

Longmont Youth Symphony Student Handbook

2019-2020

Introduction

Congratulations and welcome to the Longmont Youth Symphony (LYS)! This season our orchestra will work together to improve our individual and collective musical skills. Our expectation is that students work hard rehearsing their music; perform at their best for the enjoyment of the community; and most of all, be proud of their developing musical abilities and have FUN!

The purpose of this handbook is to give members of the Longmont Youth Symphony information about our philosophy, policies, expectations, and procedures.

General Information

The purpose of the Longmont Youth Symphony is to provide a resource for young people wishing to further develop their musical abilities under the guidance of professional musicians. The LYS is a community-based musical organization featuring young musicians from the St. Vrain Valley and surrounding areas. LYS welcomes elementary, middle, and high school musicians to audition; students need not be Longmont residents. We are one organization which encompasses three individual ensembles:

Longmont Youth Symphony Orchestra (LYSO): Our top honors symphonic orchestra comprised of our most advanced strings, winds, brass, and percussion players. This ensemble is under the direction of Mr. Keynes Chen. Tuition for LYSO is \$550. *Rehearsals take place every Saturday from 9:00 am - 11:45 am.*

Longmont Youth Strings Ensemble (LYSE): A strings only ensemble. This ensemble is under the direction of Mr. Robert Stahly. Tuition for LYSE is \$450 *Rehearsals take place every Saturday from 9:00 am - 10:30 am.*

Longmont Youth Wind Ensemble (LYWE): A wind and brass ensemble. All wind players in the LYSO are also required to participate in LYWE. This ensemble is under the direction of Mr. Anthony Kading. Tuition for LYWE is \$450. *Rehearsals take place every Saturday from 9:00 am - 10:30 am.*

Placement Philosophy

The Music Directors methodically make placement decisions based on playing ability and the current needs of each ensemble. Students are ranked by audition and placed in the ensemble most closely matching their musical skills, including superiority of tone, technical ability, intonation, vibrato, dynamic contrast, range, articulation, phrasing, rhythmic integrity, expressive style, and overall accuracy.

It is important to note that **simply meeting the printed requirements of an ensemble does not**

guarantee placement. Striving to provide the best educational experience for students, we take a holistic look at each audition and determine the most suitable placement for cultivating growth. Regardless of which ensemble students perform with, they all experience the richness of LYS's uniquely rich and meaningful educational approach.

LYS does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity/expression.

Musical Expectations

Admission to all LYS ensembles is based on audition. All students are expected to prepare two contrasting musical selections. Additionally, you are expected to prepare one major scale and one minor scale covering your full range. Applicants may be asked to re-audition on a later date if the Audition Committee believes that additional technical proficiency is needed. The Music Director makes the final decisions with input from the Audition Committee.

LYS acknowledges the indispensable role that community schools play in providing students with the desire, interest, and musical development necessary to participate in an honors orchestra. To that end, it is the intent of the LYS that every member who attends a school that offers music programs participate in those programs. We recognize that extenuating circumstances will sometimes occur. In this case, we ask the student and parent to write a statement to the LYS Board explaining the reasons he/she may be unable to participate in such a program. The Board will review the statement, may ask to speak to the member directly, and will notify the member of its decision.

Once the music has been assigned, you are expected to learn your part prior to the next rehearsal. Technically difficult sections may be identified for special attention, and you are encouraged to take the music to your private teachers. Remember, rehearsal is not where you learn your parts but rather where ensemble playing is perfected and music is created. **Please note that LYSO musical selections will be posted on our website at least one week prior to each concert cycle for members to [download](#) and print.** Members are expected to be well prepared for the first rehearsal of each concert cycle.

You will be challenged with difficult music over the course of the season. The Music Directors strongly advise that you seek the assistance of your private music teachers to help you learn your parts. It is recommended that all members of the orchestra study privately with a qualified teacher. If you are not currently taking private lessons, LYS would be happy to refer you to qualified teachers.

Rehearsal Preparation and Responsibility

Rehearsals begin promptly at 9:00 am. Students are expected to be in their seats at least five minutes prior to the start of rehearsal to set-up, tune their instruments, and be prepared to start rehearsing at 9:00.

- All members are expected to come prepared to rehearsal with a pencil including an

eraser, instrument, and their own music.

