



Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association

Orchestras Student Handbook

**The Twenty-Eighth Season
2021 - 2022**



SFYSA Orchestras Handbook 2021-2022

The SFYSA Executive Director is reachable at 505-672-5565 x 101

We are delighted to welcome you back to SFYSA! Please read the handbook carefully, we have made a number of changes and additions for 2021-2022. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time during the year.

Please visit our website to learn more about our programs and staff.

Our Mission is to inspire and engage the youth of Northern New Mexico's multicultural communities through excellent music education, the guidance of music professionals, and performance opportunities from small ensembles to full orchestra in Jazz, Mariachi and Orchestra.

Our Vision is to create and nurture a lifelong passion for music making through performances that enhance the region's cultural atmosphere.

SFYSA Core Values Statement Staff •Students•Board

Diversity & Inclusion. *Discovering and implementing practices, including education, training and self-reflection, that support our mission and demonstrate commitment to our Diversity & Inclusion statement.*

Teamwork. *Supporting common goals and working creatively together to name and achieve them.*

Excellence. *Providing high quality opportunities and reference points for students, staff and board to hone personal and collective excellence.*

Responsibility. *Supporting and expecting preparation, focus, self-discipline. Responding to unmet needs, actively fulfilling roles and responsibilities.*

Collaboration. *Cooperating between ensembles, actors and programs within SFYSA, as well as with other organizations in the Santa Fe community, to create projects, visibility, reach and synergy.*

Community. *Creating and maintaining an inclusive and diverse SFYSA community built on trust, belonging and engagement, as we interact with and develop bridges in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico communities to increase our impact and service.*

Creativity. *Providing opportunities for creativity, discovery of new solutions, new ways of solving problems, education and training that expand us.*

Expressiveness. *Creating a supportive environment to demonstrate passion, honor vulnerability, and share ideas.*

The Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association, Inc. is honored to serve the diverse population of northern New Mexico and does not discriminate on the basis of national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, color, or race.

I. Programs & Ensembles

The Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association consists of five main programs: Orchestras, Mariachi, Jazz, Con Vivo!, and Elementary Strings.

ORCHESTRAS

Youth Symphony Orchestra (YSO) – William Waag, Conductor

The Youth Symphony Orchestra is the flagship orchestra of SFYSA, featuring the most advanced young string, woodwind, brass and percussion musicians. The ensemble's repertoire spans orchestral classics through twenty-first century works, as well as a spectrum of unique musical collaborations. YSO has performed with world-renowned artists Mark O'Connor, Guillermo Figueroa, and Bobby McFerrin, and collaborated with the Harlem Quartet, Ying Quartet, Denver School of the Arts, youth symphonies from across the United States, and the Santa Fe Fiesta Melodrama. Students in the YSO regularly work with professional musicians in sectionals, and also play an annual side by side with the Santa Fe Symphony. The YSO typically holds a Fall musical retreat in the New Mexico mountains, and recent tours have included the Czech Republic, Germany, Seattle, San Francisco, and Denver.

Youth Philharmonic (YP) – Jeremy Bleich, Conductor

The Youth Philharmonic provides SFYSA students with their first full orchestra experience. The YP is open to intermediate and advanced string, woodwind, brass, and percussion students and is targeted for advanced middle school and early high school musicians. YP performs arrangements of classic orchestral works, new music and premiers, and special collaborations in the Santa Fe community.

Intermezzo String Orchestra (ISO) – Erica Solano, Conductor

ISO is SFYSA's intermediate string ensemble. Members will sharpen their instrumental and ensemble skills, and experience their first repertoire of consistent 5-part ensemble writing (violin 1, violin 2, viola, cello/bass). When exiting ISO, musicians should be fully prepared for the experience of their instrument's traditional role in a full orchestra. ISO is targeted towards middle school and advanced elementary students.

Prelude String Orchestra (PSO) – Haley Lovelace, Conductor

This "orchestra on training wheels" provides SFYSA musicians with their first large ensemble orchestra experience. Unlike Elementary Strings, the musicians are grouped into an ensemble with mixed string instrumentation. Most pieces performed in PSO are written in 3 part harmony (violins, viola, cello/bass), providing a stepping-stone to standard string orchestra writing (5 parts). Students will have a chance to improve sight reading skills and practice large ensemble etiquette and procedures (rehearsal responsibilities, relationship with stand partner and conductor, etc.) PSO does not require an audition, however students must be enrolled in private lessons to be eligible for PSO enrollment, and the PSO conductor must receive a written recommendation from the private teacher. Most PSO students have at least 2 years of private lessons prior to joining PSO.

