

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE OLATHE YOUTH SYMPHONY!

THE OLATHE YOUTH SYMPHONY CONSISTS OF TWO ENSEMBLES:

- **Philharmonic Orchestra** (7th grade-9th grade): The Philharmonic Orchestra is open to intermediate string, woodwind, brass, and percussion, typically between the ages of 11 and 14. Musicians seeking membership in this group for the first time are generally entering their 3rd year of school band or orchestra (7th grade) or have completed at least 2 years of private lessons. The Philharmonic rehearses weekly on Mondays from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.
- **Symphony Orchestra** (9th grade-12th grade): The Symphony Orchestra is open to advanced-level string, woodwind, brass and percussion, typically between the ages of 14 and 18. Younger musicians who perform at an advanced level may also audition for this group but only with prior permission from the OYS Directors. The Symphony rehearses weekly on Mondays from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

WHAT ARE THE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS?

- Every student must audition each year regardless of previous OYS participation. Auditions take place each spring for the following season. Placement is competitive and based on your audition score. Prepared solo selection will be judged on tone quality, intonation, rhythm and note accuracy, technique, and musical interpretation. Scales will be judged on note accuracy, intonation, and tone quality.
- Each OYS member must participate in his/her school ensemble on the instrument he/she plays in OYS. If a school music program is not available where the student attends, the student must be enrolled in weekly private lessons with a well-qualified instructor.
- Regular attendance is crucial to the success of the Olathe Youth Symphony. If a member is absent from rehearsal, they are required to report their absence prior to 12:00 pm the day of rehearsal. The link to report an absence is located on the OYS website. Members who accumulate more than two unexcused absences will be placed on probation. Once on probation if the attendance issue is not resolved the member will be dismissed from the organization. Absences due to school activities and illness are excused but still need to be reported in a timely manner.

HOW DO I AUDITION?

All auditions for the 2024-25 concert season will be completed virtually and applicants will submit a video recording. Instructions for submitting your video auditions are provided immediately after your application is completed.

1. Complete the audition application located on our website! www.olatheyouthsymphony.org
***Make sure to have payment information ready, as each applicant will be assessed a \$15.00 audition fee.**
2. Review the audition requirements for your instrument and group you are auditioning for (see section below).
3. Prepare for your video audition and submit!

WHAT ARE THE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS?

Philharmonic Orchestra Audition Requirements (grades 7-9, Intermediate Level)

ALL INSTRUMENTS

1. Scales: Scale requirements are different for each instrument. Each instrument is assigned two 1-2 octave scales depending on each applicant's current experience level. Use the link below to view the requirements for your instrument. PERCUSSION REQUIREMENTS are also available on this link. NOTE: NO TIMPANI AUDITIONS WILL BE REQUIRED!
<https://tinyurl.com/philharmonicauditionscales>
2. Solo: Perform a solo (1-3 minutes) of your choice that demonstrates your most advanced technical and musical ability on your instrument. The solo will be unaccompanied and DOES NOT need to be memorized.

Symphony Orchestra Audition Requirements (grades 9-12, Advanced Level)

ALL INSTRUMENTS (Except Percussion)

1. Scales: Play two scales of your choice (**one major** and **one melodic minor**) that demonstrates your experience and most advanced technical ability on your instrument. Students must play 2-3 octave scales at a slow to moderate tempo. No vibrato please!
2. Solo: Perform a solo (2-3 minutes) of your choice that demonstrates your most advanced technical and musical ability on your instrument. The solo will be unaccompanied and DOES NOT need to be memorized.

PERCUSSION

- Solos: Perform two solos (2-3 minutes each) that demonstrate technical and musical ability. One solo must be on a mallet instrument and the other on snare. NOTE: NO TIMPANI AUDITION WILL BE REQUIRED!

WHEN WILL I KNOW THE AUDITION RESULTS?

Audition results will be emailed **the first week of June** to the address provided on your online audition application.

If you are accepted into one of the ensembles, a **\$220.00 participation fee** must be paid by **July 1st** to hold your place in the ensemble. If an accepted applicant misses this deadline, their position in the organization may be given to an applicant on the waiting list. Alternate payment plans may be arranged as needed.

*Important note: Orchestral placement is at the discretion of the musical directors, regardless of the student's declared intent. Age alone is never a determining factor in orchestral placement; OYS ensembles are arranged by playing level. Orchestral assignment is made with intent to create the overall best experience for each student.