

Utah Youth Orchestras & Ensembles

HANDBOOK

**Member Musicians
&
Parents**

Seek Beauty. Create Harmony. Scatter Joy.

WELCOME

Dear Member Musicians and families,

Congratulations on your acceptance into Utah Youth Orchestras & Ensembles, and welcome to the UYO&E family of musicians! We want your experience with us to be remarkable and rewarding in every way – musically, intellectually, socially, artistically, and emotionally. We hope you share in our excitement and enthusiasm for our new season.

We ask that all member musicians and their parents/guardians read this Handbook thoroughly and carefully and refer to it often.

We look forward to getting to know you better and to working with you throughout the season. Your acceptance into UYO&E represents a major commitment, but the benefits will be outstanding and will last a lifetime. **Seek Beauty. Create Harmony. Scatter Joy.**

OUR PURPOSE

For over 60 years, *Utah Youth Orchestras and Ensembles* (formerly known as Utah Youth Symphony) has served youth throughout Utah and the Inter-mountain West as the premiere training program for young orchestral musicians. Since 1957, *Utah Youth Orchestras & Ensembles* has nurtured hundreds of talented young musicians ages 12 – 21 with intensive coaching and development by the area’s finest professional conductors and musicians. *Utah Youth Orchestras & Ensembles* encourages artistic excellence by challenging our students with unparalleled opportunities to perform a vast array of unedited classical symphonic literature at the highest level in Utah’s most prestigious concert halls. As a training program for young orchestral musicians *UYO&E* has provided hundreds of youth musicians the opportunity to gain first-hand understanding of the experiences, processes, and procedures involved in being part of a professional orchestra.

A vital asset to the entire community since 1957, *Utah Youth Orchestras & Ensembles* has nurtured hundreds of musicians over the years. To this day, we continue to cultivate a long, enduring legacy of exceptional musical talent and music appreciation for future generations of musicians, audiences, and patrons of classical music. All UYO&E programs, procedures, and policies are applied equally to everyone without regard to race, religion, ethnic origin, national origin, gender, or disability.

VISION STATEMENT

Seek Beauty.

Gifted UYO&E musicians, professional conductors, and professional musician/coaches strive for beauty, integrity, and artistic excellence through musical expression.

Create Harmony.

UYO&E musicians collaborate to create balance and harmony while promoting these ideals throughout the community.

Scatter Joy.

UYO&E musicians enhance lives by contributing to an enduring legacy of joyful, passionate, musical distinction and music appreciation across all generations, especially among future generations of musicians, audiences, and patrons of the arts.

ORCHESTRAS & ENSEMBLES

Utah Youth Symphony Orchestra (UYSO)

The Utah Youth Symphony Orchestra, our original orchestra, was founded in 1957 at the University of Utah, and has been in residence there ever since. The Utah Youth Symphony Orchestra is one of two high school orchestras within UYO&E. Led by Music Director and professional Conductor, Barbara Scowcroft, UYSO challenges our students with unparalleled opportunities to perform a myriad of highly advanced, unedited classical literature at the highest level in Utah's finest concert venues. Numerous sectional instructional sessions are conducted with very low student:teacher ratios by some of our area's finest musicians, including musicians from the Utah Symphony, U of U School of Music, UVU School of Music, Ballet West, and other top-tier music instructors in our area.

UYSO provides exceptional preparation for highly-committed youth musicians expecting to major in music, enter the music profession, or to enjoy music as a life-long avocation. Musicians accepted to UYSO generally have several years of ensemble experience, ideally with the Utah Youth Junior Symphony Orchestra, are expected to be members of their school bands or orchestras, study their instruments with private teachers, and perform individually at the pre-collegiate or collegiate level.

We strongly encourage our musicians' participation in their high school band or orchestra for the exceptional benefits to youth musicians and UYSO. In turn, the UYSO experience enhances high school bands and orchestras. In addition, UYSO offers our students the emotionally, socially, artistically, and intellectually-supportive, nurturing environment of our 200+ UYO&E youth musicians and professionals.

