

YUBA Sutter Youth Symphony

2011 – 2012

Parent and Student handbook

Mission

Believing that music has the power to enrich lives, the Yuba Sutter Youth Symphony provides an opportunity for young people to further their growth as musicians and members of the community through an inspiring and challenging orchestral experience.

History

In the spring of 2006 several of the area's music teachers discussed the possibility of starting a youth symphony for the north valley area centered in Marysville-Yuba City. Since the string program in Yuba City had been established for some time, and was growing, it was decided that the core membership would come from this group. The orchestra would also provide an opportunity to play with other musician for students who were home schooled and attended schools that were too small to have a comprehensive music program. Outstanding wind and percussion players from schools that only had band programs would have a chance to play in a full symphony orchestra. Students would be accepted through age 20, giving Junior College students of the area a chance to begin or continue to play in the orchestra.

A committee of four teachers and one parent was formed, organizational plans were made, and a time line set up. A web site was created by Rick Hutton, a parent. For the first three years, the Yuba-Sutter Oratorio Society sponsored the orchestra by providing insurance and legal help. The process of forming our own tax-exempt educational organization will be completed this year.

Letters went out to teachers in the spring asking for lists of interested students. Applications were sent to those students and auditions were set up for the fall of 2006. The audition process is continuing as more students and their parents learn about the existence of the orchestra.

Peter Nowlen of Sacramento State was the conductor for our inaugural concert in the fall 2006. The conductor of the first concert in 2007 was James Lohman, band director at River Valley High School in Yuba City. James Lohman will continue to be our conductor.

General Expectations

YSYS members are expected to be aware that they are at all times a representative of the **Yuba Sutter Youth Symphony**. The general public may view actions of individuals as actions of the YSYS as a whole. As ambassadors of the organization, members are expected to show responsibility and care in the use of facilities and properties, and to show courtesy to other students, parents, and directors.

School Music Programs and Private Lessons

YSYS programs are designed to complement students' personal music development and not be a substitute for other means of instruction. YSYS musicians are expected to participate in school music programs where available. This supports our school music groups and helps to provide strong leadership and role models in the school environment. The strength of the regional school music programs is vital to the future growth and success of the YSYS. Members are also encouraged to take weekly private lessons. This is the best way to move forward in playing skills at this level.

Attendance

Students are members of a select group of musicians whose commitment to the orchestra is critical to its success. Please use the rehearsal and concert schedule to mark these commitments on your personal calendar. If numerous scheduling conflicts are anticipated, please rethink accepting a contract with YSYS.

All absences need to be reported to Ingrid Gaston, our manager, as far in advance as possible. Tel. (530)755-3413 (leave message) or email: igaston39@gmail.com
Do not contact the conductor.

Conflicts with any rehearsal must be discussed ahead of time with Mrs. Gaston, who, with the director, will decide whether or not the conflict constitutes an excused absence. **Dress rehearsals are mandatory.**

Normally the only conflicts that are excused are conflicts with a school music performance in which you are participating.

Homework load and sports practices, for example are **not** excused absences.

Parents will be called if a student is absent without prior notification.

Excessive absences (excused or not) may lead to loss of seat placement or loss of membership without refund.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be held from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. in the band room of River Valley High School. Students are to arrive at 6:45 to get set up, warmed up, and be ready to tune 5 minutes before 7, so that the conductor can start promptly at 7:00. The rehearsal will end at 8:45, so parents should be there to pick up their children at that time. An adult must wait until every student is picked up, so please don't be late. You must each have your instrument, music, any accessories, and a sharpened pencil with a good eraser at every rehearsal. Do not rely on your stand partner to bring the music. **All school rules apply during evening rehearsals.**

Parking

The parking lot off *El Margarita Road* will be available for drop off, parking, and pick up. The gate in the fence off that lot will be the only one open to the school. There will be at least 2 to 3 adults at every rehearsal, but for safety reasons, students should not wander from the area of the music building during rehearsal or break.

Music

Students will be responsible for all music assigned to them. Music is very expensive and some parts may be impossible to replace. A fee will be charged for lost or damaged music.

Losing a whole folder can cost as much as \$35. Only a **pencil** should be used to mark music with bowings, fingering, etc. Get in the habit of marking everything the conductor indicates.

Remember to bring all music to each rehearsal.

Concert Dress (note this is a change from previous years)

Dress for concerts unless otherwise indicated will be:

Men - Black dress pants, white shirt, bow tie, **black jackets**, black shoes and socks.

Women – **All black dress** or black slacks or skirt (**not short**) **with an all black top**, black shoes, black nylons/socks. No gaudy jewelry

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees are necessary to cover our expenses: Liability insurance, music, conductor's fees, mailing, publicity, programs, and equipment are some of our expenses. Fees will be \$150 for the year.

Fees will be discounted to \$130 if the entire amount is paid by the first rehearsal.

If full payment is not possible, fees may be paid in two installments of \$75 each. The first installment is due on the date of the first rehearsal in September, the second installment on the first rehearsal date in January.

Checks should be made out to the **Yuba Sutter Youth Symphony**.

Financial Aid

In order to be considered for financial aid, application forms must be returned by the 1st rehearsal in September. Forms may be obtained from Christy Estabrook or Ingrid Gaston. Students on financial aid will be expected to help with set up and clean up chores at rehearsals and concerts.

Parent Volunteers

All parents are expected to help in various ways in the YSYS. **This is our orchestra!** Please sign up for at least one of the different jobs listed. We also could use one or two new board members to help with running of the orchestra and making policy. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, contact any of the present board members.

Contact parents - co-ordinate various parent activities. Serve on the YSYS Board as parent co-ordinator.

Fund Raising – Help organize and conduct any fund raisers. Find business that would like to place ads in our programs or donate toward our scholarship fund.

Help with concert logistics - Supervise setting up stands, percussion equipment, and other things at the site of performances, break down afterwards and load truck. Organize ticket sales or collections. Students will do the actual work.

Refreshments – Help organize, set up, serve, and clean up refreshments for one concert. We should have 2 or more refreshment organizers at each concert. All students will bring cookies.

Snack Coordinator – Schedule students to bring snack to rehearsal and send out the schedule as needed.

Music preparation – help sort, copy music, and place in folders or stands. Sort music after concerts for filing.

Acceptance of Membership in the Yuba Sutter Youth Symphony

This form must be signed and returned before the student can participate.

I have read the handbook and will abide by the policies set up for the Yuba Sutter Youth Symphony. I accept the invitation to join this orchestra for the 2011-2012 season.

Student's name (print)	instrument	school attending and year in school
address	City	zip
Phone	cell phone	email
parents name(s)		
student signature	parent signature	

Parent participation:

I am willing to help in the following capacities:

Concert logistics _____ Music Preparation _____ Parent co-ordinator _____
Fund Raising _____ Refreshments at concerts _____ (One concert)
Snack Coordinator at rehearsals _____

Verification of Participation in School Music Program

This form must be signed each year. If you are new to the orchestra, and your teacher has recently signed your application, you don't have to have it signed again.

Home schooled _____

_____ is participating in the school music program at
your name _____
_____ School. _____
school name Teacher's signature

There is a scheduling conflict that cannot be resolved, but I have spoken with this student about alternative and future participation and approve his/her membership in the Yuba Sutter Youth Symphony.

Teacher's signature _____

Fees paid \$ _____ Treasurer's signature _____