



Austin Youth Orchestra

**SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
HANDBOOK
2011-2012**

**James Edwards and Kay Vanlandingham
Conductors**

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

<http://www.AustinYouthOrchestra.com>

Austin Youth Symphony 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. Furthermore, Symphony Orchestra members will be issued an AYO identification card, which, by presenting the ID card at the box office no earlier than 7:30 p.m., will enable the student to receive two free tickets to each Classical Season Concert of the Austin Symphony Orchestra, excluding special events. (Free tickets to Classical Season Concerts are subject to availability.) Many local music and record establishments also provide AYO ID holders with special discounts on merchandise.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONDUCTORS

James Edwards has served as the Orchestra Director at Westlake High School in the Eanes Independent School District (ISD) in Austin, Texas since the 1998-99 school year. Prior to Westlake High School, he was the Orchestra Director at A.S. Johnston High School in Austin ISD for five years and was the Orchestra and Band Director at Amarillo High School in Amarillo ISD for seven years. Mr. Edwards was a founding co-conductor of the Austin Youth Sinfonietta Orchestra from 1994-1996. He is currently co-conductor of the Austin Youth Symphony Orchestra, a position he previously held from 1998-2003. In addition, he has been a guest conductor for the Austin Civic Orchestra and has taught for the music departments of Texas State University in San Marcos and Amarillo College.

Mr. Edwards has previously served as the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) State Orchestra Chair and Vice-President and has served as TMEA Region Chairman in both Amarillo and Austin. He has also held the offices of Texas Music Adjudicators Association Orchestra Vice-President and President. In 1991, Mr. Edwards was awarded the Texas Excellence Award for Outstanding High School Teachers. In 2005, he was included in "Who's Who Among American High School Teachers" and was named the first "Distinguished Music Educator" by Texas Tech University.

Mr. Edwards holds the Bachelor of Music, the Bachelor of Music Education, and the Master of Music degrees from Texas Tech University and has pursued additional musical studies at Arizona State University. In 2002, the Westlake Orchestra was selected as the TMEA Honor Full Orchestra Runner-up, and in 2003 was selected as the TMEA Honor Full Orchestra. In December 2008, the Westlake Symphony Orchestra performed at the International Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois.

Kay Vanlandingham was appointed as Administrative Director for the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) in 2007. In her position, Ms. Vanlandingham coordinates Continuing Professional Education (CPE), TMEA Region Grants, and the Texas Future Music Educators programs, as well as administers the TMEA, Reitz and McNallen Scholarship programs. Prior to assuming this role, she dedicated thirty-one years of her life to nurture and inspire orchestra, choir, and band students. In each one of her assignments, Ms. Vanlandingham built music programs not only numerically, but in excellence.

Ms. Vanlandingham served the Round Rock Independent School District as Fine Arts Facilitator, orchestra liaison for the district, department chair, and various district- and campus-wide committees too numerous to mention. She was co-conductor of the Austin Youth Philharmonic Orchestra from 1996-2000 and has been the co-conductor of the Austin Youth Symphony Orchestra since 2004. Ms. Vanlandingham has received national recognition by the WalMart Corporation as Outstanding Teacher of the Year. She holds memberships and affiliations with TMEA, the Texas Orchestra Directors Association (TODA), Mu Omicron, the Texas Music Adjudicators Association, and has served on the Committee on Standards of Adjudication and Performance Practice as well as the University Interscholastic League Prescribed Music List Committee. She has conducted the Longhorn Music Camp's Philharmonic Orchestra during the years of 2005-2009. Ms. Vanlandingham is a member of the Center for Educator Development in Fine Arts Cadre and has served as a presenter at the annual Texas Fine Arts Summit. She is a Past President of TODA and frequently serves as a judge and clinician across the state. Ms. Vanlandingham has been listed in "Who's Who in American Teachers" numerous times, and, in addition to her activities as a violinist and teacher, she also performs as a soprano soloist in her community.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Membership in the Austin Youth Symphony Orchestra is open to all interested orchestra students in grade eight and above who qualify through the audition process. Students may not be considered for membership in the Symphony Orchestra prior to grade 8. 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.

SYMPHONY 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.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

The Symphony 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 Symphony 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. Additionally, select members of the Symphony Orchestra will have the opportunity to perform “side-by-side” with the Austin Symphony Orchestra at the annual “Christmas Sing-Along” concert.

