



Member Handbook

2026-27

TWENTY-FIRST 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

YSSW accepts students in high school, through ages 14- 20. All students must be a member in their school orchestra if their school has a school orchestra program.

All students must audition for a seat in the YSSW orchestra. All instrumentalists must demonstrate proficiency as follows:

**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 4ths or ascending chromatically, a movement from a standard solo, selected orchestral excerpts as noted on the website.

Please check the [YSSW website](#) 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 absences prior to rehearsal to Samara Humbert-Hughes, 803-315-1345 or [ysswmail@gmail.com](mailto:ysswmail@gmail.com). Excused absences include school concerts, illness and family emergencies.

A snack break is provided each week at rehearsal at approximately 5:55pm - 6:05pm. Students should look for their day to bring either drinks or food on the snack day schedule.

[Snack Schedule Link Here for 2026-27.](#)

## 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.

**It is extremely important that YSSW members attend all of the rehearsals and concerts.** Because YSSW is small in numbers, one person being absent can drastically impact the sound and rehearsal plans. In addition, by being accepted into YSSW, we expect the members to participate for the entire season.

## Rehearsal Etiquette

All electronic devices must be turned off during rehearsals. This includes text messaging. It is advised that cell phones be left backstage 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 and/or 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, concert repertoire and will sometimes include pictures and/or videos of students. Any parents who do not want their child's photos seen online, must make a request to the administrator, Samara Humbert-Hughes.

## Tuition Rates

### **\$ 500/year (Strings)**

- Any partial year participation requires advance notice to the administrator
- Payment Due Dates:
  - In Full: August 17 = \$500**
  - ½ Payment: August 17 = \$255, January 11 = \$255**  
**(includes fees for multiple payments)**

### **\$250/year (Winds, Brass & Percussion)**

- **In Full: January 11 = \$250**
- Zelle and PayPal accepted (via [ysswmail@gmail.com](mailto: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 2026

## Rehearsal & Concert Dates for 2026-27\*

*\*please note: this season will feature only 4 concerts but we have added an additional rehearsal to each concert set from previous years*

### ^ String Seating Auditions

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>YSSW Auditions</b>                     |  |   |
| Monday, August 10                         | Auditions (Any Instrument)<br>4:00 - 8:00pm      | Chandler H.S.                             |
| <b>STRINGS ONLY</b>                       |  |   |
| Monday, August 17                         | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm                          | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, August 24                         | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm                          | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, August 31 <sup>^</sup>            | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm                          | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, September 7                       | LABOR DAY<br>NO REHEARSAL                        |   |
| Monday, September 14                      | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm                          | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, September 21                      | FALL BREAK<br>NO REHEARSAL                       |   |
| Monday, September 28                      |  |   |
| Monday, October 5                         |  |   |
| Monday, October 12                        | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm                          | Chandler H.S.                             |
| <b>Monday, October 19<br/>Concert #1</b>  | <b>Dress Rehearsal 5:00pm<br/>Concert 7:00pm</b> | <b>Mesa Arts Center<br/>Piper Theatre</b> |
| <b>STRINGS ONLY</b>                       |  |   |
| Monday, October 26                        | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm                          | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, November 2                        | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm                          | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, November 9 <sup>^</sup>           | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm                          | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, November 16                       | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm                          | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, November 23                       | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm                          | Chandler H.S.                             |
| <b>Monday, November 30<br/>Concert #2</b> | <b>Dress Rehearsal 5:00pm<br/>Concert 7:00pm</b> | <b>Mesa Arts Center<br/>Piper Theatre</b> |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>STRINGS, WOODWINDS,<br/>BRASS &amp; PERCUSSION</b>  |   |   |
| Monday, January 11   | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm   | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, January 18   | MLKJ DAY - NO REHEARSAL   |   |
| Monday, January 25   | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm   | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, February 1 <sup>^</sup>  | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm   | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, February 8   | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm   | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, February 15  | PRESIDENT'S DAY - NO REHEARSAL  |   |
| Tuesday, February 16<br>&<br>Thursday, February 18<br><i>(details about specific rehearsal times for YSSW are TBD)</i> | Side-by-Side Rehearsal<br>with SSW<br>7:15 - 9:45pm   | Grace Community<br>Church                 |
| <b>Saturday, February 20</b>   | <b>Side-by-Side Dress Rehearsal<br/>11:00 am - 1:30pm</b><br><i>(details about specific rehearsal times for YSSW are TBD)</i> | <b>Mesa Arts Center<br/>Ikeda Theatre</b> |
| <b>Saturday, February 20</b>   | <b>Side-by-Side Concert<br/>7:00pm</b>  | <b>Mesa Arts Center<br/>Ikeda Theatre</b> |
| <b>STRINGS, WOODWINDS,<br/>BRASS &amp; PERCUSSION</b>  |   |   |
| Monday, February 22  | SPRING BREAK<br>NO REHEARSALS   |   |
| Monday, March 1  |   |   |
| Monday, March 8  |   |   |
| Monday, March 15   |   |   |
| Monday, March 22   | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm   | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, March 29   | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm   | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, April 5 <sup>^</sup>   | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm   | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, April 12   | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm   | Chandler H.S.                             |
| Monday, April 19   | Rehearsal 5:00 - 7:00pm   | Chandler H.S.                             |
| <b>Monday, April 26</b>  | <b>Dress Rehearsal 5:00pm<br/>Concert 7:00pm</b>  | <b>Mesa Arts Center<br/>Piper Theatre</b> |