Rehearsals for the UYSO

Rehearsals take place Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:30, September through May, usually in room 272 of Gardner Hall, on the campus of the University of Utah. This year, due to COVID-19, rehearsals may be at alternate locations as well as outdoors, when possible. All musicians may be asked to bring a folding music stand to each rehearsal.

UYSO gratefully acknowledges the University of Utah for generously allowing us to rehearse in their wonderful facilities.

Tuition for UYSO

Tuition for UYSO is \$500 for the 2020-2021 season. Tuition can be paid by check or cash, either by bringing to rehearsal or mailing to: UYO&E, PO Box 58168, Salt Lake City, UT 84158. In addition, tuition may be paid through the pay-pal checkout in the Members section of the website. On-line payments include a \$13.00 convenience fee. Tuition is due by October 31st, 2020 or you will be assessed a \$15.00 late fee. Tuition is non-refundable. We have a policy of not excluding anyone on the ability to pay. If you are in need of tuition assistance please contact us at uyoe@uyoe.org for more information.

UYSO Concerts

Due to COVID-19, concerts will be announced at a later date, and may include online streaming options for audience safety. We still hope to be able to do the Abravanel Hall concert in the spring, but this will depend on the state of the pandemic at the time.

Auditions

Please visit the UYO&E Auditions page of our website for complete information regarding auditions for the Utah Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Utah Youth Philharmonic (UYPhil)

The Utah Youth Philharmonic was created in 2008 in order to be as inclusive as possible and offer the Utah Youth Orchestras & Ensembles (UYO&E) experience to more youth musicians than ever before. Music Director Barbara Scowcroft determined that the UYPhil would be a natural response to an ever-increasing number of musicians auditioning for our original high school orchestra.

Led by Music Director and professional Conductor, Barbara Scowcroft, UYPhil challenges our students with unparalleled opportunities to perform a myriad of highly advanced, unedited classical literature at the highest level in Utah's finest concert venues. Numerous sectional instructional sessions are conducted with very low student:teacher ratios by some of our area's finest musicians, including musicians from the Utah Symphony, U of U School of Music, UVU School of Music, Ballet West, and other top-tier music instructors in our area.

UYPhil provides exceptional preparation for highly-committed youth musicians expecting to major in music, enter the music profession, or to enjoy music as a life-long avocation. Musicians accepted to UYPhil generally have several years of ensemble experience, ideally with the Utah Youth Junior Symphony Orchestra, are expected to be members of their school bands or

orchestras, study their instruments with private teachers, and perform individually at the pre-collegiate or collegiate level.

We strongly encourage our musicians' participation in their high school band or orchestra for the exceptional benefits to youth musicians and UYPhil. In turn, the UYPhil experience enhances high school bands and orchestras. In addition, UYPhil offers our students the emotionally, socially, artistically, and intellectually-supportive, nurturing environment of our 200+ UYO&E youth musicians and professionals.

Rehearsals for the UYPhil

Rehearsals take place Friday afternoons from 4: to 6:30, usually in room 272 of Gardner Hall, on the campus of the University of Utah. This year, due to COVID-19, rehearsals may be at alternate locations as well as outdoors, when possible. All musicians may be asked to bring a folding music stand to each rehearsal.

UYPhil gratefully acknowledges the University of Utah for generously allowing us to rehearse in their wonderful facilities.

Tuition for UYPhil

Tuition for UYPhil is \$500 for the 2019-2020 season. Tuition can be paid by check or cash, either by bringing to rehearsal or mailing to: UYO&E, PO Box 58168, Salt Lake City, UT 84158. In addition, tuition may be paid through the pay-pal checkout in the Members section of the website. On-line payments include a \$13.00 convenience fee. Tuition is due by October 31st, 2020 or you will be assessed a \$15.00 late fee. Tuition is non-refundable. We have a policy of not excluding anyone on the ability to pay. If you are in need of tuition assistance please contact us at uyoe@uyoe.org for more information.

