

CORVALLIS YOUTH SYMPHONY HANDBOOK — 2024-25 SEASON

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CYSA MISSION

The Corvallis Youth Symphony Association (CYSA) is a non-profit dedicated to providing young people with opportunities for exceptional musical experiences, enhancing school music programs, and developing an awareness and appreciation of great music in the community and for our students.

CYSA is committed to being a welcoming and safe community for young musicians and their families of all cultures, races, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and circumstances.

CYSA CONCERT CALENDAR

Corvallis Youth Symphony (CYS)

Winter Concert	Sunday, December 8 4:00 PM	LaSells Stewart Center
Cabaret Concert and Dance	Saturday, February 1 7:30 PM – Concert 9:00 PM – Dance	Ashbrook Independent School
Spring Concert	Sunday, April 27 4:00 PM	LaSells Stewart Center

Willamette Valley Junior Honors Symphony (JHS)

Winter Concert	Sunday, December 8 2:30 PM	LaSells Stewart Center
Mid-Season Concert	Saturday, February 8 4:00 PM	Ashbrook Independent School
Spring Concert	Sunday, April 27 2:30 PM	LaSells Stewart Center

Elementary Strings (ES)

Winter Concert	Saturday, January 18 2:00 PM	LaSells Stewart Center
Spring Concert	Saturday, May 31 2:00 PM	LaSells Stewart Center

CYS REHEARSAL SCHEDULE 2024-2025

All rehearsals take place at Crescent Valley High School (CVHS) on Mondays unless otherwise noted

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION AND TIME
09/08	Parent Meeting	Zoom, 7:00-8:00 PM
09/09	First Rehearsal	CV, 6:30-9:00 PM
09/16	Rehearsal	"
09/23	Rehearsal	"
09/30	Rehearsal	"
10/07	Rehearsal	"
10/14	Rehearsal	"
10/21	Rehearsal	"
10/28	Rehearsal	"
11/04	Rehearsal	"
11/11	Rehearsal	"
11/18	Rehearsal	"
11/25	No Rehearsal	Thanksgiving Week
12/02	Rehearsal	CV, 6:30-9:00 PM
12/04 (Wed)	Dress Rehearsal	LaSells 7:00-9:00 PM
12/08 (Sun)	Pre-Concert Dress Rehearsal	LaSells 12:00-1:00 PM
12/08 (Sun)	CYS Winter Concert	LaSells 4:00 PM
<i>No CYS Rehearsals from December 9 – January 5 for Winter Break.</i>		

01/06	Rehearsal	CV, 6:30-9:00 PM
01/13	Rehearsal	"
01/20	Rehearsal	"
01/25	Cabaret Retreat	CV, 10AM-12:30 PM
01/27	Rehearsal	CV, 6:30-9:00 PM
02/01(Sat)	Cabaret Dress Rehearsal	Ashbrook 5:30-7:00 PM
02/01(Sat)	Cabaret Concert and Dance	Ashbrook 7:30-11:00 PM
02/03	No Rehearsal	1 Week Break Post Cabaret
02/10	Rehearsal	CV, 6:30-9:00 PM
02/17	Rehearsal	"
02/24	Rehearsal	"
03/03	Rehearsal	"
03/10	Rehearsal	"
03/17	Rehearsal	"
03/24	No Rehearsal	Spring Break
03/31	Rehearsal	CV, 6:30-9:00 PM
04/07	Rehearsal	"
04/14	Rehearsal	"
04/21	Rehearsal	"
04/23(Wed)	Dress Rehearsal	LaSells 7:00-9:00 PM
04/27 (Sun)	Pre-Concert Dress Rehearsal	LaSells 12:00-1:00 PM
04/27 (Sun)	CYS Spring Concert	LaSells 4:00 PM

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Membership is by audition only. New members must audition with the Conductor.
2. Each member must belong to their school district band or orchestra if one is available (see [Participation Policy](#)).
3. Musicians are eligible to belong to CYS through age 19.
4. CYS members are required to participate in and sell tickets for the annual Cabaret fundraiser.
5. Parents of all musicians are expected to contribute volunteer time to the program and Cabaret fundraiser.
6. Each member must agree to abide by the Policies laid out in this Handbook.

TUITION & SCHOLARSHIPS

The non-refundable tuition for participation in CYS is \$680 for the year. CYS has half-tuition scholarships available for members with demonstrated financial need. Scholarship application forms are available upon request.

CYS tuition includes the cost of 4 concert tickets for both the Winter and Spring CYS concerts, as well as a CYS T-Shirt.

The Charles Creighton Scholarship (\$500) is given to a CYS graduating senior annually in late April, based on demonstrated commitment and volunteerism to CYSA's programs and a written essay application. It may be shared by two students. Names of winners are engraved on a plaque.

VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS

Each CYS family is expected to volunteer for the good of the orchestra, for both the program and the annual fundraising event. Positions range from a committee member to concert usher to Board President, and everything in between.

CYSA MUSIC FOLDER POLICY

Musicians are responsible for their CYS music folder, and for returning their folder after the final concert of the season. A \$20 replacement fee will be assessed for loss or damage to your music folder (includes tearing, stickers, marks in pencil or ink, or water damage).

