

Anchorage Youth Symphony

Member & Parent Handbook
2011 - 2012



Contact Information

Anchorage Youth Symphony
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Lee Wilkins, Anchorage Youth Philharmonic Conductor: leemwilkins@yahoo.com

About the AYS

The Anchorage Youth Symphony is comprised of two advanced level orchestras for students aged 9th grade and beyond. This is the second season of the Anchorage Youth Philharmonic, previously called the Anchorage Youth Symphony Repertory Orchestra. In addition, the AYS hosts a Chamber Music Program comprised of select students, chosen each fall based on seating auditions.

The mission of the Anchorage Youth Symphony Association is to build musicianship, inspire our youth to love music, offer enriching opportunities for music performance, and create a musical legacy that will sustain arts throughout the lives of our members and our communities.

History of the AYS

In the early 1960's many individuals recognized the need for an orchestra for the youth of Anchorage. Forerunners of what became known as the Anchorage Youth Symphony were organized and conducted by such prominent local musicians and educators as Kurt Pasch, Jeanne (Ray) Bruhn, Charles Gorsuch, and Marlow Thomas. Young musicians of that period were trained in the Anchorage schools and gave many concerts throughout the city.

In 1965 the Anchorage School District hired Frank Pinkerton as its director of music. In that position he formally organized the Anchorage Youth Symphony. As its music director, Mr. Pinkerton oversaw the expansion of opportunities to perform throughout the state, and the youth symphony's reputation grew steadily. The Elementary Honor Orchestra and Band and the Junior High Honor Orchestra were added to the district's program. The elementary and junior high orchestras and bands are still funded by the Anchorage School District, whereas the Anchorage Youth Symphony is now an independent, non-profit organization. Mr. Pinkerton retired in 1978.

Dewey Ehling replaced Frank Pinkerton as music director of both the Anchorage School District and the youth symphony. Until his retirement in 1986, he expanded the touring schedule, traveling and performing nationally and internationally.

In 1986 and 1987 Linn Weeda led the orchestra. In 1987, John Duff was appointed Music Director. During his tenure the orchestra toured Scotland. In 1991 Russell Guyver succeeded Duff, instituting a series of retreats to encourage the social interaction of members, as well as concerts in the Matanuska-Susitna valley.

Linn Weeda was again engaged as the Music Director in 1992, and continues in that position. In recent years the orchestra's program has expanded to include coaching by local professional musicians, many who were in the youth symphony as young players. Other activities under Weeda have included an annual recording project, a chamber music series, an alumni association, scholarships, and extensive touring.

Members of the orchestra are chosen each year during auditions in the spring, and are drawn from every public and private school in the area as well as from the Matanuska-Susitna valley. In previous years, students flew in from Kodiak, Homer, and Kenai to rehearse and perform with the youth symphony.

The symphony is sponsored by the Anchorage Youth Symphony Association and governed by the Anchorage Youth Symphony Board of Directors.

Without great music, education is not complete. Music education has long been an educational priority of the Anchorage School District with classes in orchestra, band, and chorus offered at the elementary, junior, and senior high levels. The youth symphony encourages and supports the music program within the schools in the belief that great music played well instills in young people discipline and the joy of great musical ideas.

Fees & due dates, scholarship info

Membership Fees for the 2011-2012 Season are \$375 per student. Membership fees or scholarship applications are due by August 29, 2011. A late fee of \$25 will be assessed for students who have not paid or submitted a scholarship application on time.

Members who withdraw before August 29, 2011, will have membership fees returned minus a \$25 processing fee. Members who withdraw or become ineligible to participate in AYS on or after August 29, 2011, will not receive a refund.

Scholarship applications can be found at the end of this handbook or on our website.

Calendar

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
15-Aug	Monday	4:00 - 7:00	Retreat & First Rehearsal	Alaska Center for the Performing Arts-- Students should enter by backstage access: corner of 5th & G Streets
			Featuring a Workshop on the Alexander Technique	
		Bring Instruments & wear comfortable clothes		
		7:00 - 8:00	Parent & Student Meeting	
22-Aug	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School Band or Orchestra Room
29-Aug	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
5-Sep	Monday		NO Rehearsal	
6-Sep	Tuesday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal Pending	TBD
12-Sep	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
19-Sep	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
29-Sep	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
3-Oct	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
10-Oct	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
17-Oct	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
24-Oct	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
31-Oct	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
7-Nov	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
12-Nov	Saturday	1:00 - 3:00	Concerto Competition	TBD
14-Nov	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
21-Nov	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School

