

# **Dekalb Youth Symphony Orchestra**

**COME HEAR THE FUTURE**

The DeKalb Youth Symphony Orchestra was established in 1967 as an honor organization to foster and develop young musicians, to develop their natural appreciation for symphonic literature, and to provide an opportunity for student musicians from all over DeKalb County to perform together. For us to maintain the high standards that have guided us for so many seasons, it is necessary to publish a list of guidelines by which the organization is governed. Members must adhere to these guidelines strictly. They will be always enforced by DYSO conductors and administrators. Therefore, it is imperative that each participant in the DeKalb Youth Symphony Orchestra and their parents read and acknowledge the following guidelines and the obligations that these guidelines represent.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Any student residing in DeKalb County who is actively participating in their school instrumental music program is eligible to audition for membership in the DeKalb Youth Symphony Orchestra. Your school director will be contacted to determine your eligibility.

## **TUITION**

Annual tuition for DYSO is \$200 per musician and is due the last rehearsal in September. If there is a financial need, a pay-in-installments plan or tuition assistance can be arranged. Please send an email to [dekalbyouthsymphony@gmail.com](mailto:dekalbyouthsymphony@gmail.com) for more information or check the website. Any tuition assistance or payment plan must be arranged by the last rehearsal in September. Any information will be kept strictly confidential.

Tuition checks may be made payable to **DeKalb Youth Symphony Orchestra Guild**.

## **CONCERT ATTIRE**

The concert dress for the female members is as follows:

- Full-length black dress with  $\frac{3}{4}$  or longer sleeves or black skirt/black dress pants with black top, with  $\frac{3}{4}$  or longer sleeves, and black dress shoes (no flip-flops or other casual shoes are permitted).

The concert dress for the male members is as follows:

- black tuxedo jacket, black dress slacks, white shirt with black bow tie, black socks, and black dress shoes (absolutely NO athletic shoes of any kind).

DYSO musicians are required to comply with appropriate concert dress. This is not a time for individuality. *Professional concert dress is required at all events. No exceptions!*

## **ATTENDANCE**

### Rehearsals

The DeKalb Youth Symphony rehearsal is always on designated Tuesday evenings throughout the season. Please pay close attention to the calendar. All musicians are expected to plan their arrival to be in their seat, ready to play at the designated time. Members should be picked up promptly at 9:00 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE (continued)**

### Unexcused Absences

Three unexcused rehearsal absences within a concert cycle will result in a loss of seating and the player will move to the bottom of the section. More than three unexcused absences within a concert cycle may result in being dropped from the orchestra for the upcoming concert. A member who is dropped from 2 or more performances because of absences will be ineligible to audition the following year.

### Excused Absences

Only the DYSO directors are authorized to excuse a player for absence or tardiness. Absences will only be excused with a written note from parents or school directors. Excuses for absences must be obtained in advance of the rehearsal. The following reasons are acceptable:

- A musically oriented school **performance** (band, orchestra, jazz band, etc.) that is cleared with the DYSO conductors prior to the absence from the rehearsal. You can email: [dekalbyouthsymphony@gmail.com](mailto:dekalbyouthsymphony@gmail.com).
- Illness: Please make sure that you or your parents inform the orchestra of the illness BEFORE missing rehearsal. You may call or email: [dekalbyouthsymphony@gmail.com](mailto:dekalbyouthsymphony@gmail.com).
- Family tragedy: Please email [dekalbyouthsymphony@gmail.com](mailto:dekalbyouthsymphony@gmail.com) when it is conveniently possible concerning this absence.

Students are expected to arrange private lessons, work, homework, sports, and other responsibilities around the orchestra rehearsals and performances.

*Homework is not an acceptable excuse for an absence.*

## **MUSIC**

Students are expected to have their ENTIRE folder of music at each rehearsal and performance. Failing to have your folder at rehearsal means that you will be unable to mark your part. All folders are to be turned in the night of the final concert. Each musician is responsible for the music assigned to them. Use a soft pencil when marking your music. Do not use ink or colored pencil for marking music under any circumstances. Make sure that you copy and/or change all markings in your music as the conductors specify.

## **PRACTICE**

Students are expected to prepare the orchestra parts to the best of their ability. Seek assistance from your private instructors and/or orchestra and band directors whenever possible or necessary. Students should be prepared to commit the number of practice hours necessary to execute a professional performance. We encourage, but do not require, that students study with private teachers. The extra individual attention that these lessons provide assists greatly in the development of proper technique, as well as the further development of orchestral style.

## **REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE**

During all DYSO rehearsals, there is NO texting, use of cell phones, eating, doing homework or reading while we are rehearsing. There will be appropriate breaks during each rehearsal for these activities.