CYS ATTENDANCE POLICY

CYS is recognized for the excellence of its musical performances. High quality demands a commitment of faithful attendance and industrious concentration at each rehearsal. Anything less is not considered acceptable for a group of this caliber. Any absence adversely affects the quality of the performance and the group's reputation.

CYS students are often committed to various other activities. Problems can arise when commitments conflict. Students who might have conflicts (e.g., sports and school activities) need to carefully study their calendars to determine the seriousness of the conflicts. When conflicts require a student to miss a concert, a dress rehearsal, or several rehearsals (3 or more), the student should not participate in CYS for that season. When conflicts are less severe, the student should consult with the Conductor as soon as possible to determine what arrangements can be made.

CYS will be awarding a perfect attendance award to any student who attends all CYS rehearsals and concerts throughout the 2024-2025 season. Students must be on time to every CYS rehearsal and event to receive this award.

PRE-APPROVED ABSENCES

If a student knows in advance that they will need to be excused from a future rehearsal, or will be late to a future rehearsal, they must get pre-approval. The request should be made by email **to the CYS Conductor, Mr. Duckles and the Orchestra Manager, Bettine Zimmermann** documenting the date and reason for the pre-approved absence or late arrival.

LAST-MINUTE ABSENCES

If an emergency arises or a student is ill and unable to attend, the student should contact the Orchestra Manager through email as soon as possible.

Homework is not an acceptable excused absence!

ATTENDANCE MONITORING

Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to tune by 6:20 pm. As soon as possible after rehearsal begins, the Orchestra Manager will call or email all absentees who have not been excused. After each rehearsal, the Orchestra Manager will report to the Conductor which students were absent or tardy and whether they were excused.

Three or more absences from rehearsal may be grounds to prevent participation in the next concert. Two tardies will be considered one unexcused absence.

It is IMPERATIVE that this policy be followed. It is not fair to the Conductor or other musicians to have a musician missing or distracting the orchestra when she/he comes in late. CYS is a team activity.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

CYS follows the Corvallis School District's inclement weather policy. CYS will **NOT** rehearse if school is cancelled in the Corvallis 509J school district on a rehearsal day.

CONCERT DRESS EXPECTATIONS

Concert Black: Formal black top with long sleeves ($\frac{3}{4}$ sleeves or longer), long (past knee length) black skirt, slacks, or black dress. Black dress shoes, black stockings/tights or dress socks, and minimal jewelry. Black jackets/cardigans and ties/bowties optional.

Professional dress only. *Tops that are sleeveless/strapless or have spaghetti straps are not permitted. No flip-flops or casual sandals. No leggings or jeans.*

CYS PARTICIPATION POLICY

While certain subjects in the school system are part of the core curriculum, music is generally viewed to be an elective program. As a result of this, the continuing health of the school music program during times of financial stress depends solely on its popularity within the schools. The single, clear sign of this popularity is the student count. Music programs exist because many students chose music. Often this choice is difficult.

The stated objectives of CYSA are "to support and enhance the school music program, providing talented musicians with an exceptional music experience." To help achieve these objectives, CYSA adopted a rigorous Participation Policy. **Membership in CYS requires membership in the student's school or district band or orchestra class.** Homeschoolers and students attending schools that do not provide band or orchestra classes are **strongly encouraged** to participate in a nearby school or community ensemble. Adoption of a more lenient policy would be to provide an alternative to the school music program, not a supplement. Such an approach would be competition to school music and a threat to the regional community of music teachers. CYSA will never do anything to harm the school program knowingly.

Under extreme circumstances, a review committee, in consultation with the affected band or orchestra teacher, may waive this requirement. Possible exceptions could be a scheduling conflict with a class required for graduation. Choosing not to be in a school music program because of conflict with other electives, choosing not to attend classes at available times, or choosing not to travel even though reasonable transportation options are available are not considered extreme situations. If a student leaves their school orchestra during the season for any reason, the student may receive a partial CYSA tuition refund, depending on the circumstances of why they left their school program. **A tuition refund of any amount is not guaranteed.**

CYS BEHAVIOR POLICY

Cell phones are not permitted during rehearsal and must stay in students' cases *outside* of the rehearsal room.

The rehearsal room is a place for learning. All students have a right to learn and the conductor has a right to teach and direct the rehearsal. Students are expected to respect others' rights and behave in a manner that (1) avoids disruption of the educational process, (2) protects everyone's health, safety, and the right to learn, and (3) safeguards property from loss or damage.

There are many ways to disrupt a rehearsal: cell phone use during rehearsal; talking during rehearsal; playing while the conductor is giving instructions; touching others or their instruments; and forgetting your music/pencil are just a few examples.

To have a peaceful, happy, and productive rehearsal, all students must be responsible for following the behavior expectations and for paying attention.

Students that choose not to follow these expectations may be asked to leave the rehearsal or resign their position in CYS.

CYSA ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

CYSA is committed to providing an environment free of harassment and safe for all. Students, staff, and volunteers are expected to be respectful of one another in all regards. If ever concerns arise, please communicate your concerns to a senior staff member (Executive Director, Conductor, or Orchestra Manager) and/or board member.

