

The logo features a stylized graphic on the left composed of overlapping shapes in blue, red, and yellow, resembling a musical instrument or a stylized letter. To the right of the graphic, the text "Philharmonic Association" is written in a large, black, serif font, and "Triangle Youth Music" is written below it in a slightly smaller, black, serif font.

Philharmonic Association Triangle Youth Music

String Orchestra Handbook

For the members and families of the Triangle Youth String Orchestra (TYSO), a beginning string orchestra for students in 4th grade and above, and Triangle Youth String Sinfonia (Sinfonia or TYSS), a continuing string orchestra for students in 7th grade and above.

Welcome to the Philharmonic Association (PA). Success depends on a joint effort between the PA staff, musicians, and parents. Please take time to become familiar with the contents of this handbook as it will contain valuable information that you will need throughout the year. Acceptance into a Philharmonic Association orchestra comes with responsibility and we depend on musicians and their families to be fully informed. This handbook will cover:

- Responsibilities of membership including attendance
- Dress Rehearsal and Concerts including concert dress
- Calendar
- Fees
- Volunteering
- Special Events
- Concert Tickets
- Photography and Videography

Membership

TYSO membership is open to any string instrument musician in grades 4 and above.

Sinfonia is for string instrument musicians in grades 7 – 12.

1. There is no entrance audition for TYSO. Members who wish to be section leaders or play in the first violin section will play a short audition one week before the first rehearsal. New Sinfonia musicians are asked to play a scale and the Skill Sheet posted online to ascertain readiness to perform Sinfonia repertoire. Returning members who want to be considered for section leader positions, or to move from the second violin section to the first, should also play the skill sheet for the conductor.
2. The PA recognizes the paramount importance of school music programs and the dedicated and expert instruction of their teachers. We expect our musicians to participate in their

school music programs. If a musician is enrolled in a school music program and drops out of that program after an appointment to a PA ensemble, the PA appointment will be rescinded.

3. Members will have a more positive experience if they study with a private music teacher. Therefore, we highly recommend private music lessons.

Responsibilities

1. Each member is expected to be a good representative of TYSO and Sinfonia whenever participating in a PA ensemble activity. This includes behavior during breaks as well as before and after rehearsals and concerts. All rules of the community and host facilities must be observed. Inappropriate conduct can result in termination of membership.
1. Absences and conflicts must be reported to your attendance volunteer as soon as you become aware of them.
2. Each member is expected to consult the PA website (www.philharmonic-association.org) and read e-mail for pertinent news information.
3. No food, beverage, gum, homework or cell phones are allowed in the rehearsals or concerts.
4. No member is allowed to leave the facility during breaks.
5. Each member should own a portable music stand and bring it, upon request, with his/her name on each piece.
6. All members are responsible for practicing at home and seeking help from a private teacher to learn their individual parts.
7. Volunteer hours will not be offered for regular rehearsals. Concerts, special events, and volunteer activities like coat check or stage crew will qualify.

Attendance Policy

A music ensemble is a collective effort requiring every member's full participation. The absence of one person affects the entire group. All musicians are responsible to their colleagues, themselves, and ultimately to the music itself. A serious commitment to the ensemble will ensure a quality musical experience for all its members. The following guidelines are followed to accommodate unavoidable conflicts such as illness, death in the family, required school performances, and established religious holidays.

1. Members shall have no more than two absences per semester. Those members holding positions of leadership, such as principal players, are allowed one absence per semester. If a member is unable to meet these requirements, it may be necessary to adjust seating.
2. If a member accumulates more than four absences during the season, his/her membership in the ensemble will be reviewed and may result in termination.
3. **No one will be excused from a dress rehearsal or concert unless it is for severe illness or death in the family.** Musicians who fail to attend the dress rehearsal may be excluded from the concert. Failure to attend a concert may result in termination of all future PA membership.
4. It is the responsibility of members to notify Artistic Staff and Attendance volunteers as soon as they are aware of conflicts with rehearsals and concerts.

