



ALPHARETTA
SYMPHONY
YOUTH ORCHESTRA

2023-24 SEASON

**MEMBER
HANDBOOK**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome from the ASYO Conductor	3
Contact Information	3
About the ASYO	4
Key Contacts	4
ASYO Student Council	4
Policies	5
Auditions	5
Attendance	5
Conduct	6
Optional Community Service	6
Rehearsal Preparedness	7
Music	7
Concerts	8
Annual Dues	8
Payment	8
Tuition Refunds	8
Season Calendar	9
Important Forms	9

FROM THE ASYO CONDUCTOR



Welcome to the 2023-24 Season of the Alpharetta Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO)! I'm looking forward to making this season all about exploration. Together, let's explore where our imaginations can take us. Let's explore what we can achieve artistically. Let's explore the boundaries of our musical capabilities. Let's explore what teamwork can produce when everyone is trying their best. And while we're doing all of this exploring, let's have fun and build some solid friendships. This is what being a part of a musical group is about – I know this because I have been playing music for over forty years and some of my best memories are ones of being in groups just like this one. So, get ready to build some memories during our season of exploration!

Cheers,

Kim Stocksdales
Conductor, Alpharetta Symphony Youth Orchestra

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about the ASYO? Please use this contact information to ask or to learn more.

Barbaraann Bongiovanni
Education Director, Alpharetta Symphony

EMAIL youth@alpharettasympphony.org

PHONE 678.622.6182

WEB alpharettasympphony.org/asyo

To report an absence from a rehearsal, please use this [Absence Form](#).

ABOUT THE ASYO

The Alpharetta Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO) is a thriving ensemble for young orchestral musicians under the age of 18, geared towards residents of Alpharetta and all of North Fulton County. The ASYO provides a safe, engaging, and fun learning environment, where young musicians can hone their musical abilities, in addition to growing other skills essential to musicians: collaboration, organization, kindness, and confidence. The ASYO is affiliated with the Alpharetta Symphony and students may work with and learn from professional and semi-professional musicians and staff members from the Alpharetta Symphony.

KEY CONTACTS

Dr. Grant Gilman | Music Director, Alpharetta Symphony
conductor@alpharettasymphony.org

Kimberly Stocksdales | Conductor, Alpharetta Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO)
kstocksdales@alpharettasymphony.org

Barbaraann Bongiovanni | Education Director
bbongiovanni@alpharettasymphony.org

Kelly Meholic | Executive Director
executivedirector@alpharettasymphony.org

Susan Hanna | President, Board of Directors
president@alpharettasymphony.org

Charles Nelson | Treasurer, Board of Directors
treasurer@alpharettasymphony.org

ASYO STUDENT COUNCIL

Madison Dewrell, *President*
Michael Hughes, *Vice President*

POLICIES

AUDITIONS

All students must audition for a seat in the orchestra. Students auditioning prior to the start of the season will be given priority in chair placement for the first concert cycle. Students who wish to join after the first rehearsal can schedule an audition with the Education Director. Rolling auditions will be held throughout the season until there are no more open seats.

ATTENDANCE

Rehearsals are held Sunday afternoons during the concert season. Rehearsals begin promptly at 5:00 PM and end at 7:00 PM. Plan to arrive about 15 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal. Parents should plan to stay for the first 30 minutes of the first rehearsal of the season for an informational meeting.

Students will sign in at each rehearsal and concert. Student attendance will be taken by the Education Director and input into an attendance log. It is very important for students to make every effort to attend every rehearsal. Unexcused absences are not permitted. For any conflict that arises, an absence form must be completed in advance using the [ASYO Absence Form](#). A maximum of 2 excused absences are allowed per concert cycle to perform in the cycle concert. For last minute absences that cannot be avoided, fill in the [ASYO Absence Form](#) AND contact the Education Director via email and/or phone as soon as possible.

Examples of excused absences include but are not limited to: student illness, school trip, sport event that student is participating in, serious emergency. Examples of unexcused absences include but are not limited to: friend's birthday party, family dinner, "I forgot". If you have any questions, please contact the Education Director.

Excessive tardiness and leaving rehearsal early will not be tolerated. If you have a good reason for arriving late or leaving early, this must be conveyed to the Education Director as early as possible, preferably ahead of time. 3 tardies/early departures = 1 unexcused absence.

An unexcused absence or more than 2 excused absences can forfeit your place in the cycle concert or your chair placement in the orchestra, at the discretion of the ASYO Conductor.

CONDUCT

Students and parents are required to read the Member Handbook, sign the [Membership Agreement Form](#) and sign the [Policy Agreement Form](#).

All students must treat each other with respect and always maintain a professional attitude and positive environment. Cell phones must be muted and not answered during rehearsals and concerts. Tuning apps are allowed at the start of rehearsal as well as after a break. Otherwise, cell phones must be put away in a personal bag or instrument case for the duration of the rehearsal or concert. On concert days, cell phones are not allowed on stage. Students can use their tuning apps before going on stage. The 1st offense will get a warning. A second offense will be an unexcused absence. The 3rd offense will result in dismissal from the program without refund.

The ASYO maintains a zero-tolerance policy on bullying or harassment of any kind. Students found bullying or harassing other students are subject to interview and possible expulsion from the ASYO without refund.

