

I. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Florida Philharmonia Orchestra is a volunteer organization. We are subsidized by donations from our members and audience. We strive to provide a concert that is a high quality, well balanced performance so that there is something for everyone attending. Similarly, we must play music that meets the orchestra's capability while also being challenging and enjoyable for our members.
- 2) Florida Philharmonia Orchestra does not require auditions. A prospective member will need to sit in, rehearse, and agree to comply with the policies and procedures as stated in the orchestra handbook. Involvement will be determined in consultation with the section leader and the conductor.
- 3) We are an orchestra committed to performance. Therefore, all members have a responsibility to prepare for and attend rehearsals and concerts. Personal practice time will be necessary for the Orchestra to maintain the highest standard. Each musician is encouraged to make time throughout the week to practice his/her music prior to rehearsal and concerts.

II. ATTENDANCE

- 1) Our standard is that orchestra members will attend all rehearsals unless unforeseen circumstances prevent attendance.
- 2) We strongly encourage attendance of at least 50% of scheduled rehearsals, in addition to the dress rehearsal, and demonstrating adequate concert preparedness. The final decision for any change to the above rests with the director. If your absence is necessary, you must contact the section leader as soon as possible. If the section leader is not able to attend the rehearsal, she/he will notify the appropriate additional contact.

III. MUSIC

Our present policy is to scan and upload music to a secure website for orchestra members to download and print. It is important for our orchestra's finances that members download and print their own music. If a member cannot print their own music, we encourage a donation to offset the cost of printing. Contact the Librarian for any needed printed music.

IV. REHEARSALS

- 1) Rehearsals will be held at a pre-determined venue. Other venues will be announced with location details.
- 2) Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings. A full rehearsal schedule will be made available prior to the first rehearsal. Rehearsal will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. and end at 9:30 p.m., with a 10 (ten) minute break.
- 3) Set-up: Orchestra members requiring additional time for set-up (such as percussionists) may need to make separate arrangements. All members are responsible for their own music folders, instrument stands, pencils, mutes, etc. Wind players are required to bring an absorbent cloth to clean up instrument condensation (a.k.a. spit).
- 4) Attendance: The Board Secretary will keep a record of attendance. All new orchestra members are asked to provide their name, address, phone numbers, instrument played, and email addresses. Members are asked to update their roster information with any changes and verify the roster information as needed.
- 5) Music Orchestra members are expected to insert measure numbers in all music if it is not already numbered by the publisher. Mark your music as the conductor requests. Use pencil only when marking borrowed music.
- 6) Tuning: Please tune your instrument prior to the beginning of rehearsal. During rehearsal, please remain quiet while other sections are tuning.
- 7) Stage decorum: Please be quiet and prepared to play when the conductor steps up to the podium. Proper sitting position and instrument handling during rehearsals are encouraged, and casual conversation will be kept to a minimum.
- 8) Any dialog with the conductor during rehearsal will focus on a specific issue relevant to the situation at hand so as not to interfere with rehearsal momentum. Further concerns may be discussed with the conductor before rehearsal, during the break, or after the rehearsal.
- 9) Members who are not performing in a concert are exempt from the dress rehearsal in order to ensure the balance and precision necessary for a successful performance.

V. SECTION LEADERS/PRINCIPALS

- 1) Section leaders and principals are selected cooperatively within the section and approved by the conductor. A section leader may or may not be the principal player.
- 2) They are to be in attendance at each rehearsal and concert, unless there is an emergency.
- 3) Section leaders are responsible for communicating technical and artistic instructions from the conductor to section members, including specific notations in the music.
- 4) If necessary, a section leader will schedule a sectional to work through any problem sections in the music.

- 5) The section leader will designate another section member to temporarily cover the principal part in case of a rehearsal or concert absence.
- 6) Section leaders are responsible for seating the section according to playing competency and balance needs. String section leaders are responsible for providing bowings by the second rehearsal for the upcoming concert.

VI. CONCERTS

- 1) Concerts will be held at a pre-determined venue as previously noted.
- 2) Concerts are held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and last approximately one hour without intermission.
- 3) Orchestra members are to be on stage, set up, ready to perform at 7:15 p.m.
- 4) If you cannot perform in a concert, contact your section leader and make sure your music is turned in prior to the concert.
- 5) Immediately after the concert, all music borrowed from the Phil must be returned and placed in designated containers. Those who have printed their own music are encouraged to donate their music to the orchestra.
- 6) Concert Attire--For women: long-sleeved black blouse with black slacks or below the knee black skirts, and black shoes; for men: long-sleeved white dress shirt with black trousers, or tux or black suit, with black bow tie or long tie, black socks, and black shoes.