

ATHENS *youth* SYMPHONY

Karl Schab, Music Director

HANDBOOK FOR MUSICIANS AND PARENTS

(2007 - 2008)



Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. Staff & Volunteers

MUSIC DIRECTOR

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The policies described in this handbook are subject to change at the Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. office's discretion without formal revision of this handbook.

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INTRODUCTION

Feeling that there was a need for music opportunities for the youth of the region, the Classic City Rotary Club established the Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. in 2000. Under the direction of Karl Schab, the Athens Youth Symphony (AYS) and related programs are designed for musicians in grades 6 through 12 and afford serious music students the opportunity to play in an accomplished orchestra while developing their musical skills.

These programs have been carefully planned to allow students to participate in concerts and rehearsals without conflicts with their own school orchestra or band programs.

The AYS and related programs will be developed and enhanced on a continuing basis. Some of the young musicians of today will become professional musicians, but almost all of them will become part of tomorrow's educated classical music audience. An interest in and love of classical music is easiest developed early in a child's life. We believe that the battle to create and maintain that interest through adulthood must be nourished unrelentingly.

The mission of the Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. is to provide the finest quality orchestral training and performance opportunities for students in the Northeast Georgia area.

It is the expressed belief of the Board of Directors that the opportunity to participate in the Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. programs requires a serious commitment on the part of the young musicians and their families. Cooperation in following the guidelines set forth in this handbook will help AYS participants to achieve a rewarding experience for all the members of the orchestras.

The Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. accepts applicants based on their musical ability, without regard to sex, race, religion, disability, or national origin.

AUDITION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must be in grades 6-12; however, older or younger musicians may be considered on an individual basis. Current members of AYS will be required to audition yearly. Orchestra membership is based on musical ability as well as the orchestra's specific needs for the season. Student placement is competitive and is ranked in order of artistic quality. Those qualities include: superiority of tone, intonation, vibrato, dynamic range, musicality and accuracy. Although a student may be able to perform all requirements, he or she may still not qualify for a particular season.

Audition Schedule: Auditions are generally held in the late summer.

General Requirements:

Athens Youth Symphony (AYS): All-State scale requirements (grade level 9/10), required orchestral excerpts, a solo of your choice and, at the director's discretion, sight reading may be called for.

A non-refundable \$15.00 audition fee is due by the registration deadline and upon receipt any required musical excerpts and audition information will be sent.

In the interest of fairness, a blind audition will be held where neither the musician nor judge will see the other.

POSITIONS WITHIN THE ORCHESTRA

Orchestra members are selected by the conductor for principal or section positions based on auditions, the conductor's discretion, the quality of the sound to be achieved, and the good of the orchestra.

THE CONDUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER ANY SEATING ARRANGEMENTS OR PROCEDURES AT ANY TIME FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORCHESTRA.

SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAMS

We prefer that students participate in their school music programs, if offered, however, participation or seating in these programs or in other musical organizations cannot be considered in determining participation in or seating within the programs of the Athens Youth Symphony, Inc.

School music programs provide an excellent place for young musicians to receive a musical education. Playing in an ensemble daily is an invaluable experience. Benefits also include access to regional and state orchestras as well as solo and ensemble festivals, opportunities to play parts other than those played in the programs of the Athens Youth Symphony, Inc., opportunities to compete and meet other musicians and access to information which college music programs and music camps distribute through the schools. You can also make a contribution to your school program by sharing your talents and experiences, and to repay the start in music you may have received from your school.

PRIVATE STUDY

Musicians are strongly encouraged to have private music lessons. If a child does not have a private teacher, a list of references may be acquired from the conductor. Musicians are expected to maintain an interest in music and at least the level of competency demonstrated at the time of their acceptance to AYS.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The most valuable contribution that parents can make is to support their musician's obligation to attend all rehearsals and concerts and to encourage practice and private lessons.

FEES

Fees are necessary to finance the overall programs of the Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. The annual tuition for AYS is \$330.00. There is a \$15.00 audition fee that is separate from the annual tuition. A family discount is available to families with two or more children in AYS: the first child pays the full fee and the second and subsequent children pay half. Fees are expected at the first rehearsal.