28-Nov	Monday	AYS: 4:30 - 7:00 AYP: 3:30 - 4:30	Dress Rehearsal	Alaska Center for the Performing Arts
29-Nov	Tuesday	7:00	Concert #1	Alaska Center for the Performing Arts
5-Dec	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
	Holiday	No Rehearsal		
3-Jan	Tuesday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal at Bartlett	Bartlett High School
9-Jan	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
16-Jan	Holiday-MLK	No Rehearsal		
17-Jan	Tuesday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal at Bartlett	Bartlett High School
23-Jan	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
30-Jan	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
6-Feb	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
13-Feb	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
20-Feb	Holiday-President's Day	No Rehearsal		
21-Feb	Tuesday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal at Bartlett	Bartlett High School
27-Feb	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
5-Mar	Monday	AYS: 4:30 - 7:00 AYP: 3:30 - 4:30	Dress Rehearsal	Alaska Center for the Performing Arts
6-Mar	Tuesday	7:00	Concert #2	Alaska Center for the Performing Arts
12-Mar	Spring Break	No Rehearsal		
19-Mar	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
26-Mar	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
2-Apr	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
9-Apr	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
16-Apr	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
23-Apr	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
30-Apr	Monday	4:15 - 7:00	Rehearsal	East High School
2-May	Wednesday	TBD	Dress Rehearsal	Alaska Center for the Performing Arts
3-May	Thursday	TBD	Dress Rehearsal	
4-May	Friday	TBD	Dress Rehearsal	
5-May	Saturday	8:00	Concert #3 with ACC	Alaska Center for the Performing Arts
14-May	Monday	4:00	Auditions for 2012-2013 Season Begin	East High School
21-May	Monday	4:00	Europe Tour Rehearsals-- Tour participants only	Alaska Center for Performing Arts
through 25-May	through Friday			

- The Annual Concerto Competition determines the soloist for our 2nd concert. More information will be provided on our website.
- Seating: Initial seating for the season will be based on the auditions held in the spring. Within a few weeks of the start of the season, we will hold seating auditions for the fall. Another seating audition will occur in early to late January.

Auditions

Auditions typically take place in May, typically the week following our last concert of the season. Auditions are required for each potential student, regardless of their current status in the orchestra. Auditions may be scheduled in the spring by emailing audition@anchorageyouthsymphony.org. Music and FAQ are available on our website. Auditions for the 2012-2013 season are tentatively scheduled to take place May 7 – 9, 2012.

Chamber music program information

The 2011-12 Season will be the second season of the AYS Chamber Music Program. Chamber Music is performed by small ensembles and requires special skill, different from performing solo or in a full orchestra. Skilled Chamber Music players play with one another as if in conversation, leading to the description that it is “the music of friends.” Exceptional students from the AYS will be selected in the fall to play in chamber music ensembles. Participation in this program is optional but strongly encouraged for those selected. The goals for the program are to expand students’ musical horizons by playing with other exceptional musicians, in unique and fun venues.

We expect that chamber music ensembles will be available to play at select events and venues as early as December 2011. For more information on hiring an ensemble, please contact our Executive Director, Lynne McConnell, at 566-7297.

Tickets

Individual tickets as well as season subscriptions for performances at the Alaska Center for Performing Arts are available through Centertix.

CenterTix

Phone: 907-263-ARTS (263-2787)

Fax: 907-263-2716

E-mail: centerix@alaskapac.org

www.myalaskacenter.com

The Anchorage Youth Symphony will handle ticketing in other venues.

Board of Directors

Robert Harris, President
Matt Claman, Vice President
Stacey Moran, Treasurer
Celia Rozen, Secretary
Catkin Burton
Traci Caves
Debra Fitzgerald
Lisa Rotterman
Sharon Smith
Nancy Sopp
Kristi Thiel
Lynne McConnell, Ex Officio
Linn Weeda, Ex Officio
Bob Amos, Director Emeritus

Board terms are for 2 years and Directors are elected at our annual meeting each August. In addition, the AYS welcomes up to 3 students as performing members to act as ex officio representatives of the orchestra. A Performing Member Director application can be found at the end of this handbook.

AYS board members are selected on an ongoing basis depending on need. If you have talents you'd like to contribute, please contact Robert Harris or Matt Claman.

Committees

The AYS performs much of its business and fundraising through several formal and informal committees. We are always looking for volunteers! If you are interested in any of these committees, please contact our Executive Director, Lynne McConnell.

- Fundraising (including events)
- Annual Auction
- Attendance
- Scholarship
- Marketing
- NEW! Play-a-thon (tentatively scheduled for February 2012)

Refreshments

The AYS asks each student's family to bring refreshments to rehearsal one time per season. Refreshments should be brought to the East High music area, allowing plenty of time to set up or prepare, so that they're ready when the students are released on break. Please plan to help clean up after break is completed.

AYP break begins at 5:15

AYS break begins at 5:35

A snack list will be provided to parents at the August retreat.

What do you need to know about Refreshments?

