

OLATHE YOUTH SYMPHONY

2026-2027
MEMBERSHIP CONTRACT
www.olatheyouthsymphony.org

OUR MISSION

The Olathe Youth Symphony (OYS) fosters advanced level musical opportunities for talented young musicians in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of OYS is to foster, in cooperation with public and private schools, advanced level musical opportunities for talented young musicians in the southern Johnson County and metropolitan Kansas City area. We believe that every young person with outstanding ability and a willingness to work hard should be given the opportunity to develop their musical skills through the performance of quality orchestral literature.

TERMS OF MEMERBSHIP IN OLATHE YOUTH SYMPHONY

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT: Each OYS member must participate in his/her school band or orchestra on the instrument he/she plays in OYS. The Olathe Youth Symphony believes it is important for all its members to participate in their school music programs, if available, and expects such participation except in cases of unavoidable scheduling conflicts. Participation in a school music group not only helps advocate for fine arts education but helps strengthen the overall musical development of the young musician. OYS is not intended to be a replacement but an enhancement to school or private instruction.

ATTENDANCE: If a member is absent from a rehearsal, they are required to report their absence PRIOR to 4:00 pm the day of rehearsal (<https://tinyurl.com/oysabsences>). Students are expected to be in attendance and on time for every scheduled rehearsal. To ensure that the ensembles can attain the highest musical standards, the OYS music directors do not allow more than two unexcused absences per semester. We ask you and your parents to review the rehearsal schedule along with other planned activities on your calendar and note any conflicts. Please plan ahead! Keep in mind that your school band or orchestra performance schedule takes precedence over OYS rehearsals, however, OYS rehearsals should take priority over non-required school and non-school activities. The membership status of any student exceeding the allotted absences in a semester will be subject to review and possible dismissal from the organization. Use the online attendance form (MEMBERS ONLY section of website) to let OYS directors & staff know about absences/tardies.

PARTICIPATION FEE: \$235 Participation fee is due on or before June 1st. (Philharmonic & Symphony Orchestras). Families with multiple OYS members, the fee is \$230 per student. Payments should be made ONLINE by visiting the "Members Only" website at <https://olatheyouthsymphony.org>. Click on the "Members Only" tab, then choose "Make a Payment". If an applicant misses this deadline their position in the organization may be given to an applicant on the waiting list. Alternate payment plan arrangements may be made by contacting us at olatheyouthsymphony@gmail.com prior to June 1st payment deadline. Late payments (unless previous arrangements have been made) will be assessed a \$15 late fee. The participation fee is fully refundable through the first rehearsal. *After September 14, 2026 (day after the first rehearsal) no refunds will be given.

MUSIC: Music supplied to each OYS member is the sole property of the Olathe Youth Symphony. Music must be kept in good condition and returned when requested by the director. Lost, damaged, or stolen music will be assessed a replacement charge per musical selection.

CONCERT DRESS: The following is a guide to choosing attire for formal performances. The goal is to be a unified and professional looking ensemble. Performers should not stand out or distract from the group's performance. Students who are not dressed appropriately for concert performances will not be allowed to perform. Please contact olatheyouthsymphony@gmail.com if you have any concerns or questions about concert dress.

- Male: Black dress pants. White long sleeve tuxedo-style dress shirt. Black tuxedo-style coat is encouraged for Symphony members but not required. (Jacket is optional for Philharmonic members). Black bowtie (no patterns or other colors). Black socks and black dress shoes.
- Female: All black ankle-length dress (no sequins/designs). Long sleeve or 3/4 sleeve; If dress does not meet sleeve requirement, black blazer or cardigan may be worn. Black shoes. (Make sure you will be able to walk across the stage in them.) Cello players may wear black dress pants with a long-sleeved black blouse if desired. Palazzo pants are an acceptable option for cellists but must be dressy, all black, high waisted and wide legged. Additional detailed information will be available after our first rehearsal in September.

PHOTO/VIDEO AND ANNOUNCEMENT: Please be aware that pictures/videos and announcements regarding OYS students may be posted on the OYS website, OYS sponsored social media sites and YouTube Channels, and/or printed in OYS documents such as concert programs. Seldom are student names used except for OYS membership rosters; concert programs; special recognitions, such as awards, senior graduation, senior scholarships; and other avenues to highlight the accomplishments of OYS members. Questions or concerns regarding this release should be sent to olatheyouthsymphony@gmail.com.

REASON FOR DISMISSAL FROM OYS: In certain instances, there may be reasons to dismiss a student member from participating in OYS rehearsals and performances. Poor attendance, constant disruption of rehearsals, disrespect to directors, staff and other OYS members, physical assault, sexual harassment and inappropriate concert dress are examples of actions that may lead to dismissal. In the event of dismissal from OYS, participation fees are forfeited by the student/parent.

PARENT/STUDENT TERMS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

****Submission of your participation fee payment verifies that both member and parent have read and agree to the terms stated in this membership contract. *** PLEASE NOTE: Return of this signed contract is NOT required. It is for your records only.**

I, (parent) _____, have read the OYS Membership Contract. I will assist in seeing that the rules, requirements, responsibilities, and expenses are fulfilled. I will contact OYS directors for clarification if any questions arise. I will see that my student member attends rehearsals, concerts, and all required activities.

I, (student) _____, have read the OYS Membership Contract. I understand my responsibilities and the consequences which may occur if I do not fulfill my responsibilities. I will ask OYS directors for clarification if any questions arise. I understand that all the rules and regulations listed in the above contract must be followed or dismissal from the organization may result.