- All members are expected to regularly attend rehearsals.
- All members are expected to pay attention to all music directors during rehearsal.
- All members are expected to show respect and courtesy towards conductors, coaches, chaperones, staff members, and other orchestra members.
- Most importantly, members are expected to have fun!

LYSO Seating Philosophy

There will be at least one chair audition prior to each concert cycle (excluding the Side-by-Side concerts and the July 4th concert). The Music Director, on the basis of playing ability demonstrated at chair auditions, will assign principals, assistant principals, and seating for the remaining section players. A successful audition does not always guarantee placement in the front of the section. Strong players are often intermixed throughout the section.

Any member missing a chair audition will be seated at the back of his/her section for the remainder of that concert cycle. If multiple members from one section miss an audition, it is up to the Music Director, based on his/her best judgment of those members' performance abilities, to determine the seating of those members for the duration of that concert cycle.

If you must miss a seating audition, a live online audition may be counted as a valid chair audition with the approval of the Music Director. The online audition must be conducted **prior** to the actual chair audition date.

Members are urged to remember that all players are essential to the quality of the orchestra and that seating placement does not reflect a member's ability and value. Players having any questions or concerns with their seating should talk with the conductor. Every attempt will be made to resolve seating problems to the satisfaction of all involved parties. The final decision on all seating matters rests with the Music Director.

Concert Preparation and Responsibility

Our goal is to make excellent music together. All Longmont Youth Symphony ensembles are honors-level. In large part, the quality of an orchestra is determined by the quality of its participants—individual musicians. Therefore, each musician must be committed to working together in order to make excellent music as a whole. We have high expectations of our student musicians; we require a high level of responsibility, discipline, and dedication to being prepared for concerts. The Music Director reserves the right to remove a student from a concert cycle if they feel your preparation level does not meet expectations.

Concerts and Dress Code

Concerts represent the culmination of our members' work. It is important that members have mastered their music and carry themselves in a professional manner. To that end, members are to be on stage and seated by five minutes prior to the concert.

For the 2019-2020 Season, LYS ensembles will present the following concerts:

- Fall Concert (October 13, 2019)
- Winter Concert (November 24, 2019)
- Spring Concert (March 1, 2020)
- Finale Concert (May 17, 2020)
- July 4 Concert in the park (July 4, 2020)

Orchestra members are expected to wear concert dress at our Fall, Winter, and Spring concerts:

- LYSO, LYWE, and LYSE Ladies: black shirt, black skirt/slacks, black shoes and black hosiery. Please refrain from excessive accessories.
- LYWE, and LYSE Gentlemen: black shirt, black pants, black shoes and black socks.
- LYSO Gentleman: Full Tuxedo, or all black with black bow tie; black shoes and socks.

The Music Director will review concert etiquette (e.g., dress, tuning order, etc.) prior to each concert. If you are unsure whether your outfit is appropriate, please ask in advance.

Attendance

Attendance is expected at all rehearsals. The participation of all orchestra members in every rehearsal is critical in the preparation for the orchestra's performance. While it is recognized that there may be times where there is a scheduling conflict, all absences can adversely affect the preparation of the orchestra as a whole.

Attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory for concert participation.

Two absences in a concert cycle will result in the musician having to re-audition for the Music Director for that concert. Three absences may disqualify the player from the upcoming concert. Late arrivals and early dismissals from dress rehearsals are not permitted.

All absences, tardiness, or early dismissal for legitimate reasons must be presented to the Music Director and Executive Director in writing at least two weeks in advance. LYS supplies these forms at all orchestra rehearsals and on the [website](#).

Absences due to illness or emergency must be reported to the Executive Director before the beginning of said rehearsal or performance.

More than two unexcused absences in a season may be grounds for dismissal from the orchestra. Note that tardiness or absence due to misreading (or not reading) the schedule will be considered unexcused.

Contact Information

If you need to contact the Longmont Youth Symphony, please contact the LYS Executive Director directly.

Kristen Beeman: info@longmontyouthsymphony.org 303-351-1452

Acknowledgement

As a member/parent/guardian of the Longmont Youth Symphony, I have read, understand and agree to follow the guidelines, terms and expectations set out in this LYS Handbook.

I agree to actively participate in activities/events in support of the Longmont Youth Symphony, such as ticket sales, fundraising, logistics, direction and/or other, whenever possible.