Scholarships:

A limited number of scholarships (i.e.: one-quarter to one-half and work scholarships) are available to musicians who demonstrate financial need. Anyone accepting these scholarships **MUST** maintain an excellent attendance record. These awards are based on the budgetary constraints of the Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. and if he/she is judged by the Conductor to be an asset to a particular section.

Notification of award of scholarships will be given in writing to the parent and student. Personal information given to the committee and the conductor is regarded as strictly confidential.

For questions regarding tuition fees, scholarships, and/or payment, please call the Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. President (706-546-1439).

PARENT MEETINGS

At least one parent of each musician (or household for multiple musicians) must attend the parents' meeting at the first rehearsal. The President and the AYS Board Representative lead these meetings. Mailing costs prohibit updating parents who do not attend meetings.

VOLUNTEERISM

Many volunteer hours are required to meet the needs of the Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. programs. Parents will receive a volunteer form during the **mandatory** orientation at the beginning of each season. This form will offer you the opportunity to indicate volunteer preferences. Each family should expect to be called upon to volunteer at least once during the season.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings of Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. are held monthly. This governing body must always contain a parent representative of the AYS program. If you have any concerns, please contact the AYS representative or please leave a message with the President at (706) 546-1439 or e-mail him at President@AthensYouthSymphony.org.

WEB SITE

AYS maintains a website at www.athensyouthsymphony.org

REHEARSAL SITE

Rehearsals will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Athens. Directions are given for its location, but for more detailed directions, please try the *Map Quest* website at www.mapquest.com. Map Quest will give you directions from your place of residence to the rehearsal site listed below.

First Presbyterian Church
185 E. Hancock Avenue
Athens, Georgia

Go to the rear of the church on Dougherty Street and go in that entrance. Parking is in the lots behind, to the side, and across the street from the church.

REHEARSAL INFORMATION

Schedule:

AYS rehearsals will be from 2:00 to 4:30 on Sundays beginning September 16, 2007. **You will be marked as tardy at 1:50 (ten minutes before downbeat time).**

A list of the rehearsals will be given to the musicians at the first rehearsal.

Inclement Weather:

In case of inclement weather, check the website or call (706) 543-1907 for the message on whether or not rehearsal will be held.

OPERATIONS

AYS Break and Snacks:

There will normally be a 15-minute break midway through the AYS rehearsal. Musicians are expected to return to their seats promptly at the conclusion of the break. The snack committee will call each family on the AYS roster one (1) time per season, in order to provide the snacks for the whole orchestra. The parent in charge of snacks will need to remain at the AYS rehearsal in order to set up, serve and clean up.

OTHER INFORMATION

Announcements and Handouts:

Announcements about schedule changes and written notices will disseminate other orchestra business. Musicians are expected to take this information home to their parents/guardians. Occasionally verbal announcements will be necessary during rehearsal. Each week, musicians and parents should share information that has been announced or distributed at rehearsal. Information will also be available on AYS website www.athensyouthsymphony.org

ORCHESTRA RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. ATTENDANCE

Musicians are expected to be present at, on time to, and remain for the entire duration of all rehearsals, dress rehearsals and concerts. Leaving the rehearsal early is disturbing to the conductor and other musicians. It is vital that every musician is seated, tuned, and ready to begin rehearsal on time. 100 percent attendance is important for the orchestra as a whole in order to have complete and worthwhile rehearsals. In order to meet the demands of the music and achieve the artistic level that we all want for AYS, we need to enforce these procedures:

