



ALASKA YOUTH
ORCHESTRAS

**Member Handbook
2018-2019**

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WHO WE ARE...

VISION

AYO envisions a community where music education and performance are valued and shared.

VALUES

AYO develops its programs around four core values:

- 1 **Musicianship**
AYO inspires young musicians as individuals and as a group to strive for and experience musical excellence.
- 2 **Performance**
AYO inspires young musicians and audiences through superior musical performances.
- 3 **Inspiring Youth**
AYO inspires young musicians to lifelong participation in and support of the arts in Alaska and beyond.
- 4 **Musical Legacy**
AYO fosters a lifelong appreciation for the rewards of responsibility, commitment, self-confidence, discipline and teamwork inherent in the arts through teaching, musical performance and leadership among its members.

MISSION

The mission of the Alaska Youth Orchestras is to build musicianship, inspire our youth to love music, offer enriching opportunities for music performance, and create a musical legacy that will sustain arts throughout the lives of our members and our communities.

HISTORY OF ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

In the early 1960's many individuals recognized the need for an orchestra for the youth of Anchorage. Forerunners of what became known as the Anchorage Youth Symphony were organized and conducted by such prominent local musicians and educators as Kurt Pasch, Jeanne (Ray) Bruhn, Charles Gorsuch, and Marlow Thomas.

In 1965 ASD Director of Music Frank Pinkerton formally organized the Anchorage Youth Symphony. As its music director he oversaw the expansion of opportunities to perform throughout the state.

Dewey Ehling replaced Frank Pinkerton as music director in 1973 and AYS became a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 1981. Until his retirement in 1986, he expanded the touring schedule, traveling and performing nationally and internationally.

In 1986 and 1987 Linn Weeda led the orchestra and in 1987 John Duff was appointed Music Director. During his tenure the orchestra toured Scotland. In 1991 Russell Guyver

succeeded Duff, instituting a series of retreats to encourage the social interaction of members, as well as concerts in the Matanuska-Susitna valley.

Linn Weeda was again engaged as the Music Director in 1992. The orchestra's program has expanded to include coaching by professional musicians; a chamber music series; the formation of the Anchorage Youth Philharmonic; an alumni association; collaborations with other performing groups throughout the state; scholarships; and extensive statewide, national and international touring. In 2012 the Anchorage Youth Symphony Association became known as Alaska Youth Orchestras.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Alaska Youth Orchestras (AYO) is a non-profit 501c3 corporation located in Anchorage, AK operating under the direction of the AYO Board of Directors who are elected by the membership. A list of current board members can be found on our website: AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org.

STAFF

Music Director and AYS Conductor: Linn Weeda
Executive Director: Denise Brown-Chythlook
Rehearsal Coordinator: Zach Akins
Librarian: Rebecca See

Contact Information:
Alaska Youth Orchestra
PO Box 240541
Anchorage, AK 99524
Telephone: (907) 538-6406

AYO Website: AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org
General AYO Email: youthsymphony@gmail.com
Executive Director Email: ed@alaskayouthorchestras.org

COMMUNICATION

Email

In an effort to save paper, staff time, and resources, almost all of our communication is via email. Please add AYO addresses to your address book, and set your e-mail program so e-mails from AYO are not blocked. If your e-mail address changes, please update AYO. Check for email each week with information and announcements for Monday's rehearsal.

Receiving the weekly AYO e-Newsletter is required of participants. Families are responsible for receiving and reading the weekly e-Newsletter, so AYO must have at least one valid parent email address on file for each student.

Phone

AYO staff can be reached via the telephone number listed above. We endeavor or respond immediately to every phone call but please allow 48 hours for messages to be returned.

MEMBERSHIP

Members are chosen each season through auditions. Potential members must sign up of to audition on our website and pay the audition fee (\$25) Auditions fees are non-refundable and are not applied toward membership.

Musical selections and audition instructions and signups will be made available on the AYO website by February 1 of each year. Auditions are held in early May and are private.

WHAT WE DO...

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are held at East Anchorage High School, 4025 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99508

Mondays: 4:15-7:00 pm

In the event that Monday falls on a holiday, rehearsal is moved to Tuesday at the same time. Please refer to the AYO calendar for the specific dates on which this occurs. Members are expected to be in their seats at the beginning of rehearsal. They should arrive prepared, having practiced at home, bring all their music, and have a pencil.

NOTE: There is a rehearsal break each week from approximately 5:30-5:45 pm during which AYO will provide a light snack (ex: granola bars). If something different is required, members must provide it themselves. Members are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

Concert Rehearsals are held at specified times at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, 621 W. 6th Ave., Anchorage, AK, 99501. Please refer to the AYO season calendar on our website.