5. If a member is tardy three times, it will count as one absence. Members are counted as tardy if they:
 - are not in their seat ready to play, at the beginning of a scheduled rehearsal or at the call time before a performance
 - leave the rehearsal early
 - if they are late to their seat after the break.
6. **Everyone is expected to be ready to play at the beginning of a scheduled rehearsal and at the call time before a performance.**

Music and Folders

1. Each member will be issued music and a folder at the beginning of the season. Only PA music should be kept in this folder.
2. It is the member's responsibility to bring the folder, music, and a pencil to every rehearsal and concert. It is each member's responsibility to keep the music and folder in good repair, and to report missing music to the Conductor immediately. The member will be charged replacement cost for any music lost. Practice copies will be charged at a rate of 20 cents per sheet.
3. The folder and all music will be returned at the conclusion of each concert. Music not turned in at the specified time must be returned immediately to the PA Administrative office.

Dress Rehearsal and Concerts

TYSO and Sinfonia will complete the fall and spring semesters with a joint concert with TYSO performing first and Sinfonia performing after a brief intermission. These regular spring and fall dress rehearsals and concerts take place at The Cary Arts Center. All scheduled dress rehearsals and concerts are mandatory and participation is a condition of membership in the orchestra. Dress rehearsal days of the week and times may vary and it is the responsibility of the musician and family to make note of these times. **Dress rehearsal and concert instructions will be emailed one month prior to events but ultimately it is up to musicians and families to stay informed via this handbook and our website.** Concert dress is only required for the concert, not dress rehearsal, and is as follows:

TYSO Concert Dress:

Boys: Black pants (no jeans), white shirt, long tie, black socks and black shoes. No jackets, tuxedos or bow ties.

Girls: White blouse with sleeves and ankle-length black skirt or full-cut dress pants. Midriffs must be covered.

Sinfonia Concert Dress:

Boys: Long or short sleeve black shirt with collar. Optional tie and jacket, but all black. Black dress pants. Black shoes.

Girls: All black. Dress pants, skirt and top, or dress, but all black. Hemline should be below the knee. Black shoes.

Calendar

The following applies only to Sinfonia and TYSO Raleigh members as they rehearse at a Wake County Public School. Please make note that the PA follows the Community Schools calendar. Rehearsals cancelled due to Community School closings will be published in the calendar on the PA website. **We do not necessarily observe WCPSS holidays or teacher workdays.** One noted exception is the traditional calendar spring break. Unless many rehearsals have been lost due to school closings, rehearsals will not be held the week of spring break. If the decision is made to hold rehearsal over spring break, this will be announced and added to the calendar but will not count toward attendance records.

*****Regarding inclement weather, if WCPSS closes due to any such event, Community Schools does as well so rehearsals are cancelled!! Likewise, if The Cary Arts Center closes, TYSO Cary's rehearsal will be cancelled.******

String orchestra calendars are emailed to each musician upon acceptance into the orchestra and are also updated and posted on our website. Please consult the calendar if you have any question as to the rehearsal schedule. Parent coordinators do send out reminders but ultimately it is up to the musician and family to be aware changes to the schedule due to holidays, spring break, etc.

Communication

Email is our primary form of communication and our parent coordinators work very hard to keep all parties informed. **If you are not receiving frequent emails from your coordinator, especially at the beginning of the season, please let us know there is a problem with your email.** Please keep in mind that our parent coordinators are volunteers. Musicians and families can make their job easier by staying informed so please refer to the information they send as well as the information on the website.

Fees

The annual fee for participation is \$340. Families with multiple musicians, or single musicians participating in more than one ensemble, will receive a 20% discount on the smaller participation fee. **No musician is turned away for inability to pay the participation fee.** Fees are waived for those in Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Programs. **Documentation will be required for need-based financial aid.**

Withdrawal from a PA ensemble after more than two weeks or involuntary termination of membership will result in forfeiture of fees and privileges relating to membership.

Special Fundraising Events

As fees only cover half of our operating expenses, the PA must rely on fundraising. Our **Musical Marathon** has been a successful fundraiser and we encourage musicians to participate. Musicians are randomly assigned to one of three ensembles, each of which plays for 30 – 45 minutes. In addition, musicians collect sponsors who agree to pay an amount per minute of music played, much like a walk-a-thon. The Marathon is a community event and has been held at various locations such as Bond Park Senior Center and Chavis Park Community Center. Last season we combined this with an International Food Celebration celebrating the diversity of the Philharmonic Association. The date for this event will be announced soon after start of current season.