1. The kids love the refreshments
2. The kids have more energy and the second half of rehearsal is much more productive
3. The refreshments help make the break a good time for AYS members to socialize
4. The kids are disappointed when there aren't refreshments.
5. We depend on parent volunteers to bring refreshments
6. Lynne McConnell assigns refreshment dates to make sure all rehearsals are covered and to make it easier to remember who is doing which days. (You can switch with someone else if you can't do refreshments on your assigned date.)
7. Kids eat (practically) anything!
8. Sample Refreshments: bagels & cream cheese, vegetables & dip, fruit, juices & water, granola bars, pizza, pasta & salad, etc. Please avoid overly sugary drinks & salty snacks

Support AYS

Donations

Currently, operating revenue covers less than half of the money it takes to provide our quality educational services. The remainder is made up through grants and donations from individuals and businesses. Our success depends on you!

The AYS is a registered 503(c)(3) organization so donations are tax deductible. Our Tax ID is 92-0082750. Donations may be made online through a secure service, by calling our business phone with a credit card, or via mail.

Please check with your employer about matching donations!

Ad Space Purchase

Ad space is available to purchase in our concert programs. The AYS has two regular concerts scheduled in the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts this season, and your business has the opportunity to reach more than 2900 inspired patrons with a program ad. In addition, many of our students keep the concert programs as a sort of yearbook, which they look back at for years down the road. It's a great way to build institutional loyalty while supporting arts education for some of the most motivated and successful students in Alaska.

If you choose, 50% of your ad price may be allotted to the tour fund for the student of your choice. Funds are maintained for each student and help offset the cost of future tours. Motivated families have been able to significantly reduce tour costs by working with local businesses to advertise with the AYS.

Program ad prices begin at \$75. Please fill out the ad form (attached at the end of the handbook) and return it by October 31st for inclusion in the complete 11-12 season programs.

Volunteer

With limited staff, the AYS owes its success to many hardworking and inspired volunteers. We welcome your suggestions and opportunities you help us find. If you know of a way to help us serve our students better, please let us know. We are always in search of new or better fundraising ideas. If you have one you would like to see the AYS pursue, please speak with us about how we can best support you.

Here are some of the established ways to pitch in:

- Silent Auction Committee
- Special Events
- Marketing Committee
- Corporate fundraising
- Grant writing
- Alumni Records coordinator
- Archives organization

- Board membership
- And More! What are your skills?

General Policies & Procedures

School Music Participation Policy

The AYS strongly encourages participation in your school's music program. Participation is required for members of the AYP unless a specified conflict exists or no program is available. AYP members must complete the School Music Participation form and return it to AYS staff by August 29, 2011.

Attendance policy

Please review and Sign attached Attendance Policy Form

Tardiness

Orchestra members are to be in their assigned seats with their instruments tuned and ready to play at the scheduled beginning of rehearsal. If the rehearsal begins at 4:15 and the member arrives in the building at 4:15, the member is LATE! Two late arrivals constitute an absence. Conductors have the discretion to change the seating of or dismiss members who are perpetually late.

Concert Attire

Concert Dress Code Requirements:

Standard dress is to provide a formal, uniform look that does not detract from the performance of the music, or draw attention to the individual. The following dress code applies for all performances.

MEN:

Black suit or tuxedo, white shirt, black bow tie, black socks and black shoes.

WOMEN:

Long black dress/skirt or loose-fitting black formal slacks; top with long or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves that covers shoulders and does not have a low neckline; plain black stockings or socks and black shoes.

ACCESSORIES:

No fragrances and no reflective jewelry/accessories.

Valuables should be left at home or with family members. The Anchorage Youth Symphony, its employees, contractors, and volunteers will not be held responsible for loss or damages.

Rehearsal Changes & Cancellations

The AYS makes every effort to maintain the schedule and calendar distributed at the beginning of the season. However, unforeseen events can cause disruptions. In the event of weather complications, please know that we value members' safety above all else. If you think that rehearsal may be cancelled because of weather, check your email and the AYS website (www.anchorageyouthsymphony.org) after 1:00 p.m. Decisions regarding cancellations/delays are made by that hour. You will be emailed regarding any change, providing the AYS has your correct email address. Because the AYS draws from a wide geographic area, the weather may not be the same throughout. Should rehearsal be held and you think that the weather in your area compromises your safety, please let your conductor know that you are not coming.

Rehearsal changes that can be anticipated will be announced as early as possible. Written notices may be given to members at rehearsal. Changes will be posted on the website and members will be emailed.

Required Forms

Registration form

Attendance Form

Invoice

Parent Questionnaire

Grandparents' Circle

Media & Medical Form

School Music Participation form (AYP only)

Optional Forms

Europe Tour Commitment Form

Scholarship Form

Ad Space Purchase

Chair Sponsorship Form

Performing Member Director Application.