UYPhil Concerts

Due to COVID-19, concerts will be announced at a later date, and may include online streaming options for audience safety. We still hope to be able to do the Abravanel Hall concert in the spring, but this will depend on the state of the pandemic at the time.

Auditions

Please visit the UYO&E Auditions page of our website for complete information regarding auditions for the Utah Youth Philharmonic.

Utah Youth Junior Symphony Orchestra (UYJSO)

The Utah Youth Junior Symphony Orchestra (formerly known as the Utah Youth Preparatory Orchestra), conducted by Dan Rich, provides a comprehensive ensemble experience for intermediate symphony players. Musicians accepted to UYJSO generally have intermediate experience with their instruments and must be members of their school bands or orchestras (where available) and study their instruments with private teachers. Literature is selected to broaden repertoire and learn more advanced techniques while following a conductor. A heavy emphasis is placed on sight-reading, enabling members to experience a large volume of repertoire while learning to follow a conductor. Student musicians learn listening to and understanding the different sounds and colors of each instrument, as well as how the colors of

their own instruments fit together in the whole and how to foster ensemble musicianship. Orchestral intonation is also covered. Students learn to work through difficult passages and deal with challenges specific to their instruments.

Rehearsals for the Utah Youth Junior Symphony Orchestra

Utah Youth Junior Symphony Orchestra meets Saturdays, September through May, from 9:00-10:30 AM. UYO&E gratefully acknowledges the University of Utah for generously allowing us to rehearse in their wonderful facilities. Rehearsals are usually held at the Fine Arts West Building on the University of Utah Campus. This year, due to COVID-19, rehearsals may be at alternate locations as well as outdoors, when possible. All musicians may be asked to bring a folding music stand to each rehearsal.

Tuition for UYJSO

UYJSO tuition will be \$300 for the 2020-2021 season. Tuition can be paid by check or cash, either by bringing to rehearsal or mailing to: UYO&E, PO Box 58168, Salt Lake City, UT 84158. In addition, tuition may be paid through the pay-pal checkout in the Members section of the website. On-line payments include an \$8.00 convenience fee. Tuition is due by October 31st, 2020 or you will be assessed a \$15.00 late fee. Tuition is non-refundable. We have a policy of not excluding anyone on the ability to pay. If you are in need of tuition assistance please contact us at uyoe@uyoe.org for more information.

UYJSO Concerts

Due to COVID-19, concerts will be announced at a later date, and may include online streaming options for audience safety. We still hope to be able to do the Abravanel Hall concert in the spring, but this will depend on the state of the pandemic at the time.

Auditions

Please visit the UYO&E Auditions page of our website for complete information regarding auditions for the Utah Youth Junior Symphony Orchestra.

COMMUNICATION

Communication will be mainly through email. It is imperative that musicians check their emails often, and that they let us know of any changes in email addresses.

We will also post important information on our website under the Members section.

Musicians are required to check email and the website at a minimum, *the evening prior to every rehearsal* for important information. Weekly updates will be sent by Thursday of each week and will include any changes to rehearsal locations and times.

Questions: For individual questions not answered in this Handbook or on our website, please email Matt Cowan at uyoe@uyoe.org.

OBLIGATIONS of each MUSICIAN

The orchestras within UYO&E are training orchestras; they are training their members to take their part in a professional organization. As a training program for young orchestral musicians, UYO&E provides youth musicians the opportunity to gain first-hand understanding of the experiences, processes, and procedures involved in being part of a professional orchestra. As such, you will be treated as professionals. In return, we expect you to behave professionally at all times.

Rehearsals

*Always bring a stand to rehearsal. While stands may sometimes be available, you are required as a member of UYO&E to always be prepared. We cannot depend on using the U's stands. Always bring your music and a pencil to rehearsal. Please do not depend upon other musicians.

*If you are issued music by us, you will be charged \$5.00 per composition to replace it your music. Please be responsible with your music, as it takes a lot of time for our librarians to make copies, as well as the expense. When possible, we will send you a link to download and print out your own music. We can only do this when the music we are playing is public domain.