Absences

- Musicians will be allowed **one (1) absence in the fall semester and two (2) absences in the spring semester.** These may be for any reason whatsoever (ski trips, spring break, family wedding, etc.). However, remember, only the above absences are allowed in each semester so use them wisely. **A musician with excessive absences will be subject to re-audition, reassignment, or dismissal without refund of fees at the Conductor's discretion.** A calendar of rehearsals and performances will be distributed at the first rehearsal of each semester. Consult this and plan your absences accordingly. **Attendance at dress rehearsals and concerts is mandatory.**
- **The musician or a parent must inform the Conductor at least 1 WEEK in advance when a rehearsal will be missed** (sudden illness or death in the family excepted). If the Conductor is not available to take your message personally, a message may be left at (706) 543-1907. Please leave a message stating the reason for any absences and a number where you can be reached. When a musician is expected but is not present at rehearsal, the Assistant will telephone his/her home from the rehearsal. The musician is responsible for material covered during rehearsal, including announcements, and should contact the stand partner or section principal prior to the next rehearsal to prepare.
- **Attendance at final regular rehearsals, dress rehearsals and concerts is mandatory.** Any unavoidable conflicts with dress rehearsal or concert dates must be submitted to the Conductor, in writing, at least 45 days prior to the concert so that a replacement may be found for the concert and remaining rehearsals.
- The Conductor only in extreme situations, such as a lengthy illness, may grant a leave of absence.

Tardiness

- It is vital that every musician is seated, tuned, and **ready to begin 10 minutes before rehearsal.** Arriving late is disruptive to the orchestra. Chronic tardiness is cause for seat reassignment and/or dismissal. **Tuition will not be refunded if a musician is dismissed due to tardiness.** Musicians will be expected to sign in upon arrival and at ten minutes before rehearsal the tardy sheet will replace the sign-in sheet. **Two tardies constitute an absence.**

2. BEHAVIOR

Good attendance and behavior are necessary from each musician for the success of the orchestra. The reward of participating in an orchestra comes from the pride and satisfaction of working together and achieving musical excellence. Talking or engaging in other activities (i.e. homework) while participating in rehearsal is inappropriate. You are expected to listen quietly if you are not playing and try to be considerate of others who are rehearsing.

- **If a musician is disruptive or unprepared, the Conductor or Coach will speak to the musician privately at break or after rehearsal.**
- **If the musician continues to misbehave, the Conductor will set up a meeting of the musician, Parent, and Conductor. If a behavior problem continues after this, the musician will be dismissed. Tuition will not be refunded.**
- **Misbehavior is grounds for seat reassignment at any time.**
- **Musicians may not study during rehearsals unless they do not play the piece being rehearsed.**
- **We strongly encourage musicians to have insurance on valuable instruments, as the Orchestra cannot assume responsibility for damage or loss. Do not touch other players' instruments! Musicians should have their instruments in their case or their hands at all time, rather than lying on a chair.**
- **The percussion instruments are to be left alone. The Orchestra is not responsible for damage.**

3. MUSIC

Music is entrusted to each orchestra member and must be handled with great care. The librarian distributes a folder of music to each musician at the first rehearsal of a concert program. **Do not write on the folders - - they will be re-used next season.**

- All outside string players in AYS will receive original music; copies will be handed out to inside players. Concerts will be played from originals only.
- Folders must be signed out within the first two rehearsals of a concert program and returned at the concert, or as instructed. A musician not performing in the concert must return the folder of music prior to the concert. Copies must be turned in as well as the original music. NOTE: The Orchestra will not assume responsibility for personal items left in music folders.
- Musical markings or notations should be made in light to medium pencil ONLY. **NEVER USE INK TO MARK MUSIC!**
- Non-musical marking of the music is unacceptable.
- Music is to be turned in to the Librarian immediately after a performance. If a musician forgets to turn in his/her music, he/she must immediately call the Librarian or leave a message on the answering machine. The music must be returned by hand the next day to the Librarian or sent overnight express.
- If original music is lost, damaged, and/or not returned at the designated time, the musician will be charged a minimum of \$5.00 per part. Should replacement cost exceed this amount, the Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. will charge musicians accordingly. In the case of rented, borrowed, or out-of-print music, the replacement fee may be a great deal more than \$5.00 per part.
- A musician who has failed to return music or pay replacement costs will not be permitted to participate in orchestra activities until he or she has arranged for replacement of the music.