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.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT ATTIRE

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

- Males - Black tuxedo with black cummerbund; white long-sleeved shirt; black bow tie; black socks; black dress shoes (no sneakers).
- Females - Floor-length modestly-cut black dress or black floor-length skirt/black full-length 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.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHAIR TEST AUDITIONS

Symphony Orchestra chair test auditions will be held throughout the AYO season on various dates determined and announced by the conductors. Symphony 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

Thomas H. Waggoner, Coordinator
Austin Youth Orchestra
512-825-7230
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Ana Maria Solís-Herrera, Organizer
Austin Youth Orchestra
512-414-1251
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Austin Youth Orchestra
512-922-6275
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James Edwards, Conductor
Austin Youth Symphony Orchestra
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Kay Vanlandingham, Conductor
Austin Youth Symphony Orchestra
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Arnie Yáñez, Percussion Specialist
Austin Youth Orchestra
aryanez@austinisd.org

Zachary Waggoner, Website Manager
Austin Youth Orchestra
zachsformacs95@gmail.com

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MEMBERSHIP ID DISCOUNTS

*Present the Austin Youth Symphony Orchestra membership ID card for the discounts indicated below.
Be sure to express your appreciation for the vendor's support of the AYO program!*

AUSTIN STRINGS

13276 Research Boulevard, #201
Austin, TX 78750
512-918-1863

<http://www.austinstrings.com>

(20% discount on purchases of instruments and accessories; 30% discount on purchases of strings)

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (ASO)

1101 Red River
Austin, TX 78701
512-476-6064

<http://www.austinsymphony.org>

Present the AYO Symphony Orchestra ID card at the "ASO Student Rush" box office of the Long Center for the Performing Arts no earlier than 7:30 p.m. for two free tickets to ASO Classical Season Concerts. *(Free tickets to ASO Classical Season Concerts are subject to availability.)*

BLACKERBY VIOLIN SHOP

1111 West Anderson Lane
Austin, TX 78757
512-469-9343

<http://www.violinshop.com>

(10% discount on all merchandise and services)

FIDDLER'S GREEN MUSIC SHOP

1809 West 35th Street
Austin, TX 78703
512-452-3900

<http://www.fiddlersgreenmusicshop.com>

(10% discount on all accessories)

FIDDLESTICK BOW SHOP

1403 Alameda Drive
Austin, TX 78704
512-440-8579 (Call first for an appointment.)

<http://www.margaretadie.com>

(\$5.00 discount for bow repair; 10% discount on all merchandise)

HILLJE MUSIC CENTER

1601 South IH 35, Suite 370
Round Rock, TX 78664-6603
512-310-1331

<http://www.hilljemusic.com>

(30% discount on all retail merchandise; 15% discount on all instrument repair)

SAM BASS MUSIC

802 Brandi Lane, #B
Round Rock, TX 78681
512-246-9845

<http://www.sambassmusic.com>

(20% discount on all merchandise)

STRAIT MUSIC COMPANY

South: 2428 West Ben White Boulevard
Austin, TX 78704
512-476-6927

North: 13945 Hwy. 183 North
Cedar Park, TX 78613
512-918-3743

<http://www.straitmusic.com>

(15% discount on all regularly priced merchandise)

VIOLINS, ETC.

8620 Burnet Road, #132
Austin, TX 78757
512-452-5617

<http://www.violinsetc.com>

(10% discount on all merchandise and services)

WESTBANK STRING SHOP

6301 Manchaca Road
Austin, TX 78745
512-326-4898

<http://www.westbankstringshop.com>

(20% discount on all merchandise)

**AUSTIN YOUTH SYMPHONY 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
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**
Monday 5 Rehearsal
("Christmas Sing-Along")
7:00 P.M., Austin HS
Monday 12 Rehearsal
("Christmas Sing-Along")
7:30 P.M., Riverbend Centre
**Tuesday 13 "Christmas Sing-Along"
8:00 P.M., Riverbend Centre**

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.



Austin Youth Orchestra

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

➤ Student Name _____ School _____

I have reviewed the requirements, policies, procedures, and rehearsal and performance calendar in the Symphony 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 Symphony 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.