*Take a minute or two at the end of rehearsal to help put stands and chairs away (UYSO). You may not depend on others to do this for you.

*Being *on time* to rehearsals means arriving at least 15 minutes before rehearsal is scheduled to begin - early enough so that you are in your seat, music ready, and warmed up before the conductor takes the podium.

*Be a team player by working together for the good of your section, as well as for the good of the orchestra as a whole.

Preparation & Practice

*You should know your part very well by the 2nd rehearsal after receiving the music. You are expected to practice at home as necessary throughout the concert cycle and to work on your music with your teacher in your private lessons.

Conduct

*Musicians are required to conduct themselves at all times in a manner which reflects positively on the character of each individual musician and the UYO&E organization.

*Musicians are expected to be supportive of and show respect for peers, volunteers, conductors, and coaches at all times.

*Musicians are required to show respect for all property, including property belonging to other musicians, as well as property belonging to our rehearsal facilities and concert venues.

*No food or drink - other than bottled water - is allowed anywhere in Gardner Hall, except downstairs in the student lounge.

DIRECTIONS to REHEARSALS (UYSO and UYPhil)

The address of Gardner Hall (1375 Presidents Circle, Salt Lake City), and any alternate locations, will be included in the calendar section of our website, under Updates.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

**Update to attendance policy – Due to COVID-19 we politely ask any student to experiencing symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, chills, or shortness of breath, to please stay home. For the safety of everyone, we will be flexible with the usual attendance policy for the time being.*

As a member musician in UYO&E, you are a member of a select group of musicians whose commitment to your orchestra is critical to its success. **Attendance at every rehearsal and concert is expected.** However, illness or other extenuating circumstances may necessitate a member missing rehearsals. Please try your best not to miss more than two (2) rehearsals per concert cycle. Seniors in High School should try not to miss more than three (3) rehearsals per concert cycle (an extra absence so they may visit out of town colleges.) With some advance planning, scheduling conflicts, including family travel, can be avoided. We encourage you to go over your calendar and the UYO&E schedule as soon as possible. It should be noted that SAT and ACT exams are given multiple times during the year, and it is best to plan accordingly.

An email notification must be given for each absence. Please send emails to uyoe@uyoe.org. Please provide the following information:

Name

Your orchestra group (UYSO, UYPhil, UYJSO)

Section (violin I, flute, trumpet, etc.)

Date of absence

Reason for absence

If you do not send in an email for your absence, you will be marked with an unexcused absence. Since our attendance policy allows for excused absences, we expect members not to have unexcused absences.

If, for an unexpected reason, a member cannot perform at a concert, it will be up to the conductor to decide whether or not the member may continue to rehearse with UYO&E.

Absences put a strain on every musician at a rehearsal, affecting your entire section, as well as the entire orchestra. Excessive absences, especially within the same concert cycle, absences from dress rehearsals, or absences from concerts should be avoided when at all possible.

Please understand it is not the *reason* for the absence that creates problems for the orchestra; it is the *absence* itself which is unfair to fellow musicians.

RESEATING

Musicians who are unable to fulfill the attendance requirements and all other obligations for UYO&E and the respective orchestras are subject to reseating. Normally, we have rotating chairs for Concertmaster and within some of the other sections. If you are chosen to play 1st chair for a particular concert, and you fail to fulfill your requirements within the orchestra, you may lose the privilege of playing 1st chair for that concert.

DISMISSAL

On rare occasions it may become necessary to dismiss a musician from UYO&E. Violation of any of our policies or procedures is grounds for dismissal. Some examples of situations warranting dismissal:

- *Disrespect or harassment of any other individual associated with UYO&E or anyone associated with the facilities where we rehearse or perform
- *Dress Code violation
- *Conduct reflecting unfavorably upon the musician or UYO&E
- *Lack of musical preparation or progress
- *Excessive absences
- *Non-compliance with Handbook requirements

A UYO&E Conductor may recommend a musician's dismissal. All decisions regarding a musician's dismissal will be final.