Con Vivo! (CV)

2020-2021 Con Vivo Chamber Music Program is open to all string, winds, brass and percussion youth musicians in the Santa Fe / Los Alamos Area. Students who do not participate in one of our performing ensembles are welcome to join! Tuition for Con Vivo students includes online music education, masterclass participation, in-person rehearsals, and video performances.



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In our tradition of providing the very highest level of music education, Con Vivo Coaches are performing musicians and teaching artists of the highest caliber. Students receive a more personalized musical enrichment experience which supports the development of critical musicianship and leadership skills.

Target Ages:

YSO: Advanced high school (approximately grades 10-12)

YP: Advanced middle school, and early high school (approximately grades 8-10)

ISO: Middle school and advanced/late middle school (approximately grades 6-7)

PSO: Late elementary school (approximately grades 4-6)

CV: Advanced middle to high school (approximately 8-12)

For more information regarding our ensembles, please see our website at www.sfyasa.org

II. General Policies

Overall Conduct

Every student, parent, and staff and board member is an ambassador of the entire organization. As ambassadors, we are all expected to show responsibility and care in the use of the facilities and property of SFYSA, rehearsal and concert venues, host homes and schools, etc., and to abide by the dictates of common courtesy. Behavior off-stage is as important as behavior on-stage.

Concert Etiquette for Performers and Audience

All performers are expected to arrive at the prescribed call time to the concert venue, dressed appropriately. All performers are expected to attend the entire concert in which they are participating.

Staying Informed

Email and REMIND! are the primary means of communication for SFYSA, so be sure that you have a current email on file with SFYSA, and that emails from @sfyasa.org aren't being redirected to a spam folder.

REMIND! is a robo-texting service that alerts families by text-message for important bulletins, like rehearsal updates and snow days. Sign-up for REMIND! using the table below. There is no charge to join, and you can cancel the service at any time. Also be sure to visit our website, www.sfyasa.org for calendar information and regular updates, and visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sfyasa.

TO JOIN REMIND!, TEXT THE MESSAGE BELOW YOUR ENSEMBLE TO 81010

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| YSO | YP | ISO | PSO | Con Vivo |
| @sfyasa-yso | @sfyasa-yp | @sfyasa-iso | @sfyasa-pso | @sfyasa-cv |

Inclement Weather

In the event that weather poses a traveling hazard for our families, we will cancel the event in question and broadcast a notice by email and text-message, as well as post a notice on our website. If the weather becomes adverse during a rehearsal, the rehearsal may end early, and we will provide notice by the same means. Elementary Strings follows the Santa Fe Public Schools in the event of inclement weather, but will meet in the event of a two-hour delay.

Tuition & Payment Policy

SFYSA is a community non-profit committed to making our programs available to all students *regardless of ability to pay*. We receive individual donations, business sponsorships, and fundraising support that makes our sliding scale tuition *available to all families*. Program tuition revenue covers 34% of our annual budget. Tuition in Column "A" is our standard reduction.

In order for SFYSA to provide consistent and high-quality musical training for its students, tuition is required for participation in all SFYSA programs.

SLIDING SCALE TUITION

| | Level A \$55,000+ | Level B \$45,000- \$54,999 | Level C \$35,000- \$44,999 | Level D \$25,000- \$34,999 | Level E \$0-\$24,999 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| YSO | \$650.00 | \$490.00 | \$325.00 | \$195.00 | \$65.00 |
| YP | \$650.00 | \$490.00 | \$325.00 | \$195.00 | \$65.00 |
| ISO | \$550.00 | \$415.00 | \$275.00 | \$165.00 | \$55.00 |
| PSO 1 & 2 | \$650.00 | \$490.00 | \$325.00 | \$195.00 | \$65.00 |
| PSO 1 & 2* | \$350.00 | \$265.00 | \$175.00 | \$105.00 | \$35.00 |
| ES 1 & 1+ | \$550.00 | \$415.00 | \$275.00 | \$165.00 | \$55.00 |
| Con Vivo | \$800.00 | \$600.00 | \$400.00 | \$240.00 | \$80.00 |
| Jazz Project - SF & LA | \$550.00 | \$415.00 | \$275.00 | \$165.00 | \$55.00 |
| Mariachi Garibaldi & Estrella | \$575.00 | \$430 | \$288 | \$175 | \$60 |

*Does not include semi-private lessons, must have own private teacher

Financial Aid

To qualify for financial aid, parents/guardians must:

- Ensure their student is attending, and maintaining good standing with their respective program(s)
- Complete a pre-registration form and pay the \$15 registration fee
- Request Financial Aid and submit tax return by September 30

Payment Methods

| <u>Acceptable Forms of Payment</u> | <u>Payments may be made</u> | <u>Tuition may be paid</u> |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Check* • Money Order* • Visa • Mastercard • American Express <p>*Payable to "SFYSA"</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By mail to 1000 Cordova Pl #190, Santa Fe, NM 87505 • Online at www.sfyasa.org/payment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-full with Registration • In two installments (Registration & one more payment before January 15, 2022) • Monthly, over a period of five (5 months). |

Financial Probation

Tuition should either be paid in-full before the winter concerts series or the family should be on a monthly or two payment installment plan. Otherwise the student will be placed on financial probation and will be unable to participate until the account is resolved.

