

Ojai Youth Symphony

2015-2016

Membership Handbook

Ojai Youth Symphony

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Welcome

Welcome to the Ojai Youth Symphony. This handbook has been prepared to define the policies of the Ojai Youth Chamber Music, Sinfonia, and Ojai Strings. If you have any questions about what is printed in this handbook, please do not hesitate to call the contact information listed in the back.

Mission Statement

The Ojai Youth Symphony and its two associated groups, Sinfonia and Ojai Strings, is dedicated to the musical education of talented young musicians, as well as to enrich the cultural life of the community.

Policies

The procedures and policies outlined in this handbook have been established as a necessary part of the Ojai Youth Symphony's effort to maintain the highest standard of orchestral training. The Ojai Youth Symphony administers its program in a manner that is as close as possible to professional symphony operations. Your compliance with our regulations is vital to the musical excellence and professionalism of the Ojai Youth Symphony. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in immediate dismissal from the orchestra, at the discretion of the Music Directors.

Facilities

The orchestras are fortunate to rehearse at the Ojai Valley School. Orchestra members shall respect the rules, premises, instruments, and property of the Ojai Valley School at all times. Specifically, there shall be no eating or drinking in the music building and no touching of the school's percussion instruments or other equipment. Performance locations, whether in churches or other venues, follow the same considerations. The privilege to use such facilities may be revoked because of poor behavior or damage to the facility. Failure to observe these rules may result in immediate dismissal, at the discretion of the Music Directors.

Auditions and Placement

Membership in the ensembles is by invitation only following the submission of an application. Auditions are required for the Ojai Youth Chamber Music and will be scheduled after a review of the applications. Musicians previously participating in the ensembles may in some cases be required to re-audition. The Music Director reserves the right to audition some new musicians during the course of rehearsals. An audition for Ojai Strings and Sinfonia is not required and musicians will be contacted directly regarding their acceptance upon review of applications.

Musician placement in a specific ensemble, seating within an ensemble, and the assignment of Concert Master(s) is at the sole discretion of the Music Director and the Artistic Director. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions about placement, seating or assignments however, please note that as stated above, final decisions are up to the Music Director and Artistic Director.

Conduct

Youth Orchestra musicians are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times during rehearsals, sectionals, performances and other Youth Orchestra functions. This means alert, observant, and courteous attention; enthusiasm for the activities; cooperation; respectful good manners; punctuality and dedication. Parents are expected to follow the same guidelines as students in their interaction with the OYS Music Directors and volunteers.

Participation in the Ojai Youth Symphony is a privilege and not a right. The acceptance into the Ojai Youth Symphony and continued participation by a member (and his/her parent or guardian) is subject to the final decision of the Ojai Youth Symphony's Music Directors and Board of Directors. Extreme cases of misconduct or disruptive behavior by either a student or a parent/guardian may result in dismissal of the student or of all family members.

Rehearsal Guidelines

Parents and/or guardians and family members are welcome to observe rehearsals. However, this privilege may be revoked at any time at the discretion of the Music Directors if they feel the parent or family member is disruptive to the rehearsal process.

Issues and Disputes

If any student or parent has any issue with the decisions of the Music Directors, such issues should be raised in writing to the Board of Directors of the Ojai Youth Symphony at oyboard@gmail.com. Issues will be addressed by the full Board and a written response will be returned at the Board's earliest convenience.

Participation in School Programs

We strongly encourage each orchestra member to participate in his/her school's music program. If for any reason you feel participation in the school program is not possible, please arrange an appointment with the Youth Orchestra staff to discuss the situation.

Concert Dress

MEN	White, long sleeved, button down shirt Black dress slacks Dark, long tie Polished black dress shoes, black calf-length socks
WOMEN	White, long sleeved blouse Black skirt (below the knee) or black dress pants Black dress shoes

Attendance Policy

The guiding philosophy of the Ojai Youth Symphony program is that professional responsibility is as important as musical excellence. Absences from sectionals or rehearsals are detrimental to the orchestra's progress and counterproductive to your personal development, regardless of how accomplished a musician you may be. The Music Director and the coaches prepare their rehearsal schedules based on full attendance from every section.

We realize, however, that a rehearsal absence may be unavoidable due to special circumstances. Accumulating more than three absences per quarter may result in expulsion for the remainder of that quarter and non-participation in the upcoming performance or expulsion from the orchestra or other measures determined by the Music Director.

Musicians who are not required by the music Director to be at all rehearsals will have a different number of allowable absences. For this reason, we urge you to go through your schedule for the season, confer with school Music Directors, Coaches and other activity leaders to establish early possible conflicts.

Please contact the Music Director with your schedule conflicts as early as possible.

Tardiness

In keeping with our philosophy of professional responsibility, tardiness at rehearsals will not be tolerated. Arriving late at a rehearsal or sectional is irresponsible, and it is highly inconsiderate to your colleagues. Our orchestras cannot attain a high level of music-making when not everyone is present to tune properly at the beginning of sectionals or rehearsals. Excessive tardiness, as determined by the Music Director, could result in reassignment of parts, re-seating in the section, loss of principal status, or other measures as determined by the Music Directors.

Tuition

Annual tuition is \$150.00 or \$75.00 per semester per student. Payment is due by the fourth week of the semester. Family rates apply in the following amounts: \$75.00 for one child and \$50.00 for each additional child per quarter. Financial aid is available to those who qualify.

Safety

The Ojai Youth Symphony can provide no supervision for children outside of the rehearsal room. Discipline is maintained during rehearsals, however, neither the Ojai Youth Symphony nor the Ojai Valley School can accept responsibility for the actions of individual members during breaks or when they are not actually playing if such actions should result in injuries to the players themselves or others or property damage. Parents are solely responsible for the action and safety of their children at all venues associated with the Ojai Youth Symphony both immediately before and immediately following rehearsals or performances.

Rehearsal Procedure

1. Arrive at least 10 minutes prior to rehearsal time.
2. Before the rehearsal, the Music Directors will only discuss matters regarding that evening's rehearsal. Other matters, such as future absences, lesson times, etc., must be discussed at another time.
3. The break is the proper time to use the restroom if necessary. It is inappropriate to get up during rehearsal to use the restroom unless it is an emergency.
4. At the end of a break, a "two-minute" call will signal musicians to return to their seats.
5. Orchestra tunes. This must occur in absolute silence (i.e. no talking, rustling of music, etc.)
6. There should be no talking during rehearsals. Each orchestra member should pay attention while the Music Directors are speaking.

Ojai Youth Symphony Contact Information

Andrew Radford, Music Director
Amy Hagen, Music Director

The Ojai Youth Symphony is a California 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation.

Address

Ojai Youth Symphony
P.O. Box 1661
Ojai, CA 93024

Phone

(213) 798-3611 is the Music Director's cell phone and can be used for emergencies during rehearsals.

Music Directors

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Board of Directors

oysboard@gmail.com

Website

www.ojaiyouthsymphony.org