



2021-2022 RPYO HANDBOOK

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Reno Philharmonic Youth Orchestras is to build musicianship, leadership, teamwork, and character in diligent and talented music students. To accomplish this goal, the RPYO provides:

- Enriching musical opportunities that complement school music programs.
- Opportunities to play orchestral music under the direction of highly qualified conductors and teachers.
- A variety of performance opportunities, including concerts for parents, community performances, solo performances and concert tours.
- Exposure to a professional standard of musicianship and cooperative learning opportunities between young musicians and the Reno Philharmonic musicians.

II. The Orchestras

Youth Symphony Orchestra (YSO)

The YSO is the region's premier youth orchestra, performing advanced symphonic repertoire. These exceptional musicians have gone on to perform with the Reno Philharmonic and other professional orchestras.

The YSO is conducted by Dr. Jason Altieri. Dr. Altieri is also the Assistant Conductor of the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, and conducts the University of Nevada, Reno Orchestra.

Youth Concert Orchestra (YCO)

With an emphasis on training strings, winds, brass, and percussion players in a full symphonic orchestra setting, the Concert Orchestra programs encompass a wide range of style periods.

The YCO is conducted by Dustin Budish. Dustin is also the Principal Violist of both the Reno Philharmonic and Reno Chamber Orchestra.

Youth Strings Symphonia (YSS)

A partnership with Washoe County School District, the YSS was established to serve the abundance of young string players in our community in grades 4-8.

YSS is conducted by Carol Laube. Carol is also the Associate Concertmaster of the Reno Philharmonic.

Youth String Ensemble (YSE)

Beginning in 2018, the Youth String Ensemble (YSE) is a strings-only orchestra serving students grades 2-7. Also under the direction of Carol Laube, the YSE gives string students who begin private lessons from a young age or are a member of the Reno Phil Association Kids (RPAK) program an opportunity to play in an ensemble from an early age.

III. Membership

- YSE: must be in grades 2-7
- YSS: must be in grades 4-8.
- All members must abide by the School Music Program Enrollment Policy



- Exemptions to the enrollment requirement must be requested in writing by May 22 to be reviewed by the committee prior to auditions.

Note: Appeals to any provisions in this handbook can be brought to the Education Committee. Please contact the Youth Orchestra Manager to obtain a Policy Appeal form or if you have any further questions. Exempted students under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for the entire duration of all YCO/YSO rehearsals and concerts.

IV. Auditions

Auditions for the top three orchestras are held every spring for the following season. Students interested in auditioning should fill out an Audition Application form and submit it online. No paper submissions will be accepted. Music excerpts and audition instructions will be available at www.renophil.com in April each year. Members of the YCO and YSO are chosen through blind audition by paid professional judges. YSS auditions include sight-reading, and are held openly (not blind).

Students are accepted into YSE based on a recommendation by the school music teacher or private instructor. The teacher recommendation form should be filled along with an audition application form.

At the conductor's discretion, special auditions may be held for students who move into the area during the school year or to fill vacancies as needed.

V. Private Lessons

Although private lessons are not a prerequisite for RPYO membership, we strongly recommend that each student study privately. Contact the Youth Ensembles Manager if you need assistance in locating a qualified instructor.

VI. Leadership Roles/Opportunities

Principal players

These are chosen based on musicianship, leadership and attendance. A principal player should also be proficient at teaching sectionals in the absence of a section coach. The Music Director may decide to also interview for principal positions.

VII. Seating

Seating placement for RPYO is determined at the time of the initial audition or through seating check held during rehearsals each semester. Seating checks may be held *periodically through the year as needed*. *Conductors may call seating checks at any time*.

Seat checks will be held for all YCO/YSO string players in both the Fall and Spring semesters. The music will be excerpts from the current semester's repertoire. Seat checks are not required for wind, brass, and percussion players, but these players can challenge for a higher chair by playing the excerpts selected for their instrument that semester.

Factors that determine seating:

- technical and musical mastery of materials
- sight-reading ability
- attendance and punctuality record
- leadership
- citizenship



This means if you do not come to the retreat, attend all rehearsals, or perform in a concert, your seating or membership can be negatively affected.

VIII. Deportment

- Students are expected to be quiet, attentive, and teachable before, during, and after all rehearsals, clinics, and performances. This includes turning off or silencing cell phones during all RPYO functions.
- Students are expected to show respect and courtesy toward fellow musicians, adult leaders, coaches, and conductors, as well as toward the facilities we use.
- Students should be in their seats ready to play no less than 5 minutes before rehearsal.
- All students are expected to help with set up and tear down of the rehearsal space.
- Students who do not meet these expectations may be expelled for the year, at the discretion of the conductor, staff, parent organization, or Education Committee.
- If a student causes any damage to another student's instrument through inappropriate behavior, he or she will be expected to pay for all damages.

Students, parents, and all adult leaders are expected to adhere to all Washoe County School District rules, including regulations regarding language, attire, and forbidden substances.

