



# 2024-2025 MUSICIAN'S HANDBOOK

JON HARRIS-CLIPPINGER, MUSICAL DIRECTOR

SEASON 70 • PLAY AND BE HEARD!

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Salem Youth Symphony Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that offers an exceptional musical experience to dedicated young musicians through age 22 from Salem, Keizer, and the surrounding communities. SYS consists of four ensembles: Mozart Players, Amadeus Players, Philharmonia, and Youth Symphony (*the premier ensemble*). We use SYS to refer to the organization. The term "Youth Symphony" refers to the premier ensemble.

**COMMUNICATION:** There are several ways to receive information throughout the year.

1. Visit us at [www.salemyouthsymphony.org](http://www.salemyouthsymphony.org) for info about SYS. To log into our **Musician Log In** use the password Season70
2. **Newsletters** are sent to the addresses provided on the online Registration Form. Please contact us at [info@salemyouthsymphony.org](mailto:info@salemyouthsymphony.org) if you feel you are not receiving weekly newsletters.
3. Be sure to "Like" us on [Facebook](#), "subscribe" to our [YouTube Channel](#), or "Follow" us on [Instagram](#)
4. Subscribe to the **SYS Google Calendar** on the SYS website. The Password is Season70
5. Locate the **SYS Information Table** during each rehearsal. A staff member or parent volunteer is there to answer questions, help check-in musicians and volunteers, and collect tuition.
6. **Remind** is a free, safe messaging app that keeps families up to date with what's happening in each SYS orchestra. To get information right on your phone, text the following to the number 81010.
  - **Youth Symphony** text @h9g6388
  - **Amadeus** text @d74f36
  - **Philharmonia** text @88dfa2
  - **Mozart** text @42g8h8g

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Kami Hettwer, Executive Director – [info@salemyouthsymphony.org](mailto:info@salemyouthsymphony.org)

Jon Harris-Clippinger, Musical Director & YS Conductor - [harris-clippinger\\_jon@salkeiz.k12.or.us](mailto:harris-clippinger_jon@salkeiz.k12.or.us)

Danny Hunt, Philharmonia Conductor - [hunt\\_daniel@salkeiz.k12.or.us](mailto:hunt_daniel@salkeiz.k12.or.us)

James Charnholm, Philharmonia String Advisor - [jwcharn@gmail.com](mailto:jwcharn@gmail.com)

Mac Mayer, Amadeus Players Conductor – [macmayer@salemyouthsymphony.org](mailto:macmayer@salemyouthsymphony.org)

Rachael Anderson, Mozart Players Conductor – [randersonsys@gmail.com](mailto:randersonsys@gmail.com)

**REHEARSAL TIMES & LOCATION:** Rehearsals take place at North Salem High School on Mondays unless indicated otherwise. *In the event that a rehearsal or performance venue becomes unavailable due to unforeseen scheduling conflicts, an alternate location will be posted as soon as it becomes available.*

**Mozart Players:** 5:15-6:15 pm

**\*Philharmonia:** 6:30-8:30 pm

**Amadeus Players:** 6:30-8:00 pm

**\*Youth Symphony:** 7:00-9:00 pm

*\*NOTE: If/when Fall Marching Band conflicts with Monday rehearsals, all Philharmonia and Youth Symphony brass, woodwind, and percussion will rehearse on Thursday instead of Monday. There will be additional full orchestra rehearsals on Thursday, including the first rehearsal, requiring Philharmonia and Youth Symphony strings to attend.*

**IMPORTANT DATES:** Refer to the SYS Google Calendar (password Season70) and Calendar page on the SYS website for updated and complete lists of rehearsals and events. *Dates, times, and location subject to change.*

- Sep 19, 2024: **First Rehearsal for Philharmonia & Youth Symphony**
- Sep 23, 2024: **First Rehearsal for Amadeus**
- Sep 30, 2024: **First Rehearsal for Mozart Players**
- Dec 14, 2024: **Dress Rehearsal**
- Dec 15, 2024: **Winter Concert**
- Jan 11, 2025: **Larry Garrett Youth Symphony Concerto Competition**
- Jan 13, 2025: **First Rehearsal for ALL ENSEMBLES**
- Feb TBD, 2025: **Youth Symphony Children's Concert in Newport**
- Apr TBD, 2025: **Philharmonia Children's Concert in Bend/Redmond**
- Apr 12, 2025: **Dress Rehearsal**
- Apr 13, 2025: **Spring Concert**

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:** In general, when Salem Keizer Public Schools (SKPS) are cancelled, SYS rehearsals are also cancelled. In the event of bad weather, SKPS district officials will make the decision by 5:15 a.m. that day to close all or selected schools or to delay the start of school. If no announcement is made it's safe to assume that the district is operating as usual. The latest information will be posted as soon as possible.

