagogy with Phyllis Young. Ms. Compton was also active in The University of Texas String Project where she taught various ensembles and orchestras.

Currently, Ms. Compton serves as the Region 18 Middle School Orchestra Coordinator. Ms. Compton's professional affiliations include: Texas Music Adjudicators Association, Texas Music Educators Association, and Texas Orchestra Directors Association.

SINFONIETTA ORCHESTRA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Membership in the Austin Youth Sinfonietta Orchestra is open to all interested orchestra students in grade 4 and above who qualify through the audition process. Students may not be considered for membership in the Sinfonietta Orchestra prior to grade 4. 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, 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.

SINFONIETTA 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.

SINFONIETTA ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

The Sinfonietta Orchestra rehearses on Monday evenings of the fall and spring semesters, 7:15-8:30 p.m., at O. Henry Middle School, 2610 West 10th Street, Austin, TX, 78703. In addition to traditional performances, the Sinfonietta 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.

SINFONIETTA ORCHESTRA CONCERT ATTIRE

Each Sinfonietta 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.

SINFONIETTA ORCHESTRA CHAIR TEST AUDITIONS

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

Thomas H. Waggoner, Coordinator
Austin Youth Orchestra
512-825-7230
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Rita Ellinger, Administrative Specialist
Austin Youth Orchestra
512-922-6275
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Fidencio Solís, Organizer
Austin Youth Orchestra
512-841-4534
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Elizabeth Compton, Conductor
Austin Youth Sinfonietta Orchestra
512-732-9240
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Zachary Waggoner, Website Manager
Austin Youth Orchestra
zachsformacs95@gmail.com

**AUSTIN YOUTH SINFONIETTA ORCHESTRA
REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE CALENDAR
2011-2012**

**(Rehearsals are held on Mondays at O. Henry Middle School, 7:15-8:30 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
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
**Friday 30 "Music on the Mezzanine"
7:00 P.M., Long PAC**

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.



Austin Youth Orchestra

SINFONIETTA 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 Sinfonietta 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 Sinfonietta 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.