MUSIC STANDS

Musicians must bring a music stand (marked with his/her name) to all AYS rehearsals, unless otherwise stated by the conductor.

PENCILS

Always bring a pencil with you for marking parts.

ASSIGNMENTS

Due to varying orchestrations and styles of pieces programmed, musicians may not play every piece on every concert. Wind and brass assignments will be noted in each folder.

WIND AND BRASS MUSICIANS

- Each musician is accountable for the music that is contained in his or her folder when it is first issued. In case of any switching of parts (which may occur at the Conductor's discretion), each musician involved must immediately inform the orchestra's Librarian. In a case where changes occur, but are not communicated, the individual whom originally signed for a particular set of parts will be held responsible for those parts.

PERCUSSION MUSICIANS

- Percussionists are responsible for assembling, staging and striking percussion equipment at rehearsals and concerts. They are responsible for proper care of all equipment that is owned by the facility being utilized, or that is on loan or rental.
- Percussionists are expected to assist with procuring small and/or unusual instruments to complete instrumentation for each concert program.
- Percussionists are responsible for providing their own sticks and mallets.

Cell Phones

Cell phones must be turned off during rehearsals and must not be brought into the concert hall during performances. Watch alarms must be turned off during rehearsals and concerts.

AYS REHEARSAL & CONCERT SCHEDULE 2007 - 2008

All rehearsals at First Presbyterian unless otherwise noted.
(Changes are not anticipated but are possible)

September 16, 2007	2:00 - 3:45
September 23, 2007	2:00 - 4:30
September 30, 2007	2:00 - 4:30
October 7, 2007	2:00 - 4:30
October 14, 2007	2:00 - 4:30
October 21, 2007	2:00 - 4:30
October 28, 2007	2:00 - 4:30 UGA Orchestra Room
November 4, 2007	2:00 - 4:30 Mandatory Rehearsal
November 11, 2007	2:00 - 3:30 Mandatory Dress Rehearsal and 4:00 Concert at UGA Performing Arts Center - Hodgson Hall
February 3, 2008	2:00 - 4:30
February 10, 2008	2:00 - 4:30
February 17, 2008	2:00 - 4:30
February 24, 2008	2:00 - 4:30
March 2, 2008	2:00 - 4:30
March 9, 2008	<u>NO REHEARSAL-SPRING BREAK!</u>
March 16, 2008	2:00 - 4:30
March 23, 2008	<u>NO REHEARSAL-EASTER!</u>
March 30, 2008	2:00 - 4:30
April 6, 2008	2:00 - 4:30
April 13, 2008	2:00 - 4:30
April 20, 2008	2:00 - 4:30
April 27, 2008	2:00 - 4:30
May 4, 2008	2:00 - 4:30
May 11, 2008	2:00 - 4:30 Mandatory Rehearsal (<u>UGA Hodgson Hall</u>)
May 18, 2008	2:00 - 3:30 Mandatory Dress Rehearsal and 4:00 Concert at UGA Performing Arts Center - Hodgson Hall

CONCERT INFORMATION

DRESS REHEARSALS

Attendance at the dress rehearsal is required to perform the concert.

The “Dress Rehearsal” is defined as the final rehearsal before a concert. This rehearsal is held, whenever possible, on the stage where the concert is to be held. Music is generally run straight through, and any guest soloists on the program rehearse with the orchestra. **(Please note that if the “Dress Rehearsal” ends within two hours of the concert time then concert dress is REQUIRED.)**

CONCERT DRESS FOR AYS

Ladies

- ❖ Long black dress or pantsuit with sleeves
- ❖ **NO BARE MIDRIFFS!**
- ❖ Black hose and dark dress shoes. **(No Flip Flops, No athletic shoes)**

Gentlemen

- ❖ **Dark suit** (black, navy, or very dark gray)
- ❖ **White, long-sleeved dress shirt**
- ❖ **Dark, long necktie**
- ❖ **Dark socks and dark dress shoes (No Flip Flops, no athletic shoes)**

Concert Flyers:

Each musician will receive several flyers for their orchestra concerts approximately two weeks prior to that concert. Musicians should help get the word out about their exciting performances by distributing these flyers to neighbors and friends, and posting them wherever possible at school and parents’ workplaces.

