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ABOUT YMM

Youth Music Monterey provides high-quality music education and ensemble playing opportunities for youths within Monterey County through the Junior Youth and Honors Orchestras and the South County Strings Program. Each year, **the Junior Youth and Honors Orchestras** give approximately 100 students the opportunity to supplement their school and private music studies with high-caliber ensemble playing experience under the direction of professional conductor John Larry Granger.

Our Mission

To provide high-caliber opportunities and incentives for young people to enrich their lives and benefit the community through the performance and greater understanding of music.

Concerto Competition

Winner(s) of an Annual Concerto Competition are selected to perform their competition piece at one of YMM's concerts. Each student who auditions for the Concerto Competition performs his or her piece in front of an adjudicating committee. Strict rules apply; see Orchestra Manager for more details.

End-of-the-Year Awards

Each year, YMM awards students who have shown tremendous progress and/or skill Awards include the Ruth Fenton Award and the Outstanding and Most Improved Musician Awards.

9.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing information & physical address

Youth Music Monterey
546 Hartnell St, Ste B, Monterey, CA 93940

***Please be sure to call before visiting the YMM office to determine if staff are on-site to meet with you.*

YMM office phone

831-375-1992

Rehearsal & concert phone (Absence notification, emergencies)

831-521-9302 Cell

Email

info@youthmusicmonterey.org

Concert information, directions, general information

www.youthmusicmonterey.org



photographs by Patrice Ward

PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK

Revised August, 2010

THE JUNIOR YOUTH AND HONORS ORCHESTRAS OF YOUTH MUSIC MONTEREY

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CODE OF CONDUCT

Each Junior Youth and Honors Orchestra member is considered an ambassador for the organization because each member's behavior reflects upon the entire group. In this capacity, members are expected to come to rehearsal well-prepared, use good manners, display common courtesy, and show consideration for others. Additionally, members are expected to give their full attention and respect to the Conductor, Coaches, and Orchestra Manager as well as to act respectfully toward other staff and volunteers.

Orchestra members who exhibit problems with: behavior, attendance, musical preparedness, or any other problem that interferes with rehearsals or the overall functioning of the orchestra will be given one **Verbal Warning**. If the problem(s) continue after a member has received a Verbal Warning, he/she will be placed on **Probation**, the member's parents will be notified, and potential **Dismissal** from the orchestra will be discussed. **The Conductor reserves the right to dismiss any member who has received a Verbal Warning.** Once dismissed, a member may re-apply for the following concert set but readmission will be contingent upon YMM staff approval.

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PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents are obligated to help students fulfill their musical responsibilities to YMM by encouraging at-home practice, 100% attendance, and promptness and courtesy at all times. Active parental support helps foster a serious commitment to excellence.

Parents will be assigned to volunteer committees and asked to support YMM through volunteer hours. Please remember that tuition only covers about one-third of the cost of YMM's orchestra budget. To keep staffing costs as low as possible, your commitment through volunteer service is imperative.

There are many administrative and fundraising volunteers opportunities offered throughout the year and we appreciate your time to help with projects such as mailings, distributing promotional materials, and database entry. YMM also asks a for volunteer positions to be filled that require a little more responsibility, but are extremely valuable to the success of YMM. Many of the key positions are listed below.

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Concert Volunteer
- Bring Snack or Water
- Assistant Music Librarian
- Scrip Coordinator/Use Scrip
- IT/Computer Tech
- Mailings
- Distribute materials/flyers
- Merchandise Sales
- Graphic Design/Artwork
- Obtain Advertisements for Program
- Fundraising Committee Members
- or contact the YMM Office for a Complete List of Volunteer Opportunities

5. CONCERT INFORMATION

Concert Day Schedule

YMM's concerts are scheduled on Sundays, and one Saturday in February, and families should plan on devoting most of the concert day to YMM. The schedule for each day will be approximately as follows:

| | |
|----------|---|
| 10:45 AM | Honors Orchestra Dress Rehearsal |
| 12:15 PM | Junior Youth Orchestra Dress Rehearsal |
| 2:00 | Concert Begins (Youth performs first; concert usually ends by 4:15) |

Junior Youth and Honors Students are required stay for the entire YMM concert and watch from the audience when they are not performing. During the concert, Honors students are expected to sit with Youth Orchestra parents, if there is not adequate seating to reserve for them.