Substance abuse of any kind is prohibited. This includes cigarettes, vaping, drinking, and all legal and illegal drugs. If you are found in possession of a prohibited substance, you will be asked to leave the group immediately and removed from the member roster. Over the counter and prescribed medications should be taken prior to rehearsals and concerts. (Inhalers, epi-pens, etc. are allowed and must be self-administered.)

Weapon possession is prohibited. This includes firearms, knives, and other destructive devices. If you are found in possession of a weapon, you will be asked to leave the group immediately and removed from the member roster.

OPTIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

During the season, ASYO members will be presented with multiple opportunities to engage in community service projects, all of which are completely optional. Types of service projects may include: large group service projects organized by ASYO / Alpharetta Symphony staff or parent volunteers, hospice/retirement community and other independent performance opportunities, volunteer committees, and donations/fund raising of all kinds. The Education Director will sign all documented service hours worked for both community and curricular societies and programs.

REHEARSAL PREPAREDNESS

Arriving punctually and well-prepared to rehearsals will help the entire ensemble succeed. General guidelines are as follows:

- **Instrument:** This includes bow, mouthpiece, working reeds, sticks and mallets, valve oil, extra strings – anything that you need to ensure that you will be able to play.
- **Music:** Do not rely on your stand partner or section mates. If you lose or forget your music, we cannot guarantee a replacement part will be available for that rehearsal.
- **Music Stand:** Stands should be black, non-wired, and heavy duty. An example is Peak FOLDABLE Music Stand.
- **Pencil:** Bring one and use it frequently. Nothing is more frustrating for conductors or your fellow musicians than reiterating the same rehearsal points every week.
- **Accessories:** May include rosin, shoulder rest, extra string, rock stop, working reeds, valve oil, mutes, etc.
- **Water:** A closed container (no straws or open tops) of room temperature (no ice due to condensation) water is permitted in rehearsals. No other liquids or foods of any kind are permitted in the rehearsal halls.

**ALL STUDENTS MUST BRING THEIR OWN
MUSIC STAND TO EVERY REHEARSAL AND CONCERT.**

MUSIC

All music will be available online and it is the responsibility of the student to print their music and bring it to each rehearsal/concert. Music is available for download and print in Dropbox, within the [ASYO Music Library](#).

ALL MUSIC IS COPYRIGHTED AND FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. At the end of the cycle, members are also responsible for destroying/discarding the music. Please do not print multiple copies, do not share with anyone outside of our orchestra, and do not keep the music past the end of the cycle.

In addition to rehearsal attendance, it is important for students to practice on their own between rehearsals. Students will receive weekly emails from the Conductor with notes on what each section should practice and focus on before the next rehearsal.

Please be fragrance free for rehearsals and concerts. This includes perfume, cologne, smoke, etc.

CONCERTS

Concert attire is all black unless otherwise stated. Students are encouraged to wear their concert attire prior to arriving to call time.

- Boys: black suit, black shirt with black bow tie, black socks, black dress shoes; or black shirt with collar and sleeves, black slacks (no jeans or cargo pants), black socks, black shoes
- Girls: full length black dress with 3/4 sleeves or longer (no short sleeves), black socks or stockings, black dress shoes; or full-length black skirts or black slacks (no jeans or leggings), black tops with 3/4 sleeves or longer (no short sleeves), black shoes, black socks, black panty hose

Call times will be announced 2 to 3 weeks prior to the concert date.

ANNUAL DUES

Membership in the ASYO is for the entire season, from the initial acceptance at the beginning of summer through the final concert in May. Musicians are expected to remain active and committed for the entire season. Tuition is \$275 per semester (Aug-Nov/Dec and Jan -May) or \$500 for the full season.

PAYMENT

Tuition is due within 10 days of acceptance to secure a spot in the assigned ensemble.

Tuition payments should be made before the first rehearsal of each cycle via the online payment button on the website found at <https://www.alpharettasymphony.org/asyo>.

TUITION REFUNDS

Students unable to continue participating due to policy violation are not eligible for a refund at any point in the season.

SEASON CALENDAR

* Please be aware that this calendar is subject to change; however, the Education Director will contact you with any changes.

Rehearsal Location: Preston Ridge Community Center
3655 Preston Ridge Road Suite 100. Alpharetta, GA 30005

Rehearsal Time: Sundays, 5:00-7:00pm

CONCERT 1	CONCERT 2	CONCERT 3	CONCERT 4
REHEARSALS	REHEARSALS	REHEARSALS	REHEARSALS
AUG 27	OCT 22	JAN 7 FEB 18	MAR 17
SEPT 10	OCT 29	JAN 14 FEB 25	MAR 24
SEPT 17	NOV 5	JAN 21 MAR 3	APR 7
SEPT 24	NOV 12	JAN 28	APR 14
OCT 1	NOV 19	FEB 4	APR 21
OCT 8	DEC 3	FEB 11	APR 28
			MAY 5
CONCERT OCTOBER 15	CONCERT DECEMBER 10	CONCERT MARCH 10	CONCERT MAY 12

IMPORTANT FORMS (click the buttons below)

[ASYO MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT](#)

[ASYO POLICY AGREEMENT](#)

[ASYO MEDICAL RELEASE & WAIVER](#)

[ASYO RELEASE FORM](#)

[ASYO ABSENCE FORM](#)



678.622.6182

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