CONCERT PROCEDURES

CONCERT PROCEDURES FOR MUSICIANS

1. As you arrive, report to the designated area for your orchestra to unpack your instrument, leave your case and/or warm-up.
2. Performers in concert dress should remain backstage or on stage during intermission. Musicians can meet their families and friends in the lobby at the conclusion of the concert.
3. **DO NOT GO ON STAGE WITH CHEWING GUM IN YOUR MOUTH.**
4. Musicians should never enter or leave the stage from the front of the stage, or talk to audience members from the edge of the stage. All entrances and exits should be from backstage.
5. Ask a stage crew member to help you if you need an additional chair or stand, or to remove extra chairs or stands on stage. The stage crew will move all equipment. This is for your safety and convenience as well as etiquette.
6. Once on stage, musicians should warm-up in a professional manner, and continue to play their instruments to warm up and to get comfortable on stage until the concertmaster begins the tuning process.
7. When the concertmaster steps onto the stage, the audience will applaud. The concertmaster will bow, and turn to the orchestra for tuning. The concertmaster will signal the oboe for the tuning note (a "concert A"). At the concertmaster's signal, musicians will tune to this A. Winds tune before strings. Musicians should be silent during and after tuning.
8. When the conductor steps onto the stage, the principal cellist stands. The rest of the orchestra should stand when the principal cellist does. Again, the audience will applaud. The orchestra should watch the concertmaster, and sit when he/she does.
9. There should be **NO TALKING** during the performance.
10. If you feel ill or have a coughing fit during the performance, you may discreetly leave the stage.
11. If you or someone else makes a mistake, do not draw attention to it by making faces or laughing.
12. At the end of each piece, the conductor may acknowledge soloists from that piece. Soloists should stand at the conductor's request. When the conductor embraces or shakes the hand of a principal player at the end of a concert, he/she is congratulating the entire section. Musicians should respond to this by taking the conductor's hand if offered.
13. When the audience is applauding, **SMILE!** The audience is congratulating you, and you should feel proud of your performance.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE FOR AUDIENCE MEMBERS

In order to help provide the best environment for both performers and audience members, we have included the following article that originally appeared in *Stagebill*. This is not only for Athens Youth Symphony audiences, but also is a reference for our own musicians when they are audience members.

Of course, Athens Youth Symphony audience members happily include many families with small children. However, please be considerate when choosing where to sit, and if you think you may need to leave the hall during the performance, sit near one of the exits. **Entrance into the main hall will be restricted during a performance.**

Please, no photography DURING each concert. Unauthorized videography is prohibited. **IMPORTANT: IF YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE, PAGER, OR ALARM WATCH, PLEASE EITHER TURN IT OFF, OR SET IT TO VIBRATE OR NON-RING MODE.** It is very disruptive to the conductor, musicians and fellow audience members.

Concerto Competition

The Athens Youth Symphony is pleased to announce its fourth Concerto Competition, to be held on **November 19, 2007**. The winner(s) will be accompanied by the AYS on the spring concert. Application forms will be available online at the AYS website (www.athensyouthsymphony.org). Applications must be postmarked **no later than October 1, 2007** and mailed to:

AYS
P.O. Box 415
Athens, GA 30603-0415

APPLICATIONS MUST BE MAILED IN. - - - - DO NOT BRING APPLICATIONS TO REHEARSAL!

The Music Director will not accept applications in person!

ELIGIBILITY

1. The competition will be open to current AYS members only.
2. Former winners are ineligible unless they audition on a different instrument.
3. Members may audition on piano.