Concert Dress

Members are expected comply with the performance dress code and wear clothes that portray a professional appearance. If there is a concern about the professional appearance of the student, the student may be asked to not perform in the concert. YMM reserves the right to determine what is acceptable.

The YMM concert dress code is :

- **Junior Youth Orchestra:** White shirt or blouse, dark long tie (men), black trousers or below knee skirt, no midriff showing.
- **Honors Orchestra:** For women—floor length black dress or skirt or black pants and black top; for men—black suit or tuxedo with white long-sleeved dress shirt and black bow tie, or black pants with black long-sleeve shirt with tie, no midriff showing.
- **All:** Black socks or black hose, black dress shoes.

We keep a small stock of gently used concert clothing at the office. Please let us know if you are in need of a particular item.

Tickets

To help cover our concert production costs, we charge admission to concerts for all attendees except student performers. We ask each YMM family to make an appreciable effort to sell a minimum of 6 tickets for each performance. Tickets can be purchased at rehearsals, before the concert at the back door, or at the concert ticket booth.

Advertising or Sponsorships

YMM uses concert advertising and sponsorships as fundraising mechanisms for each concert. If you are interested in placing an advertisement for your company or to simply congratulate your child on his/her performance, please contact the YMM office. Sponsorship packets are available at the office if you would like to approach your company about making a contribution.

1. OVERVIEW

A message from John Larry Granger, Music Director

Youth Music Monterey's (YMM) Youth and Honors Orchestras are designed to provide high-caliber orchestral learning and performing opportunities. The success of the orchestras, however, is largely the responsibility of orchestra members and their parents.

Because an orchestra functions as a team, each orchestra member needs to do his/her part to ensure that the orchestra can reach its fullest potential. Likewise, YMM parents need to help ensure that orchestra members live up to their orchestra responsibilities. And because YMM is a nonprofit with limited funding, we also need parents to volunteer their time, skills, and energy to the organization.

We believe the benefits of orchestra membership are well worth a serious commitment. Moreover, it is when orchestra members make a commitment that they and the entire orchestra benefit most. With this in mind, YMM has developed the membership policies and guidelines that are laid out in this handbook. We hope you will read the entire handbook and trust that you will do your part to make Monterey County's Youth and Honors Orchestras the best ever.

2. YMM EXPECTATIONS

School Music Programs

School music programs play a significant role in making this organization possible, and we expect members to participate in their local, primary or secondary school band or orchestra program. Please realize that your school music organization should take priority over YMM. Moreover, YMM members are expected to act as leaders within their school instrumental music programs.

Students must demonstrate their enrollment in their school music program at the beginning of each year with YMM. A form will be provided that requires the signature of a school music teacher to verify enrollment.

YMM staff will be in contact with music teachers throughout the year to confirm that YMM members are still enrolled. If at any time during the season it is determined that a student is not fulfilling their school music program requirement, YMM will ask the parent/student to:

- 1) Submit written permission from the school instrumental music teacher and/or principal explaining the circumstances and waiving them from participating in their school music program. Most often, this waiver is due to an unchangeable academic conflict in the student's schedule.
- 2) If a mutually agreeable solution cannot be reached between the parent/student and their school, the case will be reviewed by a Committee of YMM Board Members. Further action (including possible dismissal from the orchestra) will be determined by this Board Committee, based upon staff reports, and written statements from the student, their family, and/or school staff.

Private Instruction

Private lessons are expected for students in both orchestras; members not studying privately with a qualified instructor usually do not attain the skill level necessary to grow with the orchestra. If a private teacher is not obtained and student performance is below satisfactory, the conductor retains the right to put the student on probation or possibly dismiss him or her from the concert set or the orchestra. Limited private lesson scholarships are available through the YMM office; please do not hesitate to inquire.

Tuition and Registration

Tuition cost is set each year and is due prior to the first rehearsal. Please see the registration packet for complete information. Tuition is not refundable after the third rehearsal.

