

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE OLATHE YOUTH SYMPHONY!

THE OLATHE YOUTH SYMPHONY CONSISTS OF TWO ENSEMBLES:

- **Philharmonic Orchestra** (7<sup>th</sup> grade-9<sup>th</sup> 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** (9<sup>th</sup> grade-12<sup>th</sup> 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 2025-26 concert season will be completed virtually with applicants submitting a video recording of the required music. [Detailed Instructions on how to submit a video audition is made available immediately after you complete your application.](#)

1. Complete the 2025-2026 audition application located on our website! [www.olatheyouthsymphony.org](http://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 the group you are auditioning for (Philharmonic or Symphony).
  3. Practice carefully for your audition. This is important and may take several days or even weeks to prepare. When you are ready, record your video audition and submit!
- Auditions may be completed at any time but must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm, Sunday, May 18, 2025.

## 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 multiple 1-2 octave scales. Use a metronome to become familiar with the tempo listed. No vibrato please! Please note that well-played scales are very important and represent a significant part of your overall score. Use the following link to view the requirements for your instrument [PhilharmonicOrchestraAuditionMusic](#)  
PERCUSSION REQUIREMENTS are also available on this link. NOTE: NO TIMPANI AUDITIONS WILL BE REQUIRED!
2. **Excerpts:** All students auditioning must perform Excerpt 1. To be considered for section leadership positions such as Violin 1, Flute 1, Trumpet 1, etc., both Excerpts must be performed. Please follow tempos carefully. Details such as dynamics, articulations, etc.... are very important and will be highly considered in scoring your performance.

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

#### STRINGS, BRASS and WOODWINDS

1. **Scales:** Play the scales listed for your instrument. Strings are assigned one major plus one melodic minor scale. Brass and woodwinds are assigned two major scales plus one chromatic scale. Students must perform each scale at a tempo of one beat per second. Use a metronome to become familiar with that tempo. No vibrato please! Please note that well-played scales are very important and represent a significant part of your overall score. Use the following link to view the requirements for your instrument. [SymphonyOrchestraAuditionMusic](#)
2. **Excerpt:** Perform the musical excerpt on page 2 of your audition packet. Please follow tempos carefully. Details such as dynamics, articulations, stylistic notations, etc.... are very important and will be highly considered in scoring your performance.
3. **Optional solo:** If you would like to be considered for a leadership position in OYS feel free to submit a prepared solo with your audition.

#### PERCUSSION

- Percussion auditions include 3 parts. One on snare, one on tambourine, and one on a mallet instrument. The required music is included with your audition packet. NOTE: NO TIMPANI AUDITION WILL BE REQUIRED!

## WHEN WILL I KNOW THE AUDITION RESULTS?

Audition results will be emailed **by June 8th** 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.