



Member Handbook
2025-26
TWENTIETH SEASON!!!

Our Mission

The Youth Symphony of the Southwest was founded in 2006 for the express purpose of supporting and fostering the highest quality of music education and to inspire and nurture the love of symphonic repertoire by offering hands-on experience to qualified high school students through age 20.

Conductor: Dr. Jeff Quamo

Administrator: Dr. Samara Humbert-Hughes
803-315-1345
ysswmail@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 2194 W. Megan St., Chandler AZ 85224

Website: <http://yssw.symphonyofthesouthwest.org/>

Rehearsal Location: Chandler High School Band Room
350 N. Arizona Ave., Chandler, AZ 85225

Rehearsal Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm
Please check the dates below

Performance Location: Mesa Arts Center
1 E. Main St., Mesa, AZ 85201

The Youth Symphony of the Southwest and its staff assume no responsibility for the safety of orchestra members or their instruments while at any Youth Symphony of the Southwest function.

Member Qualifications

Students in high school, through age 20 may audition for a seat in the orchestra. All instrumentalists must demonstrate proficiency in:

Strings: All major and melodic minor scales and arpeggios up to 4 sharps & 4 flats, a movement from a standard solo, and selected orchestra excerpts.

Woodwinds & Brass: All 12 major, 2 octave scales either linked together in circle of 4th or ascending chromatically, a movement from a standard solo, selected orchestral excerpts as noted on the website.

Please check the [YSSW website](http://yssw.symphonyofthesouthwest.org/) for the most recent excerpts and audition material

Attendance Policy

All members are expected to attend every rehearsal and to be seated 5 minutes prior to the start of the rehearsal time and 6:50 pm for concerts. Report absence prior to rehearsal to Samara Humbert-Hughes, 803-315-1345 or ysswmail@gmail.com. Excused absences include school concerts, illness and family emergencies.

A snack break is provided each week at rehearsal at approximately 6pm -6:10pm. Students should look for their day to bring either drinks or food on the snack day schedule. [Snack Schedule Link Here for 2025-26](#)

Member Commitment

Each member is expected to prepare his/her part diligently prior to each rehearsal. Students are expected to be members in good standing of their high school orchestra or band where applicable.

Rehearsal Etiquette

All electronic devices must be turned off during rehearsals. This includes text messaging. It is advised that cell phones be left back stage at concerts.

Music Policy

At the end of each concert music must be returned in good condition. Any damaged or lost music will be replaced at the musician's expense.

String Seating

There will be chair placement auditions usually the third rehearsal of each concert set. Students must be in attendance at this rehearsal or be moved to the end of their section.

Woodwinds & Brass Seating

Wind reseating will be scheduled upon request, at the discretion of the music director.

Concert Attire: “Concert Black”

Ladies: long sleeve black blouse, long black skirt (this must be to the ankle) or black dress slacks and black shoes with black hosiery or black socks

Gentlemen: black dress shirt with black dress pants, black shoes and black socks

The Website

The [YSSW website](#) will be updated frequently to include rehearsal and performance dates and repertoire. A student photo slideshow will be included (photos only no names). Any parents who do not want their students’ photos seen online, must make a request to the administrator, Samara Humbert-Hughes. Otherwise, photos will be used at the discretion of the web team.

Tuition Rates*

\$ 400.00/year (Strings)

- Any partial year participation requires advance notice to the administrator
- Payment Due Dates:
 - In Full: August 11 = \$400
 - ½ Payment: August 11 = \$205, January 12 = \$205
 - 1/3 Payment: August 11 = \$138, November 10 = \$138, January 12 = \$138

\$250/year (Winds/Brass Percussion)

- Payment Due Date: November 10 = \$250
- Zelle and PayPal accepted (via ysswmail@gmail.com)
- Cash or Checks payable to: Youth Symphony of the Southwest
- any students requesting scholarship assistance should contact the administrator by the end of July

Rehearsal Dates for 2025-26

**** String Seating Auditions**

STRINGS ONLY		
Monday, August 4	Auditions 4:30-7:30pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, August 11	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, August 18	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, August 25**	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, September 1	LABOR DAY NO REHEARSAL	
Monday, September 8	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, September 15	Dress Rehearsal 4:45pm Concert 6:00pm	Mesa Arts Center Piper Theatre
Monday, September 22 & 29	FALL BREAK NO REHEARSAL	
Monday, October 6	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, October 13	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, October 20**	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, October 27	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, November 3	Dress Rehearsal 4:45pm Concert 6:00pm	Mesa Arts Center Piper Theatre
WOODWINDS, BRASS & PERCUSSION JOIN		
November 10	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
November 17	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
November 24	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
December 1	Dress Rehearsal 4:45pm Concert 6:00pm	Mesa Arts Center Piper Theatre
December 8 - January 12	WINTER BREAK - NO REHEARSALS	

Monday, January 12	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, January 19	MLKJ DAY - NO REHEARSAL	
Monday, January 26	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, February 2**	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, February 9	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, February 16	PRESIDENT'S DAY - NO REHEARSAL	
Tuesday, February 17 OR Thursday, February 19	Side-by-Side Rehearsal 7:15 - 9:45pm	Grace Community Church
Saturday, February 21	Side-by-Side Dress Rehearsal 11:00 am - 1:30pm	Mesa Arts Center Ikeda Theatre
Saturday, February 21	Side-by-Side Dress Concert 7:00pm	Mesa Arts Center Ikeda Theatre
Monday, February 23	SPRING BREAK NO REHEARSALS	
Monday, March 2		
Monday, March 9		
Monday, March 16		
Monday, March 23	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, March 30	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, April 6	NO REHEARSAL	
Monday, April 13**	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, April 20	Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm	Chandler H.S.
Monday, April 27	Dress Rehearsal 4:45pm Concert 6:00pm	Mesa Arts Center Piper Theatre