I have read and understand the above:

Member's Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Fiduciary Acknowledgement

As a member/parent/guardian of the Longmont Youth Symphony, I have read, understand, and agree to the tuition and fee guidelines set out in this LYS Handbook.

I acknowledge that all monies paid to the Longmont Youth Symphony are non-refundable for any reason.

I have read and understand the above:

Member's Printed Name:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

2019-2020 Season Calendar

August 2019:

- August 10th -- Auditions 9:00 am - 11:30 am
- August 24th -- 1st rehearsal; Parent meeting (9:15 – 10:30)
- August 31 -- No Rehearsal (Labor Day)

September 2019:

- Sept. 7th -- Deadline for Fall StH Applications
- Sept. 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th-- regular rehearsals
- Sept. 27th and 28th -- LYSO Retreat at First Lutheran Church

October 2019:

- Oct. 5th, and 12th -- regular rehearsal
- Oct. 13th -- Fall Concert at Longmont High School
 - LYSO Warm-Up Rehearsal 10:30am – 11:40am
 - LYWE Warm-Up Rehearsal 11:45am – 12:35am
 - LYSE Warm-Up Rehearsal 12:40pm – 1:30pm
 - Parent volunteers begin to arrive 1:15pm; Doors open 1:30pm
 - Concert begins 2:00pm
 - Parent volunteers help with clean-up, usually finished by 4:30pm
- Oct. 19th -- regular rehearsal
- Oct. TBD LYSO Dress Rehearsal with BSO 7:00 pm
- Oct. 26th -- LYWE and LYSE regular rehearsals; NO LYSO Rehearsal
- Oct. 26th -- LYSO/BSO Side-by-Side Halloween Concert 1:00 pm (TBD)

November 2019:

- Nov. 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd -- Regular rehearsals
- Nov. 24th -- Winter Concert at Longmont High School
 - LYSO Warm-Up Rehearsal 10:30am – 11:40am
 - LYWE Warm-Up Rehearsal 11:45am – 12:35am
 - LYSE Warm-Up Rehearsal 12:40pm – 1:30pm
 - Parent volunteers begin to arrive 1:15pm; Doors open 1:30pm
 - Concert begins 2:00pm
 - Parent volunteers help with clean-up, usually finished by 4:30pm
- Nov. 28th -- Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 30th thru Dec. 28th -- Winter Break, no rehearsals

December 2019:

- No rehearsals, winter break
- December 14th -- Mid-Season Auditions 9:00 am-12:00 pm

January 2020:

- Jan. 4th -- Resume regular rehearsals (Location TBD)
- Jan. 11th -- Deadline for Spring StH Applications
- Jan. 11th, 18th, and 25th -- Regular rehearsals

February 2020:

- Feb. 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th -- Regular rehearsal
- Feb. 13 -- LYSO/LSO Rehearsal 7:00 pm

- Feb. 14 -- LYSO/LSO Dress Rehearsal 7:00 pm
- Feb. 15 -- LYSO/LSO Side-by-Side Concert and Silent Auction 7:30 pm

March 2020:

- **March 1st -- Spring Concert**
 - LYSO Warm-Up Rehearsal 10:30am – 11:40am
 - LYWE Warm-Up Rehearsal 11:45am – 12:35am
 - LYSE Warm-Up Rehearsal 12:40pm – 1:30pm
 - Parent volunteers begin to arrive 10:30am
 - Doors open 1:30pm, Concert begins 2:00pm
 - Parent volunteers help with clean-up, usually finished by 4:30pm
- March 7th, and 14th -- Regular rehearsals
- March 21st through March 28th -- Spring Break (no rehearsals)

April 2020:

- April 4th, 11th-- Regular rehearsals
- **April 10th and 11th -- LYSO Spring Retreat at First Lutheran Church**
- April 18th, and 25th -- Regular rehearsals

May 2020:

- May 2nd -- Regular rehearsal and Open House Rehearsal
- May 9th, and 16th -- Regular rehearsals
- **May 17th -- Season Finale Gala Concert (Notes and Noodles style to include student awards. Details TBD)**

June 2020:

- June 6th and 7th -- Auditions for 2020-2021 Season (First Lutheran Church)
 - Saturday – 9:00am – 4:00pm
 - Sunday – 1:00pm – 4:00pm

July 2020:

- **July 4 -- Concert in the Park (rehearsals TBD)**
 - Call time: 11:30 am
 - Concert begins at 12:00 pm