Due to extremely limited rehearsal time for this piece we are requesting that applicants limit their selections to a movement from a Baroque or Classical period concerto (written before 1820) or other piece with orchestral accompaniment from the same periods. **Pieces from other periods may be considered, but all pieces must be approved by the Music Director**. You will be notified after your application is received whether your piece is acceptable, but it may be wise to consult the music director before you apply. **Applicants are responsible for finding a source for purchase or rental of orchestral parts for their piece prior to the audition.**

COMPETITION RULES

The competition will be held in the Sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church starting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 19, 2007.

1. You will be assigned an approximate audition time, but **be ready at least 15 minutes early.**
2. **Applicants must perform from memory and supply their own piano accompanist.**
3. **Where the music calls for cadenzas, they must be performed.**
4. **Two copies of the solo part must be supplied for the judges.**
5. **Audition length may be limited, depending on number of applicants.**

No more than two winners performing different pieces will be chosen by a panel of independent judges. The music director will not vote. **Decision of the judges is final.** The competition site will be open to the judges and AYS staff only.

Concert Etiquette

The performing arts season is getting into full swing. Audiences – whenever the local orchestra, opera company or drama group isn't out on strike – are set to enjoy the entertainment and inspiration of performing ensembles of every description.

One thing is certain: for many, the performances will be marred by thoughtlessness on the part of too many people who otherwise consider themselves good citizens. These people ignore the simple rules of courtesy, or unconsciously destroy the peaceful environment necessary for enjoyment of many of the wonderful performances being offered a generally eager and appreciative audience.

Here are some rules that should be reprinted in every program book in America. Simple common sense and courtesy will vastly improve the serenity and happiness of sharers in the magic of the arts.

Thou Shalt Not

Talk. The first and greatest commandment. Stay home if you aren't in the mood to give full attention to what is being performed on stage.

Hum, Sing or Tap Fingers or Feet. The musicians don't need your help, and your neighbors need silence. Learn to tap toes quietly within shoes. It saves a lot of annoyance to others, and is excellent exercise to boot.
Rustle Thy Program. Restless readers and page skimmers aren't good listeners and greatly distract those around them.

Crack Thy Gum in Thy Neighbors' Ears. The noise is completely inexcusable and usually unconscious. The sight of otherwise elegant ladies and gentlemen chewing their cud is one of today's most revolting and anti-aesthetic experiences.

Wear Loud-Ticking Watches or Jangle Thy Jewelry. Owners are usually immune, but the added percussion is disturbing to all.

Open Cellophane-Wrapped Candies. Next to talking, this is the most general serious offense to auditorium peace. If you have a bad throat, unwrap your throat soothers between acts or musical selections. If caught off guard, open the sweet quickly. Trying to be quiet by opening wrappers slowly only prolongs the torture for everyone around you.

Snap Open and Close Thy Purse. This problem used to apply only to women. But today, men often are equal offenders. Leave any purse, opera glasses case or what have you, unlatched during the performance.

Sigh With Boredom. If you are in agony – keep it to yourself. Your neighbor just may be in ecstasy – which also should be kept under quiet control.

Read. This is less an antisocial sin than personal deprivation. In ballet or drama it is usually too dark to read, but in concerts it is typical for auditors to read program notes, skim ads and whatever. Don't. To listen means just that. Notes should be digested before (or after) the music – not during. It may, however, be better for those around you to read instead of sleeping and snoring.

Arrive Late or Leave Early. It is unfair to artists and the public to demand seating when one is late or to fuss, apply make-up and depart early. Most performers have scheduled times; try to abide by them.

There are other points, of course, and each reader will have a pet peeve we have omitted. However, if just these were obeyed, going to performances would be the joy it was intended to be and we all would emerge more refreshed.

Byron Belt is critic-at-large for the Newhouse News Service.

Byron Belt

Notes - - -

Musician - Parent Agreement

By signing this agreement, we affirm that we have read the Athens Youth Symphony, Inc. handbook thoroughly and agree to abide by all rules, regulations, and terms therein. We are fully aware of the rehearsal and concert dates and times and will mark our calendars accordingly.



Musician's Name _____ (Print)
_____ (Signature) Date _____

Parent's Name _____ (Print)
_____ (Signature) Date _____