



# ***The Dublin Youth String Orchestra***

Matthew R. Hawley, Mike Brosius, Kathryn Liddle & Emily Rhoadhouse - Directors

## ***PURPOSE & MISSION***

DYSO was founded in 2000 as an outlet for students who desire a challenge above and beyond their regular classwork. We strive to produce an enriching musical environment where students can not only improve in technical ability, but more importantly in expressive musicianship. For that reason, students must have a high technical ability upon entering DYSO and must also be self-motivated in their musical preparation.

DYSO also serves as a community liaison between the greater Columbus area and the Dublin City Schools. Therefore, students must demonstrate the highest integrity and support for the Dublin music community. As part of this, students are required to be in their school orchestra as a qualification for acceptance into DYSO, and must continue in their school orchestra program during each year that they participate in DYSO.

## ***STUDENT HANDBOOK***

\*updated September 15, 2019

### **PARTICIPATION FEES**

- ◆ The directors of DYSO receive no compensation for DYSO events, however we do collect a yearly participation fee from each member to offset orchestra-related expenses.
- ◆ Expenses of the orchestra include music, recording fees, marketing, apparel, trips, sectional coaches, masterclasses, audio music files, programs, and other miscellaneous items.
- ◆ **Please bring \$30 in cash or check made out to “Karrer Middle School” to the first rehearsal.**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- ◆ Membership is open to any Dublin resident in grades 5-12.
- ◆ Members in grades 5-9 (youth members) must audition to be accepted.
- ◆ Members in grades 10-12 may apply for an RA position (“Rehearsal Assistant”) which includes an online application as well as a live interview.
- ◆ All members must continue to participate in their school orchestra program.

### **ENTRANCE AUDITIONS**

- ◆ Entrance auditions will take place each spring (late May).
  - ⦿ Students must perform the C, G, D and A major scales (1 or more octaves, memorized), and a brief solo written for your instrument (**not** a piece of orchestra music).
  - ⦿ The solo should demonstrate the student’s current ability including advanced skills such as vibrato, shifting, and dynamics.
  - ⦿ Students may also be asked to sight-read music provided during the audition.
- ◆ Accepted members will be placed into the Green or Gold ensemble based on ability.
- ◆ Current members do not need to re-audition to remain in the same ensemble next year.
- ◆ Current Green members who would like to advance to Gold must re-audition.
- ◆ Additional audition information can be found at [www.DublinYouthStringOrchestra.com](http://www.DublinYouthStringOrchestra.com)

## **ATTENDANCE**

- ◆ All members, including RAs, are expected to **attend all rehearsals and performances**.
- ◆ Due to our short season and limited rehearsal time, members are asked to be absent **no more than 2 times** over the entire DYSO year. (Contact the director if there are extenuating circumstances).
- ◆ Members must notify the director in writing to arrange for an excused absence, **before rehearsal**.
- ◆ Members who do not honor this attendance commitment may be removed from DYSO or may be asked to re-audition the following year.

## **REHEARSAL ASSISTANTS (grades 10-12)**

- ◆ Rehearsal Assistants chosen through the interview process will have the opportunity to earn service hours by serving the orchestra. They will also have many leadership opportunities that will help prepare them for a career in music, should they choose to pursue music beyond high school.
- ◆ RAs will be responsible for organizing and maintaining the music library, teaching sectionals, taking attendance, updating the student database, holding seating auditions, organizing trips and set-up/tear-down for rehearsals and concerts, among other duties.
- ◆ Most importantly, RAs should be actively involved in the rehearsal process by helping students in need, marking parts, giving suggestions, and playing side-by-side with youth members.
- ◆ In this leadership role, RAs should abide by the same high standards set for the youth members, and should actively contribute to the success of the orchestra and its members at all times.

## **SEATING AUDITIONS**

- ◆ Seating auditions will happen 1 or 2 times per year as noted on the DYSO calendar.
- ◆ Seating auditions will be individual and the Directors have the final decision regarding all seating audition results.
- ◆ Seniority and past experience is not a factor in the seating results, only the member's skill displayed during the audition.
- ◆ Please remember that seating auditions are a small snapshot of a member's skill and the established seating order rarely is indicative of all of a member's ability and experience.

## **SHEET MUSIC**

- ◆ All music is property of the Dublin City Schools and needs to be treated with care and respect.
- ◆ Only pencil or highlighter should be used to mark parts. (Bring a pencil to each rehearsal!)
- ◆ If you lose your music, speak to our librarian to get another part.
- ◆ All music should be kept for the entire year! We will have concerts where we perform music from previous concerts.

## **AGREEMENT**

- ◆ By joining DYSO each member agrees to abide by the policies set forth in this handbook, **including continued participation in their school orchestra program**.
- ◆ Each member must act with the utmost integrity and maturity and is responsible for reporting any behavior otherwise.
- ◆ The Directors can dismiss any member, at any time, for failure to abide by the policies of DYSO.

***Additional DYSO information can be found on our website: [www.DublinYouthStringOrchestra.com](http://www.DublinYouthStringOrchestra.com)***