



ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Alaska Youth Orchestras (AYO) is a an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation that is governed by a volunteer board of directors according to state and federal law. For more information visit our website. Tax ID# 92-0082750

AYO STAFF

Executive Director

Pierre Derycz ED@alaskayouthorchestras.org 310-795-0810

Music Director

Bruce Wood, Ph.D. MD@alaskayouthorchestras.org 806-470-6846

Operations Manager

Zach Akins OC@alaskayouthorchestras.org 907-240-3505

SYMPHONY SCHOOL

Symphony School ensembles are conducted by AYO conducting fellow Evan Hagen, under the direction of music director Dr. Bruce Wood. Professional musicians attend select rehearsals to provide individualized coaching to youth musician participants and their instrument sections.

MISSION

Building musicianship, inspiring youth to love music, offering enriching opportunities for music performance, and creating a musical legacy that will sustain arts throughout the lives of our members and our communities.

COMMUNICATION

AYO sends a weekly email newsletter to all musicians and their families. This email arrives at 6 pm each Friday and contains vital information about upcoming events. The email is titled "AYO Weekly Email" and can often be found in your junk/promotions folder due to the newsletter service.

OFFICE

AYO operates out of an office at 1505 W 32nd Ave. Anchorage, AK 99503. The office does not keep regular business hours due to the nature of our work. Please contact AYO staff to ensure someone will be present if you plan to visit the office.

Attendance

Rehearsals: Symphony School is dedicated to preparing young musicians, step by step, for greater musical achievement. With only 8 rehearsals, it's very important your musicians attends all of them. If your musician is ill, please email: OC@alaskayouthorchestras.org.



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Concerts: Musicians are expected to perform at the scheduled Celebration Concert at the end of their Symphony School session.

Concert Rehearsals: A Concert Rehearsal is scheduled the day before each concert at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Attendance at Concert Rehearsals is required. Musicians not present may be asked not to perform in the concert. Any conflicts should be made known to the AYO Operations Manager as soon as you are aware.

Consequences: Unexpected and/or repeated absences may result in a musician not being allowed to participate in a concert, being re-seated for a concert, and/or being asked to withdraw from Symphony School.

Concert Black

Concert Black is required dress for all concert performances and includes two **gender-neutral options**. If you have any questions regarding CONCERT BLACK, or need any assistance obtaining any needed items, please email us at ed@alaskayouthorchestras.org.

1. Black suit or tuxedo, white shirt, black bow tie, black socks and black shoes (either open or closed toe are acceptable).
2. Long black pants, dress, or skirt (at least lower-calf length) with a solid color black shirt with long sleeves (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length). The shirt must cover your shoulders and should not have a low neckline. Plain black socks or stockings are to be worn with black shoes (either open or closed toe are acceptable).

ACCESSORIES: No reflective jewelry/accessories and no fragrances, please.

Code Of Conduct

Musicians: AYO musicians are representatives of the organization. The behavior of each musician reflects on the entire group. Musicians are 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 other musicians and AYO staff.

Parents/Guardians: In addition to providing a high-quality musical experience, AYO strives to teach musicians about professionalism, responsibility, and personal integrity. We are committed to providing an open and encouraging environment where every person is valued. Parents/Guardians are asked to conduct themselves in keeping with this standard by supporting their musicians in fulfilling their responsibilities, encouraging open communication, supporting 100% attendance, facilitating prompt arrival at rehearsals and concerts, providing private lessons on their instrument (if possible), and encouraging at-home practice and preparation.

Should parents/guardians need to express concern or disagreement with AYO staff, we request it be done in an appropriate manner. Damaging or demeaning language will



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not be tolerated in any setting. Please contact the AYO Executive Director or AYO Music Director directly. All issues will be handled with professionalism, confidentiality, and respect.

Liability

Musicians are solely responsible for their instruments. Lost, stolen, or damaged instruments (or instrument accessories) are not the responsibility of the Symphony School program or its leadership. The following entities, including their employees, contractors, and volunteers will also not be held responsible for loss or damage to instruments or other valuables: Alaska Youth Orchestras, University of Alaska Anchorage, The Nave, Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, or any other venue where AYO performs or rehearses. AYO strongly suggests that instruments be adequately insured, and that care is taken to safeguard their instruments at all times.

Concert Tickets

All AYO concerts are ticketed events through CenterTix.com as required by the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. AYO musicians do not need a concert ticket for themselves. Families of musicians can purchase tickets at a reduced rate. Concert ticket sales support AYO and serve as a fundraiser for the organization. We encourage AYO musicians and their families to promote the concerts and bring along family and friends.

Emergency Response

In the event of an emergency, AYO staff will direct AYO musicians on how to respond.

Evacuation Response: In the event of an emergency requiring building evacuation, musicians will be asked to leave the building via the nearest emergency exit and gather (if appropriate) in the designated area.

Parents/Guardians will be contacted and asked to pick up their musician as soon as possible or grant permission to another parent/guardian to pick up their musician. Any musician who is not picked up will remain with an AYO staff until parents/guardians can arrive or make other arrangements for their musician's transportation. Musicians who drive will be excused if their vehicle is safely accessible.

Non-Evacuation Response: In the event of an emergency that doesn't result in evacuation, musicians will shelter in place. If rehearsal cannot continue, parents will be contacted and asked to pick up their musician as soon as possible.

If, at any time, a musician feels unsafe to remain, parents will be contacted and asked to pick them up as soon as possible. If the AYO musician has their own car, parents will be contacted and will determine if they are comfortable with the AYO musician driving.

AYO Emergency Contact Number: 907-538-6406

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