Tuition Refunds

Students who withdraw on or before October 15 who have paid in full for the year, will receive a 75% tuition refund. Participation in any SFYSA program is a full-season commitment. Any students who withdraw after October 15 may not be eligible for a refund dependent on reason for withdrawal and account balance.

Return Check Policy

It is the SFYSA practice to redeposit returned checks automatically and without notice. A Return Check Fee of \$25 will be added to the student's account each time a check is returned. When a check is returned, the SFYSA reserves the right to require payment by cash or money order.

Discounts

The following discounts apply to level A tuition only. Discounts may *not* be combined.

Sibling Discount

We offer a discount for families with more than one child enrolled in our programs. A discount of 20% is offered for the second child and all subsequent children.

Multiple Ensemble Discount

Students who participate in a second ensemble will receive a 40% discount on the tuition of lesser value. Students enrolled in an orchestra may receive the 40% discount on our Con Vivo Program.

Parent Participation

As tuition covers a portion of program and operating expenses, SFYSA does considerable fundraising to provide sustainable and accessible programs. As part of the enrollment agreement, families provide five (5) hours of volunteer service over the course of a Season. Volunteer service can take many forms: working at concerts or special events, administrative support, marketing, mailings, soliciting businesses for sponsorships, selling ads, and so forth. Families choose their sign-up areas on the registration form. The vitality of our programs is directly proportional to our volunteer support, and the SFYSA faculty and staff thank you in advance for providing your time and energy.

Lost and Found

Personal items left at any SFYSA event will be held at the SFYSA office but check with your conductor first. Items not claimed at the end of the year will become property of SFYSA and may be thrown away at the discretion of SFYSA staff.

Instrument Rental

SFYSA has a limited selection of orchestral instruments that may be available for rent. Please check with your conductor for more details.

Student Behavior, Discipline and Probation

Students who fail to follow SFYSA overall conduct and etiquette policies are subject to these consequences.

Consequences

When students do not follow the behavioral guidelines, the conductor of their ensemble will issue up to two (2) verbal warnings – delivered privately to the student, without parent involvement. After the 3rd offense, a written warning from the director of the ensemble or program will be sent to parents and the SFYSA Executive Director will be copied. This is the final step before disciplinary probation. At that time, the student and parents can express any concerns, or have a meeting with the conductor and Executive Director.

In cases of extreme behavior, the conductor can issue a written warning to the student, parents and the Executive Director on the first offense. If there are contradictory stories, or the absence of an adult witness to an incident, investigation of the situation will occur and collective resolution will be sought. The final decision will be reached by SFYSA.

Grievance Redress Procedure

If you have a grievance with another student, your conductor or teacher, or some other aspect of your SFYSA experience, please make every effort to bring the grievance directly to the conductor/teacher first. If the issue cannot be resolved, the student and parent should bring the issue to the attention of the Executive Director.

Disciplinary Probation

If any SFYSA member engages in behavior that is deemed unacceptable by SFYSA staff, and the above verbal and written warnings have been issued, and parents and the student have had one week to respond, that student may be placed on Disciplinary Probation. The terms of Disciplinary Probation will be determined by the ensemble's conductor/teacher and the Executive Director, in consultation with the student's parents.

Drug Policy

The possession or use of any controlled substance by any SFYSA student is forbidden at any SFYSA event.

Consequences of Dismissal

Families of a dismissed student are still liable for the entire season's tuition, and the student will not be eligible to return to any SFYSA program during that season.

III. General Ensemble Policies

Attendance Requirements

SFYSA members commit to participating in all rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and concerts for the entire season. Your attendance commitment is not to your teacher, but to your fellow colleagues. We also recognize that unusual circumstances may prevent a student from attending a rehearsal.

- Students who have two (2) or more absences from class in any semester are subject to be dismissed from the program
 - *The above provision does not apply to dress rehearsals (see "Dress Rehearsals" below)*
- Two (2) late-arrivals are equal to one (1) absence; a late-arrival means the student is not ready for class at the start of class time.
- Emergencies will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Any absences, excused or unexcused, will be counted as such.
- Exceptions may be made under special circumstances at the teacher's discretion.