The Triangle Youth Philharmonic, our most advanced full orchestra, performs an annual Holiday Concert as a benefit for the entire Philharmonic Association. This is another way that PA families can help support the organization. The Holiday Concert is a ticketed event and as all of our concerts, is open to the public.

Concert Tickets

Tickets for the fall and spring concert are sold through the Town of Cary Box Office and Etix. Please make note that Etix does charge an additional fee.

The Box Office is located in the main lobby of The Cary Theater (122 E. Chatham St). Box Office hours are T-F, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat 10 a.m.-1 p.m. A satellite box office will open at the Cary Arts Center (101 Dry Avenue) on M, 4-8 p.m. The ticket office is not open on Sundays, unless there is a ticketed performance. *An on-site box office will open one hour prior to all performances at the Cary Arts Center.*

Concerts are open to the public and we encouraged families to invite family and friends.

Photography, Video Recordings and DVD Sales

The PA does not allow photography or any type of recording at our concerts. We find that the use of devices is a distraction from those trying to enjoy the concert. Designated photographers will be present at each concert and the photos are shared with parents on the website Snapfish. All concerts are video recorded and orders can be placed at presales and at the concert. Media are typically distributed at the first January rehearsal following the fall concerts and are mailed after the spring concerts. Our DVDs are often not available until 8 weeks or more after the concerts. This is done as a service to our parents, and we need a minimum order to make this service viable.

Volunteer Requirements

The PA could not function without the help of our many volunteers. Each family is required to complete a minimum of 5 hours of volunteering per year. To work efficiently, each ensemble requires a team of volunteers filling specific roles. These roles include parent coordinator, attendance taker, and a stage crew. While these positions share a bigger time commitment, we have plenty of ways in which parents can get involved on an event-by-event basis. For these

positions, our parent coordinators and operation manager use Sign-Up Genius. Descriptions of our volunteer positions below:

- Parent Coordinator: Assists Artistic Staff to facilitate the smooth operation of the ensemble. Serve as liaison from the Staff to the Executive Director and Operations Manager. Must be available to send e-mail communications to parents and musicians. Works with the Operations Manager to recruit volunteers and coordinate volunteers for rehearsals, sectionals, and an annual pizza party to ensure that rehearsals are staffed with attendance takers, set-up crew, parent on-call and additional volunteers, as needed.
- Attendance Taker: Take attendance at weekly rehearsals. Contacts musicians to ascertain reasons for lateness and absences. Compiles data into Excel-type worksheet and provide reports to Conductors.
- Stage Crew: Set up: Come early to arrange chairs and stands in rehearsal room per the conductor's seating chart. Tear down and return stands/chairs to closet in the rehearsal space. Set up/tear down stage for spring and fall concerts and dress rehearsals.
- Parent On-Call: Attend weekly rehearsals to aide conductor when needs arise with musicians. Stay with musicians till all parents arrive for pick-up. Parents can rotate this job week to week.
- Photography: Photographs (digitally) group and individuals at dress rehearsals and performances. Submits photographs to Photography Team Leader on CD for upload to Internet. Must have own equipment.
- Concert: Monitor musicians in Green Room prior to dress rehearsal and concert as required by the Town of Cary. Assist the Cary Art Center with ushering during concert.
- Ad Sales: Sell advertising to businesses for fall and spring concert programs.
- Marketing: Assist in developing and implementing marketing strategies for the PA and performances.
- Coat Check for NC Symphony: Parents and musicians will work the coat check table at the NC Symphony concerts. Volunteers will receive complimentary ticket to the concert.
- Coat Check Coordinator: Set up and maintain Sign Up Genius for Coat Check volunteers, serve as first contact for volunteers, and ensure that all volunteer spots are filled.
- School Liaisons: One parent to communicate directly with their musician's schools music program to promote our program and events.
- Auditions: Auditions are a significant effort and require many volunteers to set-up and tear-down, to work registration table, and to act as room stewards.
- Special Events: Our Music Marathon and Swing Dance are just two of the special events in which volunteers are needed. These events require planning, set-up and tear-down, transporting of our larger percussion instruments, and a variety of task during the event.
- Community Festivals: The PA operates a booth at festivals such as Lazy Daze and Spring Daze. Volunteers act as ambassadors to our program, sharing printed material as well as their own knowledge and experience with the PA.