IX. Concert Attire

YCO/YSO:

Gentlemen

Tuxedo pants & jacket
White tuxedo shirt
Black bow tie
Black cummerbund or black vest
Black dress socks
Black dress shoes
Minimal cologne and jewelry

Ladies

Solid color black pants, dress, or skirt that hits at or below the ankle when standing
No leggings or jeans
Long black nylons
Black closed-toed dress shoes
Solid color black top with modest neckline and no skin showing above the elbow
Minimal perfume and jewelry

Students who do not wear proper concert attire will not be allowed to perform or will be sent home to change. Donated concert attire is available at the Reno Philharmonic office. Additional donations are always accepted.

YSE & YSS:

Gentlemen

-Dark pants
-White long-sleeved button-up shirt
-Tie of your choice
-Black dress shoes and socks

Ladies



- Dark pants/skirt
- Black dress shoes and socks/nylons
- White long-sleeved shirt

X. Costs for 2020-2021 Season

Tuition by card, cash, or check is due at the time of music pick up. Payments can also be prepaid with a card by phone. Make checks payable to RPA.

Payment or auto-pay enrollment is required before music is distributed

- YSE & YSS - \$100/year
- YCO - \$350/year
- YSO - \$400/year

We offer an automatic monthly payment option to spread tuition over 10 monthly payments of: YSE & YSS \$10/month, YCO \$35/month, YSO \$40/month

Other possible costs:

- performance tours
- tuxedo rental
- videos and photos of concerts
- mutes, strings, reeds and other musical equipment

XI. Instrument Use and Rental

Students normally provide their own instruments. We strongly recommend that parents consult their insurance company regarding coverage for the instruments. Reno Philharmonic is not responsible for loss or damage of instruments.

A limited number of auxiliary instruments are available for rental free of charge through the RPYO, including A-clarinets and English horn. Students are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of these instruments and will be responsible for any damages to instruments checked out to them.

XII. Time Commitment & Rehearsals

RPYO members are expected to practice the literature outside of rehearsals and take it to their private lessons for extra help as needed.

See the RPYO Season Calendar for specific orchestra rehearsal times, dates & locations. www.renophil.com/rpyo/auditions/policies-and-forms/

Rehearsals and sectionals may occasionally be held at an alternate location or time. Students should **arrive early** and **stay after** for set-up and tear-down. Parent help is also appreciated.

The RPYO performs several times a year. Please see the calendar for details.

XIII. Attendance and Tardy Policy

General Guidelines

1. Attend **all** scheduled rehearsals and performances.
2. Arrive early for each event with all needed instruments, music, and materials. On time means in your seat and ready to play when the conductor takes the podium.
3. Stay through the entire rehearsal.



Note: Standard courtesy requires that musicians provide notice **and a reason** when they are not going to be present. Notification should occur the week before or as early as possible. Whenever possible, notification in the form of an email to the RPA Youth Orchestra Manager is appreciated.

Absences/Tardies/Early Departures

Parents or students are welcome to check the attendance record anytime to ensure accuracy.

The conductor may prohibit students from playing in the concert if they

1. have more than two absences per semester
2. miss a dress rehearsal

Note: Two half tardies and/or early departures count as one absence. A tardy is given when a student is not in their seat ready to play when the conductor takes the podium.

XXIV. Parent Volunteers

Because tuition fees do not cover all youth orchestra expenses, we rely on and expect volunteer support from RPYO parents. Students and family members should assist in clean up after rehearsals, concerts, receptions, tutorials, auditions, or competitions. Parents are always welcome at any RPYO rehearsal, performance or activity. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend all concerts. We encourage all parents to support the organization through financial donations and by volunteering for projects. Parents are expected to chaperone trips, host or help at receptions, organize fundraisers, and spread the word about the RPYO.

XV. Organizational Structure

The RPYO is governed by the Education Committee of the Reno Philharmonic Board of Trustees, working with the Youth Orchestra Committee. The Reno Philharmonic President and CEO, Education Director, Youth Orchestra Manager, Music Director/Conductor of the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Conductors of the Reno Philharmonic Youth Orchestras serve as ex-officio members of the Education Committee.

XVI. Concerto Competition

Youth orchestra members may choose to participate in the RPYO annual concerto competition. The categories are junior piano, senior piano, junior strings, senior strings, and winds/brass/percussion. Cash prizes are given to the first place winners in each division, and two grand prize winners will be selected to perform with the YSO. Entry fee of \$50 is due at the time of application submission and is non-refundable.

- Time limit is 10 minutes. You may choose one movement of the concerto and cut as necessary.
- All selections must be pre-approved by the RPYO conductor.
- Deadlines are in place so that we do not inconvenience our accompanists and judges. Please plan ahead, talk to your private teacher, and respect deadlines for applications.
- Students must provide their own accompanist.
- The grand prize winners have the opportunity to play his or her piece with the YSO on either the Fall or Spring Concert. The winning concerti must be the pieces performed with the YSO.



- The results of the competition will be emailed as soon as they are decided by the judges.

XVII. Amazon Smile

Register through <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2762076> to support the Phil through your Amazon purchases. Note: Smile does not work with the Amazon app, and only purchases through smile.amazon.com count.