

# DeKalb Youth Symphony Orchestra

## Guidelines

The DeKalb Youth Symphony was established in the DeKalb County School System's music program in 1967 as an honor organization to foster and develop young musicians, to develop their natural appreciation for symphonic literature, and to provide an opportunity for excellent musicians to perform together. In order for us to maintain the high standards that have guided us in the past, it is necessary to publish a list of guidelines by which the organization is governed. These guidelines are adhered to strictly and will be enforced by the Symphony's conductors and administrators at all times.

Therefore, it is imperative that each participant in the DeKalb Youth Symphony and their parents read and understand the following guidelines and the obligations that they have to themselves and to the orchestra.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Any 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade student enrolled in a DeKalb County School System middle or high school who is actively participating in his/her high school instrumental program is eligible to audition for membership in the DeKalb Youth Symphony.

### **DUES AND EXPECTATIONS**

Annual dues are **\$150** per musician and must be paid by the parent meeting date, usually in late September.

All students are expected to participate in scheduled trips, performances, fundraising opportunities and publicity events, including the youth concerts for elementary and middle school students in March. If an individual problem arises, it should be discussed with the conductor.

### **ATTENDANCE**

The DeKalb Youth Symphony rehearsal period is from 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on designated Tuesdays throughout the Symphony season. **Please pay close attention to our calendar.** All musicians are expected to plan their arrival so as to be in their seat, ready to play at 6:30 p.m.

**Pickup is at 9:00 p.m. promptly. Most nights we stop rehearsing at 8:55 p.m.**

More than one unexcused absence (or two unexcused late arrivals) within any concert season will result in loss of seating or being dropped from the orchestra.

Leaving early is very disruptive, you must contact the director in these cases.

The conductor and assistants are authorized to excuse a player for absence or tardiness. Absences will only be excused with a written note from parents or directors. Excuses for absences must be obtained in advance of the rehearsal. The following reasons are acceptable:

- A musically-oriented school performance (band, orchestra, jazz band, etc.) that is cleared with the conductors of the orchestra prior to the absence from the rehearsal.
- **Illness.** Please make sure that you or your parents inform the conductor of the illness. You may call Mr. Kuutti on his cell: (770) 364-4383 or email Mrs. Memmelaar at [dekalbyouthsymphony@gmail.com](mailto:dekalbyouthsymphony@gmail.com).
- Illness or death in the family. Once again, please inform the director in advance. or as soon as possible concerning this absence.

Students with exemplary attendance records will be eligible for various incentives, including gift cards and recognition at concerts.

Students are expected to arrange private lessons, work, homework, sports, and other responsibilities around the orchestra rehearsals and performances. *Homework is not an acceptable excuse for an absence.*

Students who find themselves unable to maintain their position in the symphony are asked to complete the concert quarter in which they started.

## **MUSIC**

Students are expected to have their **ENTIRE** folder of music at each rehearsal and performance. Failing to have your folder at rehearsal means that you will be unable to mark your part. All folders are to be turned in the night of the concert.

Each musician is responsible for the music assigned to them.

Use a **soft pencil** when marking your music. **Do not use ink** for marking music under any circumstances. Make sure that you copy and/or change all markings in your music as the conductor specifies.

## **PRACTICE**

Students are expected to prepare the orchestra parts to the best of their ability. Seek assistance from your private instructors and/or orchestra and band directors whenever possible or necessary.

Students should be prepared to commit the number of practice hours necessary to execute a professional performance.

We encourage, but do not demand, that the students study with private teachers. The extra individual attention that these lessons provide assists greatly in the development of proper technique, as well as the further development of orchestral style.

### **REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE**

During all DYS rehearsals, there is NO texting, use of cell phones, eating, doing homework or reading while we are rehearsing. There is a 15 minute break each rehearsal for these activities.

### **CONCERTS**

All members must be present for ALL dress rehearsals and concerts.

The concert dress for the female members of DeKalb Youth Symphony is as follows: **long** black dress (at least mid-calf) with sleeves, black stockings and black dress shoes (no flip-flops or other casual shoes are permitted).

The concert dress for the male members of DeKalb Youth Symphony is as follows: black tuxedo jacket, black dress slacks, white shirt with black bow tie, black socks, and black dress shoes (**absolutely NO athletic shoes of any type**).

The interest shown by parents and fellow instrumental directors assures us that we are meeting a real cultural need and interest in DeKalb County. It becomes the obligation of parent and child alike to maintain and promote the continuation and growth of this organization. Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their children's practice schedules as well as the guidelines by which the students and organization function.

**Students are expected to read, understand and follow these guidelines.** Through mutual support and cooperation, we can continue to promote a superior level of symphonic literature in DeKalb County.