General Rehearsal Expectations

In order for the ensemble to make the most use of rehearsal time

- Prepare your parts at home to the very best of your ability
- Listen to recordings of your pieces. YouTube is a very good source

Bring these items to every rehearsal

- Instrument
- Sheet-music as required by the teacher
- Pencils (no pens or markers; you can't erase these)
- Erasers
- Water bottle (only during rehearsal breaks)

These items should not be available during rehearsal

- Cell phones
- Gum

Ensembles rehearse only once a week during the season, with one dress rehearsal before each concert. Always support the hard work of your colleagues by arriving punctually and prepared for all rehearsals and/or classes, dress rehearsals, and concerts. **SFYSA faculty also remind parents to promptly pick up children at the end of all SFYSA events. SFYSA assumes no responsibility for students or their instruments after rehearsals, concerts or any other events are over.**

Dress rehearsals

Dress rehearsal participation is critical for all students to ensure a smooth and impressive performance. Dress rehearsals are the only opportunity for the ensemble to rehearse in the concert venue, where the set-up and acoustic conditions are substantially different from the rehearsal space.

- In order for students to be eligible to perform at a concert, they must be present for the dress rehearsal
- Students who anticipate a conflict with the dress rehearsal must notify their conductor two (2) weeks before any concert

Call Time

Call is the time you are to arrive at the rehearsal, class, dress rehearsal, or concert space. The call time is always earlier than the start of the event itself, to give preparation time.

Take care of these things at Call:

- Snack, water, and bathroom needs
- Wash and dry hands
- Getting your music-stand off the rack
- Preparing your instrument, sheet-music, pencils and erasers

IV. Specific Policies By Program

SFYSA subscribes to the philosophy that a strong collaboration between school music programs and SFYSA maximizes the musical growth of our members. All students are required to follow all general ensemble policies as well as those policies of their specific ensembles.

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to any Orchestra, students must meet these requirements:

- A successful placement audition (does not apply to PSO)
- Private lessons on the student's ensemble instrument
- Concurrent enrollment in the student's school ensemble, if the ensemble is offered and the student is eligible

Concert Dress for Indoor Concerts

| <u>Gentlemen</u> | <u>Ladies</u> | <u>Not Permitted</u> |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All Black <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Dress shoes ◦ Socks ◦ Slacks ◦ Dress shirt (button-down, collared, long-sleeve) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All Black <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Dress Shoes ◦ Socks, hose, or stockings ◦ Slacks, dress, or skirt ◦ Blouse or dress-top <p><i>*Dresses and skirts must fall to mid-calf when seated*</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jeans ● Torn or dirty clothing ● Spaghetti straps ● Strapless tops or dresses ● Bare midriffs ● Non-dress shoes |

Please Note

- Speak to your conductor at least two (2) weeks before the concert if the dress code poses an issue for you.
- Students who do not meet the dress code may not be allowed to perform.
- For Con Vivo! Only - Additionally, a color may be coordinated with your ensemble.

Chair-Placement Auditions

Chair-placement auditions are held independently within each Orchestra, usually at the start or middle of each semester. They serve to organize the placement of all string players within an orchestra. Typically, chair-placement auditions use excerpts from the current semester's repertory, and are closed to the public and other members of the orchestra. The process, excerpts, judge selection, and even whether to have chair-placement auditions are all at the conductor's discretion, and appeals may not be granted.

Youth Symphony Orchestra

Concerto Competition

The YSO Concerto Competition is held in May of each year.

- Competition candidates must be members of YSO
- Competition repertory is subject to approval by the YSO conductor
- Candidates will have a ten-minute audition slot. If the work is more than ten minutes, candidates should prepare 8 minutes' worth of excerpts from the work. Candidates may consult with their private teacher, YSO conductor, or other SFYSA faculty when choosing Competition excerpts
- Candidates must audition with piano accompaniment
- At the YSO conductor's discretion, the winner may be asked to perform a work other than their Competition work
- Competition results are final; the Competition is offered often enough that students will have more than one opportunity to compete during their YSO career
- A Competition may not necessarily result in a winning soloist

V. Student & Parent Signature Page

Sign this page, then remove it and turn it in to your conductor or teacher at the first meeting of the year.

REQUIRED NEXT STEP

Print this page, and give it to your conductor or teacher at the first meeting of the year. Or use this link to fill it out online:

<https://airtable.com/shrWDYs1T1D0I9u15>

My signature below indicates that I have read the sections of this Handbook that apply to me and my respective program(s); that I have understood what I have read; that I have received satisfactory answers from SFYSA faculty for all of my questions concerning this Handbook; and that I agree to abide by the policies explained herein as they apply to me. I further understand that I may not be allowed to participate in SFYSA if I have not signed below and submitted this page to my conductor or teacher.

Printed Name of Student

Signature of Student *(not required for Elementary Strings students)*

Date

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date