If you live in an outlying area, please use your own best judgment when deciding to make the trip or not. You will not be penalized for the decision to miss rehearsal if staying home is safest for you. Please use the online Absence Reporting form to report your decision to be absent.

**CONCERTO COMPETITION:** The annual Larry Garrett Concerto Competition is open to musicians participating in the Youth Symphony. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$500 and will perform with the Youth Symphony at one of the two season concerts.

**PHOTOS/VIDEOS:** Salem Youth Symphony often takes photos and videos for promotional use.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT:** In case of an emergency, when either there is not enough time or the parent/guardian cannot be reached, the musician may receive medical treatment. Every reasonable effort will be made to contact the parent/guardian as soon as possible.

**RE-AUDITIONS:** All new and current Amadeus Players, Philharmonia, and Youth Symphony members are required to audition each year. Auditions are held in early June for Philharmonia and Youth Symphony and mid-September for Amadeus Players. These auditions determine orchestra placement. Mozart Players is a non-audition ensemble. Teacher recommendation is required for first-time Mozart Player musicians.

If musicians are not recommended to be enrolled in or promoted to Philharmonia, their audition will apply towards enrollment in the Amadeus Players ensemble. For musicians auditioning for Philharmonia or Youth Symphony, all positions are open to new and returning members. Returning members are not guaranteed a position for the following year.

**VOLUNTEERS:** For SYS to run smoothly we ask each family to provide at least two hours of volunteer work per musician per year. There are several opportunities for volunteers: committees, front desk help, room set-up, room clean-up, chaperone, photography, videography, concert set-up, concert clean-up, and more. Shifts are posted on [SignUp.com](https://www.signup.com) (*Families who do not wish to volunteer will be charged an additional \$50 per musician*).

## 2. FINANCIAL EXPECTATIONS

- **Full-Year tuition:** 2024-2025 tuition is listed below. *Mid-year tuition for musicians who enroll in Winter term is pro-rated. Scholarships available.*
- **Volunteer Opt-Out:** We ask each family to provide at least two hours of volunteer work per musician per year. An online volunteer log will be available to track hours. *Families who do not wish to volunteer will be charged an additional \$50 per musician.*
- **Fundraiser:** Each family is expected to participate in this important budget contribution. Each musician is encouraged to raise a minimum of \$50 (\$25 for Mozart Players). To achieve this, musicians can register their name in the fundraiser, promote the event, and collect donations. Families are expected to cover any remaining balance. *Minimum goal: \$50 (\$25 Mozart Players)*
- **Concert Tickets:** Tickets are \$15 per adult can be purchased online, during rehearsal, or at the door the day of the concert.
- **Children’s Concerts:** Philharmonia and Youth Symphony perform Children’s Concerts in Bend and Newport each spring. *On average the trips cost between \$25-\$30 per musician. Scholarships available.*

**TUITION FOR 2024-2025:** Tuition may be paid in full in the fall (preferred) or in two or four installments.

**NOTE:** *Volunteer Opt-Out is an additional \$50 per musician per year.*

TUITION 2024-2025	IF PAID IN FULL	IF PAID IN INSTALLMENTS	
	Card/Cash/Check <i>Due Oct 15</i>	2 Installments <i>Due Oct &amp; Feb 15</i>	4 Installments <i>Due Oct, Nov, Feb, &amp; Mar 15</i>
Mozart Players	\$300	\$150	\$75
Amadeus Players	\$380	\$190	\$95
Philharmonia	\$400	\$200	\$100
Youth Symphony	\$420	\$210	\$105

**TUITION ASSISTANCE:** Limited Tuition Assistance is available. Forms are due on or before the first rehearsal. Please apply for tuition assistance only if needed. Aid awarded as funds permit. Musicians applying for tuition assistance should expect to pay a minimum of \$50 in tuition to participate in SYS.

The Application for Tuition Assistance can be found on our website in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).  
*If you are able, consider donating a tax-deductible contribution to the Joyce Epp Tuition Assistance Scholarship Fund to ensure everyone can participate in SYS.*

## 3. MUSICIAN EXPECTATIONS

**SCHOOL MUSIC ENSEMBLE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:** SYS, in support of public and private school music programs, requires students to be enrolled in a musical ensemble offered at their school for their instrument. Wind and percussion instrumentalists will participate in their school band program. String instrumentalists will participate in their school orchestra program. The policy does not apply to students whose educational setting does not offer a musical ensemble for their instrument.