SECURITY

The safety of our youth musicians is very important to us. Please keep in mind that our rehearsals and concerts take place in public buildings. Parents and musicians should practice basic safety awareness: Musicians must be dropped-off and picked-up on time. No one is available to wait with musicians if parents arrive late after rehearsal.

Parents may choose to walk their musician to and from the car for rehearsals and concerts. Musicians cannot wander the halls of our rehearsal or concert venues. Members are not allowed to touch lockers or other belongings at Gardner Hall or any other rehearsal space.

INSTRUMENT INSURANCE

UYO&E is not responsible for theft or damage to any instruments at any time, including at rehearsals or concerts. We strongly recommend that each family sees to it that their musician's instrument is insured.

AUDITIONS

Audition decisions are made by our directors. The Director's selection process takes into account a very broad set of criteria including musical skill, as well as the overall harmony and balance of the entire UYO&E organization. Placements are made with extreme thoughtfulness and precision and are based upon a wide-ranging set of criteria. In addition to a musician's skill level and talent, she also considers several other factors. In Utah Youth Orchestras & Ensembles, we are also looking for students who have demonstrated an intense interest and commitment to our organization by applying for their initial audition for UYO&E during their middle school or early high school years. A musician's *many hours of experience* with UYO&E in rehearsals with the Utah Youth Junior Symphony Orchestra, Utah Youth Philharmonic, or the Utah Youth Symphony Orchestra provides for us a strong indication that the youth musician has the dedication, patience, and perseverance necessary to contribute to UYO&E. In addition, it indicates an understanding of the collaborative process of an orchestra. Of course, orchestras are also self-limiting in the numbers of people they can accept. The Director's orchestra placement decisions are final.

CONCERT DRESS REQUIREMENTS (UYSO & UYPhil for all concerts-UYJSO for Abravanel Concert)

Please read our dress code carefully, preferably well in advance of your concert. You must dress for each concert according to our UYO&E Concert Dress Code. All clothing is expected to be modest. We recommend that several weeks prior to each concert you check your closet, try on your concert attire, and shop for any items you need to replace. Any musician dressed inappropriately or otherwise out of dress code for a concert must obtain proper dress to be permitted on stage for the performance.

Gentlemen:

Tuxedo (*Note: tux shops often sell used tuxedos at bargain prices.*)

OR

Long black dress slacks (*no jeans!*) and **white dress shirt** with **black bow tie** and **black suit jacket**

Black dress shoes, black socks. When you are seated, no skin should be visible above your socks.

Ladies:

On Bottom:

Long, solid floor-length black dress pants (*no jeans!*)

OR

Long, floor-length solid black dress or skirt

On top:

Solid black top with **modest neckline AND sleeves covering the elbow** – no skin may be visible above the elbow

Black shoes and black socks/tights (No bare feet. No sandals, not even sandals with black socks. No nude or tan nylons.)
Socks or tights must reach beyond bottom of skirt or pants hem. No skin on legs showing at all.)
Conservative jewelry and hair ornaments, preferably black

***UYJSO concert dress for their Winter Concert is “Sunday Best”.**

ARTISTIC STRUCTURE

Ms. Barbara Scowcroft leads UYO&E as Music Director. Each orchestra/ensemble is directed by a conductor. Professional musicians work as coaches with sections of instruments at the invitation of the Music Director.

OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

UYO&E is a non-profit organization. We rely on the help of parent volunteers.

Our **Board of Directors** is comprised of individuals from our community who donate their time to help ensure the vitality, longevity, and financial stability of UYO&E. Our Community Board of Directors provide vision, direction, leadership, and community networking.

Barbara Scowcroft, President
Marty McMillan-Chair
Paul Dorgan
Elaine Ellis
Jennifer Perry
Lissa Stolz

Matthew Cowan – Executive Director
Jon Kahananui - Librarian