



Membership Guidelines

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Meridian Symphony Youth Orchestra is to provide young musicians from the Treasure Valley with the opportunity to participate in full orchestra rehearsals and concerts, while mentoring with members of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra. We want to educate and inspire young musicians through exceptional ensemble training and performance opportunities, while helping to grow the school orchestra and band programs in the school districts in the Treasure Valley.

APPLY FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

Please complete the online application located on our website at meridiansymphony.org. There is a \$25 placement deposit which you may pay online or mail to: Meridian Symphony Orchestra, P.O. Box 1016, Meridian, ID 83680 (reference MSYO Audition). If you are accepted into the ensemble, this deposit will be applied to your tuition.

PLACEMENTS

Placements will be held on the dates noted in the Placement Addendum. Placement times will be assigned. Parents and students will be contacted via email regarding the Placement schedule.

Placements will be in 15-minute time blocks for each group. Students should arrive 15 minutes prior to their assigned block of time and will have an opportunity to warm up. Placements will be heard by the Youth Orchestra Music Director(s) and/or the principal from the Meridian Symphony Orchestra for your instrument.

At your placement, you will be asked to play the music noted in the Placement Addendum.

The Meridian Symphony Orchestra is a 70-member ensemble dedicated to enriching the cultural life of our community by providing quality entertainment in a family-friendly, educationally focused environment. We are an all-volunteer orchestra, with members from a diverse range of backgrounds, that performs "for the love of it."

TUITION

Tuition is required to assist with items such as rehearsal space, performance space, music and operational expenses. Tuition will be due before the first rehearsal via the payment portal or by check.

- Strings \$150 (3 concerts)
- Winds, Brass and Percussion \$100 (2 concerts)

The first concert will be Strings only since it is scheduled during marching band season. The rehearsals for the second concert each season will coincide with the end of marching band season, which is typically by the end of October.

Payment may be made online or by check payable to Meridian Symphony Orchestra, P.O. Box 1016, Meridian, ID 83680 (reference MYSO Tuition) prior to the first rehearsal. Your audition deposit can be deducted from this amount. If you need financial assistance, please contact us at info@meridiansymphony.org for scholarship or work study options.

REHEARSAL AND CONCERT INFORMATION

Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 9:15 PM at Meridian High School. Concerts will be held on the dates and locations to be announced.

ARTISTIC POLICY

Adherence to the following membership guidelines will assure the Meridian Symphony Youth Orchestra fulfills its purpose in a manner reflecting the highest standards, increasing the musical growth, confidence and pride of its members.

Requirements for Participation

- Students from grades 8-12
- Participation in your school orchestra or band program. There is no prohibition from a student's involvement in other performing groups unless this involvement becomes a distraction for any of the groups with which a student is involved.
- Participation in MSYO placement
- Private lessons strongly encouraged
- Commitment to attending all rehearsals and concerts
- Come prepared for rehearsals. Be in your seat 10 minutes before start time with your cell phone put away. Practice your music. Maintain your instrument. Remember to bring a pencil and other necessary tools (mutes, valve oil, reeds, spare strings, etc.)

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- All consideration and attention will be given to individual members and specific music related issues when possible. However, priority must be given to the needs of the entire orchestra. Any individual member may be moved or dismissed from the orchestra at the direction of the Music Director for failure to follow any of the membership guidelines or failure to maintain musical requirements of the orchestra.

Attendance

- All musicians must be able to commit to attending rehearsals and concerts.
- Dress Rehearsal and Concerts are mandatory.
- Students are allowed a maximum of two excused absences during each concert cycle, but only up to a total of five absences for the season. Please note that there are mandatory rehearsals and performances for each concert cycle. Mandatory dates will be noted in the performance calendar which is distributed upon acceptance to the program. Absences from mandatory events will result in dismissal from the concert and/or Youth Orchestra, except for a death in the family or a serious medical emergency.
- Please submit rehearsal conflicts by (date) to info@meridiansymphonyorchestra.com.
- If a rehearsal must be missed due to emergency, please email info@meridiansymphonyorchestra.com or contact the Meridian Symphony office (208-891-2721) as soon as possible.
- Please note that two tardies (not seated at the start of rehearsal) will equal an absence.
- Acceptable reasons for excused absences are fever, vomiting, or a death in the family, with prior email or phone call being mandatory. College auditions and/or competitions or school performances are acceptable with prior consent.

Concert Dress

- Boys: Black tux or black suit with bowtie; vest or cummerbund; black dress socks with black dress shoes (black soles)
- Girls: Long black dress or long skirt or black dress blouse with black dress slacks; Sleeves must be three-quarter length or longer. Black dress shoes with black hose, socks or tights
- Keep jewelry simple and do not wear perfume or cologne.

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students of the Meridian Symphony Youth Orchestra,

The Meridian Symphony Orchestra is committed to maintaining an environment that is free of discrimination and harassment. This policy applies to all conduct by any Meridian Symphony Youth Orchestra members and staff associated with the Youth Orchestra. We consider a violation of this policy a serious offense.

The following behaviors are grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal from the Youth Orchestra.

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Unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual acts or favors; insulting or degrading sexual remarks or conduct directed against other orchestra members; threats, demands or suggestions that someone's work is based on the toleration of or acquiescence to sexual advances; retaliation against students for complaining about such behaviors; any other unwelcome statements or actions based on sex that are sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to unreasonably interfere with an individual's work performance, or create an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Students should feel confident that their reports and complaints will be investigated promptly. Reports of sexual harassment or abuse should be made to the Youth Orchestra Coordinator, Youth Orchestra Music Director(s), or any trusted adult.

State and federal laws make any adult a mandated reporter in case of the sexual abuse of minors. Adults aware of any conduct in this vein should make reports to the policy directly.

We are eagerly working to provide a safe and healthy environment where your student musician can have meaningful music experiences. To that end, we are also establishing the following guidelines and protocols related to COVID-19:

PUBLICATION CONSENT

After acceptance into the Meridian Symphony Youth Orchestra, please sign and bring this form to our first rehearsal.

I consent for my minor student musician's photo, concert video or recordings to be used in connection with the published news articles, promotions, social media, grant proposals, sponsor activities, or any other distributed media concerning the Meridian Symphony Youth Orchestra during the upcoming season.

Student Musician Name (Print)

Student Musician (Signature)

Date

Parent Name (Print)

Parent (Signature)

Date

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