**CONCERT CLOTHES:** The purpose for the following dress code is so the audience will stay focused on the music during the performance and won't be distracted by individuals in the ensemble. SYS strives to be inclusive and supports everyone's choice regarding the concert attire options listed below.

**MOZART PLAYERS, AMADEUS PLAYERS & PHILHARMONIA** (*all black dressy outfit*)

- Black shirt or blouse with  $\frac{3}{4}$  to full-length sleeves
- Black dress slacks to ankle or long black dress to ankle with sleeves over the shoulder or longer.
- Black closed-toed dress shoes with black socks or nylons
- Black long tie or black suit jacket optional

**YOUTH SYMPHONY** (*choose one*)

- Long black dress to ankle with sleeves over the shoulder or longer. Black closed-toed shoes with black socks or nylons.
- Black tuxedo/suit jacket and pants. White long-sleeved collared dress shirt or tux shirt. Black bow tie. Black closed-toed dress shoes with black socks. Black cummerbund optional.

**ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:** Members are expected to attend every rehearsal/concert. Each musician's presence is important to the experience of the entire orchestra. However, conflicts occasionally arise.

**MUSICIANS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL CONCERTS FOR THEIR ENSEMBLE:** Missing a concert should only happen under extreme circumstances, and *one-month advanced* notice must be given. Missing a concert affects the entire orchestra performance and will jeopardize your seating placement in your section.

**EACH MUSICIAN WILL BE ALLOWED:** Two pre-approved absences for each term (Winter & Spring). Musicians must seek approval of absence prior to the start of missed rehearsal, one-month advanced notice for missed concert.

**ABSENCES THAT ARE CONSIDERED APPROVED:**

- School music concert event at the same time as an SYS rehearsal.
- Unsafe to travel due to inclement weather.
- Sickness or family emergency/obligation.

**PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING ABSENCES:** It is important to notify us *in advance* about any absence so that the conductors can plan accordingly.

- As soon as you know you will be absent, fill out the [Absence Request Form](#) located on our website on the Musicians Log In page, password Season70
- In *addition* to filling out the form, you may verbally notify your conductor.
- For last minute illnesses or emergencies, please contact Kami Hettwer: 503.485.2244, [info@salemyouthsymony.org](mailto:info@salemyouthsymony.org).

**REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS:**

- Follow all Covid protocols as per Salem-Keizer School District as well as any additional rehearsal and performance venues.
- Arrive about 10 minutes early so that you are in your seat with all necessary equipment (including pencils), warmed up, and ready to play at the start of the rehearsal.
- Come to rehearsals musically prepared.

- Conduct yourself in a respectful manner toward the conductor and fellow musicians.  
*See Code of Conduct.*
- Do not eat, drink, or chew gum during rehearsals or concerts (*water ok in closed container*).
- Cell phone use is prohibited during rehearsals and concerts.
- Remain in designated areas during breaks.
- Understand the Attendance Requirements.

#### **4. SALEM YOUTH SYMPHONY CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each person involved with SYS has the right to an environment that promotes creativity and learning, and that prohibits harassment, discrimination, and bullying. While attending SYS rehearsals and SYS-sponsored activities, musicians are expected to follow these basic rules, procedures, and expectations:

1. Your priority is to learn and create music. Avoid distractions that interfere with or are counter-intuitive to that mission.
2. Always follow Rehearsal and Performance expectations.
3. Smoking, drugs, and alcohol are strictly forbidden during any SYS activity.
4. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself and never intentionally harm another person or property around you.
5. Always use appropriate language and behavior while maintaining friendly and courteous behavior.
6. Be polite and conduct yourself in a respectful manner towards everyone including conductors, section coaches, SYS representatives, designated chaperones, fellow musicians, and visitors.
7. Improper public display of affection during any SYS activity is not in good taste and will not be allowed. Modesty and respect for others is the guideline for appropriate behavior.
8. Do not harass or bully. If you see someone being harassed or bullied, intervene by telling them to stop or immediately report it to an SYS representative.
9. Represent yourself in a manner that you will be proud of in ten years. You only get one opportunity to get life right. Take advantage of the opportunities you have during your school years. They will help you be successful throughout your life.