3. REHEARSAL INFORMATION

Important Note: All students are expected to be in their seats, ready to play, a minimum of 10 minutes before the listed start time.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Junior Youth Orchestra | 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm |
| Coaching (schedule to be announced) | 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm |
| Honors Orchestra | 6:45 pm - 8:30 pm |

Location: The Music Building of Monterey High School

Directions to the Music Building of Monterey High School

From Highway 1 (heading south)

Take the Soledad/Munras exit into Monterey
Move into the center lane at the traffic light
You are on Soledad
Cross Munras Avenue on Soledad Drive
Immediately move into the right lane
Turn right on Pacific Street
(see continued directions below)

From Highway 1 (heading north)

Take the Munras Avenue exit into Monterey
At the first traffic light turn left onto Soledad Dr.
Immediately move into the right lane
Turn right on Pacific Street
(see continued directions below)

Once on Pacific Street

Continue for approximately one mile
Turn left at the first traffic light on Martin Street
Turn right into the Music Building driveway at the yellow gate
If you start going up a steep hill on Martin, you've gone too far!

Preparation for Rehearsals

Members are expected to come to rehearsals musically prepared! Learn your music at home and take it to your private teacher for help as needed. Rehearsal time is not for learning your part. It is for learning interpretation, orchestral techniques, etc. YMM is a supplemental program that requires additional instruction and practice time outside the weekly rehearsal session.

It is the responsibility of all members to bring all pertinent music and supplies to every rehearsal and performance, and keep them in good condition. This includes all strings and tools needed to make simple instrument repairs. Members should also bring a pencil to all rehearsals. Music is never to be marked in ink.

Orchestra Seating & Testing

The seating order within each orchestra section is determined by the conductor and will change at his discretion. Seating is determined based on a range of considerations including technical ability, intonation, musicality, preparation, attendance, and leadership. After the initial audition, seating is usually determined during spot tests during rehearsal time. Section tests will only cover the first piece of music on the rehearsal schedule for any given day. Members request one "makeup" section test per concert set (see attendance policy for more details).

4. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Absences

Learning professional responsibility is an important part of YMM's program for musical excellence. Absences from rehearsals are detrimental to everyone's musical progress because an orchestra can only excel as a team. Absences often leave the orchestra without a critical part covered. With this in mind, YMM maintains the following attendance policies (**Please read very carefully**):

- Members are expected to be present and on time for all rehearsals and concerts. "On time" means arriving at least 15 minutes early **and** being signed in, seated, tuned, warmed up, and ready to play at least 10 minutes before the listed starting time.
- Members with three (3) or more absences in a single concert set may be required, at the Music Director's discretion, to demonstrate mastery of the music prior to participation in the concert. It is your responsibility to keep track of absences and to be prepared if you are asked to perform a designated passage.
- The Absence Notification form must be turned in to the orchestra manager for ALL absences. The Absence Notification must be submitted no less than one week prior to an intended absence. In the case of unexpected illness or family emergency, please inform the orchestra manager at least two hours before the rehearsal by calling 831-521-9302, and then turn in the Absence Notification form the following week.
- If a student misses a rehearsal at which section testing and seating changes occur, he/she may request a makeup Test. Following an absence, if a section test was missed, it is the student's responsibility to inform the Music Director of their intention to make-up the test **prior to the start of the next rehearsal.**
- Makeup tests will only be allowed once per concert set, and the test must be taken no more than one week after the original test was administered.
- Members are asked to plan carefully so that they will not miss rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and concerts.
- Youth Orchestra musicians must stay for Honors Orchestra performances, and Honors Orchestra students must attend Youth Orchestra performances. Absence from a concert without a reasonable excuse may be cause for dismissal from the orchestra.

Tardiness

Members are expected to arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled downbeat at all rehearsals in order to allow time for warm-up, tuning, and attendance sign-in. Members must be in their seats, ready to play, a minimum of 10 minutes before the listed start time.

- Attendance will be taken before each rehearsal. **If you are not signed in and in your seat five minutes before rehearsal begins, you will be counted as tardy.**
- Leaving early counts as tardiness.
- Two tardies will be counted as one absence.
- If you feel the tardiness warrants special consideration, it must be immediately reported to the Orchestra Manager.