Practice Time

It is important for musician to prepare their parts outside of rehearsal. The amount of time needed for home practice will vary from musician to musician, but this individual responsibility must be taken seriously.

Music

Musicians must keep all of their AYO music in the provided folder, and have their folders at every rehearsal. Do not rely on your stand partner or colleague folder. Use only pencil to mark music - no ink or colored pencil. String players who are sharing music should be sure to mark both copies of their music with changed bowing, fingerings, etc. for at-home practice. You are required to return your folder at the end of the season or if you leave the orchestra. Failure to do so will result in a \$25 replacement fee.

Instruments, Cases and Accessories

Musicians are responsible for the care of their own instrument. Instruments should be in proper repair. Strings musicians should have replacement stings in their cases; winds should have extra reeds; brass should have applicable mutes; percussionists bring appropriate mallets, sticks, and small instruments. Please make sure all instrument cases and accessories are clearly marked with your name.

Use of AYO Instruments

AYO has several professional-level instruments available for use by members. Coaches, in consultation with the Music Director, decide who and how the instruments will be used. Members using these instruments will be required to check them out by filling out and returning a form, and will accept all liability while in their possession. There are further restrictions that are clearly stated in the forms. Currently, the following instruments are available: piccolo flute, 4 "A" clarinets, english horn, bass clarinet, bass trombone, double bass with 'C' extension, miscellaneous percussion instruments.

Food and Beverages

AYO will provide a light snack (granola bars, etc.) during rehearsal break each week (approx. 5:30-5:45 pm). Any member with special dietary restrictions or needs must provide their own snack. Members are encouraged to bring their AYO water bottles to stay hydrated. Please throw your trash away in the appropriate manner at the end of rehearsal.

Cell Phones and Other Portable Electronic Devices

There will be no cell phone use (including texting) and no use of any portable electronic communication devices during rehearsals, dress rehearsals, or concerts. All ring tones, alarms, and chimes are a distraction and must be turned off.

COACHING

Coaching is a unique and important component of AYO covered with the cost of your membership. Coaches are provided by AYO and are professional musicians (generally members of the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra). Coaching sessions occur once or twice a month during rehearsals and are designed to provide additional assistance in preparing repertoire. Participation in coaching sessions is required for AYO members.

CONCERTS

AYO will present three concerts during the 2018-2019 season.

Fall Concert: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 7:00 pm, Discovery Theater

Winter Concert: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm, Discovery Theater

Spring Concert: Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm, Atwood Concert Hall

CONCERT REHEARSALS

A Concert Rehearsal is scheduled the day before each concert. These rehearsals offer an important opportunity for musicians to run through the entire program in the concert hall. Concert Rehearsals will be held at the AK Center for the Performing Arts in the same hall where the upcoming concert will be held. Attendance at Concert Rehearsals is required. Musicians not present may be asked not to perform in the concert. Excused absences are available for required curricular school music events. These conflicts should be made known to the AYO Executive Director and Conductor as soon as you are aware.

CONCERT TICKETS

All AYO concerts are ticketed events through CenterTix.com. Each member will receive one free ticket for an accompanying adult. We make every effort to keep ticket prices affordable. We strongly encourage each family to try to bring 5 people to each concert by promoting the concert to family and friends. This will help our members to play to a more full concert hall. Ticket sales offset the price of having our concerts at the beautiful AK Center for the Performing Arts.

CONCERT BLACK

Concert Black is required dress for all concert performances.

Men: Black suit or tuxedo, white shirt, black bow tie, black socks and black shoes.

Women: Long black dress/skirt or loose-fitting black formal slacks; solid color black top with long or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves that covers shoulders and does not have a low neckline; plain black stockings or socks and black shoes.

Accessories: Please do not wear fragrances or reflective jewelry/accessories.

Note: Valuables should be left at home or with family members.

CONCERTO COMPETITION

AYO holds an annual concerto competition that is open only to AYO members. The competition will be take place at a time to be announced. The winner of the concerto competition will play with the orchestra at a concert of our choosing during the season. Please see the website for detailed requirements and repertoire.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU...

CODE OF CONDUCT

AYO musicians are representatives of the organization and the behavior of each musician reflects on the entire group. Each musician is expected to use good manners, display common courtesy and show consideration for others. It is essential to respect the rights and property of others. AYO strictly enforces a zero-tolerance policy with regards to the use of drugs and alcohol, smoking, any other illegal activities, and any form of harassment towards students and staff.

If you have any questions or concerns about your experience in AYO, please feel free to contact the Conductor or the Executive Director at any time. All issues will be handled with professionalism, confidentiality, and respect.

ATTENDANCE

AYO is dedicated to professional-level performance. Failure to comply with the Attendance Policy is a basis for resignation from AYO. Members who foresee ongoing schedule conflicts should reconsider whether they can meet the attendance requirements. Members who must be absent from a regularly scheduled rehearsal, concert or tour because of emergency illness or unforeseen schedule conflicts may be granted an excused absence. Members must notify the Executive Director by emailing youthsymphony@gmail.com before noon on rehearsal day or concert day and provide a valid reason.

Rehearsals: The need for rehearsal attendance cannot be stressed enough. Absences, when they occur, are counted during each rehearsal/concert cycle. The following are the maximum number of absences that are allowed during the period before each concert:

Concert #1) 3

Concert #2) 2

Concert #3) 2

Note: Arriving late or leaving before the end of a rehearsal is an absence that counts one-half (1/2) toward the member's absence count.

Check-In and Check-Out: AYO members must check in and out for each rehearsal. Doing this for someone other than yourself is not permitted.

Record of Attendance: A copy of your attendance record can be requested. Please email ed@alaskayouthorchestras.org. Please allow one week for the report.

Concerts and Tours: Members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled concerts and make a good-faith effort to attend tours, and special events added after the start of the season. Participation in tours outside the regular concert season is strongly encouraged. Two month's advance notice of an expected absence from a concert or tour is needed.

Leaves of absence for extraordinary circumstances: Members in good standing who will miss rehearsals or concerts for an extended time should request a leave of absence. Members must send a written request for a leave of absence to the executive director, who will respond to the request in consultation with the conductor.

Consequences: Absences outside the attendance policy could result in a member not being allowed to participate in a concert or tour; being re-seated for a concert tour, and/or being asked to withdraw from AYO. AYO reserves the right to re-seat members who are absent for a concert or tour, including those members whose absence is excused.

Re-Audition: Members who are asked to withdraw under this attendance policy may request to formally re-audition. Requests to re-audition must be made in writing and addressed to the executive director. In addition to satisfactory musicianship, members who re-audition must demonstrate a commitment to full attendance at rehearsals and regularly scheduled concerts. Members who satisfactorily re-audition will not be required to pay additional tuition fees for the season but will incur the audition fee of \$25.

Appeals: Members asked to withdraw under this attendance policy may appeal to the AYO Board of Directors within 14 days. Appeals must be in writing and addressed to the AYO Board President.

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAMS

AYO recognizes the importance of school music programs in our communities. We highly recommend our members are active participants in these programs.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Although not required for membership, private lessons are strongly encouraged. Students who study privately routinely do better on all auditions and grow faster as musicians.

LIABILITY

All AYO students/families are responsible for their instruments. Lost, stolen or damaged instruments (or instrument accessories) are not the responsibility of AYO. The following organizations, including their employees, contractors, and volunteers will not be held responsible for loss or damage to instruments or other valuables: the Alaska Youth Orchestras, the Anchorage School District, the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, or any other venue where AYO performs or rehearses. AYO strongly suggests that instruments be adequately insured.

TUITION

Tuition for the AYO 2018-2019 Season is \$675. Payment can be made on our website in the Members section via major credit card. Payment arrangements are available. Tuition may be paid with personal check or cash if desired. Please contact our office to make those arrangements or mail a check to:

Alaska Youth Orchestras
PO Box 240541
Anchorage, AK 99524

Refunds

AYO does not offer tuition refunds. However, there is a Protection Plan available through our registration database that you may purchase if you wish to be protected against unforeseen problems. This plan is not managed by us but by an outside insurer. Please read the coverages and exclusions thoroughly to determine if it is appropriate for your needs.

ORIENTATION MEETING

AYO's 2018-19 Season Kickoff and Orientation will be held on Thursday, August 16, 5:30-8:15 pm, at the BP Energy Center. Attendance by members and one parent (if the member is under 18) is mandatory. At this meeting we will provide important information about the season not included in this document; also scheduling details, policy information and volunteer opportunities. Please contact the Executive Director if you are unable to attend.

SUPPORT & ENCOURAGEMENT

In addition to providing a high quality musical experience, AYO strives to teach musicians about professionalism, responsibility and personal integrity. We strive to be an open and encouraging organization. We value each member and their support network and we hope you can value us in return. We ask parents and caregivers to help their children fulfill their responsibilities to AYO by encouraging open communication, 100% attendance, prompt arrival at rehearsals and concerts, private lessons on their instrument and at-home practice and preparation.

VOLUNTEERING

Like any other organization of this size, AYO needs help to run smoothly. The good news is that there is something for everyone in our volunteer world so whether you are a finance expert, a fund-raising guru or an operations wiz there is a space for you on a committee. In addition to ongoing needs we also have "just in time" opportunities to help such as backstage concert help, for these tasks we typically ask for volunteers closer to the event. Lastly, we are looking for uniquely committed volunteers to be on the board and serve in a leadership role as chair of these committees, as well as others not listed here.