Douglas County Youth Orchestra

(DCYO)

2025 - 2026 Season

Handbook

DOUGLAS COUNTY
YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Expanding Instrumental Music Education Through Instruction and Performance for Young Musicians

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Welcome

Dear Musician and Family,

Congratulations and welcome to the Douglas County Youth Orchestra (DCYO). The board of directors and our conductor wish you success as you join our community of musicians. We are glad to have you and will treat you with courtesy and respect as you continue your musical education with DCYO. This season our orchestra will come together to improve our individual and collective musical skills. Our hope is for you to grow as a musician, individual, and enjoy the process! Our collaborative efforts will bring great music to our community.

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Introduction

Overview

Douglas County Youth Orchestra (DCYO) is designed to provide opportunities for student musicians to be involved in music outside of a formal school setting. We believe that music is an essential part of every student's education, and we are committed to providing the highest quality orchestral experiences for our students. Rehearsal is under the direction of our professional conductor on Thursday evenings from 5:30PM to 7:00PM and DCYO performs concerts at the end of each semester (Fall and Spring).

Mission Statement

Douglas County Youth Orchestra believes that music is an essential part of every student's education, and is committed to providing the highest quality orchestral experiences possible for our students.

Description

DCYO expands instrumental music education through instruction and performance for young musicians in the Douglas County area. DCYO is largely a volunteer organization and our success is dependent on the work of parent volunteers. Participation by all families is our goal to ensure a positive experience for all our young musicians.

DCYO is a Colorado 501 (C)(3) non-profit, non-discriminatory organization that brings together Douglas County youth to participate in an affordable, educational program.

History

DCYO was started in 2003 by a group of music teachers seeking to provide orchestral ensembles in order to foster students' musical understanding, social growth, and self-esteem at a reasonable cost. *DCYO is not affiliated with the Douglas County School District.*

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Organization

Purpose

This handbook is to give members of DCYO information about the organization, its policies, and its expectations.

Non-Discrimination Policy

DCYO gives equal membership and employment, contracting, and volunteer opportunities to all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, military status, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, citizenship, disability, or geographic location. Because we are a youth orchestra, membership is open to individuals only through the age of 21.

Tuition

Tuition for the 2025 - 2026 season is $350.00 per semester, per student.

Tuition is due Sept 11 for the first semester and January 29 for the second semester. On-line payments are accepted with an $10.00 convenience surcharge added. A $25.00 late fee will be assessed for late payments.**Tuition is non-refundable.**

Financial assistance

Financial assistance, based on need, is available through DCYO Financial Assistance Program for those who apply. This program is designed to help students with financial need participate in DCYO by providing tuition assistance, and in some cases, by making an instrument available. Any student 17 years old or younger are eligible who meet the requirements for free or reduced lunch at school. Students who are in financial need, but who do not meet this lunch program qualification may still qualify, based on need. Please submit your request via an email addressed to douglascountyyouthorchestra@gmail.com. Please include the student's name, the school the musician attends, and if there is a Free and Reduced Lunch Program being used and/or an explanation for assistance. DCYO will be in touch with you to confirm and process the request.

Membership Qualifications

Open Rehearsal

Open rehearsals occur at the beginning of each semester. **Rather than a formal audition, open rehearsals are a chance for anyone to bring his/her/their instrument, play along, and determine if DCYO is the right fit.** This is your audition! Once you have made a decision, join! Tuition will be due as stated above. We like to say, **"Like US? Join US!"**

Returning Musicians

Returning Musicians are required to attend open rehearsals. Attendance policy applies to these rehearsals. Please notify the Music Director with any questions or absences. (See section on Musician and Family Expectations)

Behavior

- All musicians will treat each other with respect and dignity, and will contribute to a positive and encouraging atmosphere.
- Musicians will arrive with parts well prepared and approach all pieces, rehearsals, and performances with a positive and sincere attitude.
- All musicians must arrive 15 minutes prior to all rehearsals and performances.
- Downbeat for each rehearsal is 5:30PM which means arrival at 5:15PM
- Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to any performance
- All musicians must bring their music folder, music stand,water bottle and pencil to every rehearsal and every performance
- Musicians are required to clean up their own area after rehearsal.
- Musicians' focus must be on the conductor during all rehearsals and performances; no excessive talking or disruptive behavior. Musicians are NOT permitted to chew gum, eat, or drink (other than water) during rehearsals. **All cell phones must be turned off during rehearsals or performances.**

- Musicians are guests of the rehearsal and performance halls. Please remain in the rehearsal/performance space. All other areas are off limits. It is important to be very respectful of the rehearsal facility, PACE Center, or any other location.

- Safety is always a priority, therefore, please do not leave the rehearsal space during any breaks or any other time until rehearsal is concluded

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Musicians and Family

Musicians:

Attendance and Preparation

- Musicians must sign in and out before and after each rehearsal and performance
- Musicians must attend every rehearsal and be prepared by personal practice time
- **Musicians must contact the conductor prior to a missed rehearsal.** Musicians will be excused for no more than two (2) rehearsals during the performance block, excluding sickness. (One performance block per semester)
- Musicians are encouraged to have at least two years of playing experience prior to joining DCYO
- Musicians are highly encouraged to be actively involved in a private lessons while a member of DCYO

Concerts

- Apparel - Musicians will wear black DCYO shirts and black on bottom. Any deviations from the apparel standard will be announced in advance of concerts..
- Preparation - Arrive in a timely manner for concerts
- Conduct - Professional behavior is expected - sincere presentation of music and self - **First Chairs - this is your opportunity to lead!**

Family:

Attendance and Preparation

- Parents, please walk your student musician in and out of rehearsal. Student musicians will sign the attendance sheet themselves. Remember, safety is important and no musician will leave unless an adult is accompanying them.
- Arrive 15 minutes prior to rehearsal time for signing in, setting up your music stand and preparing for downbeat at 5:30PM.
- Playing in an orchestra is like being on a sports team; it's a TEAM and it only works well when everyone on the team is on time, prepared, and focused!
- First Chairs, you are the captain of the team!

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Opportunities

DCYO is a volunteer and parent run organization. We are always looking for your help, whether it is with the rehearsal times, set-up and tear-down, snacks for rehearsals and performances, or monetary donations. We will always accept your help. Every family is asked to participate to some extent.

Weekly Rehearsal:

- Attend one rehearsal: help with attendance, set-up and tear-down

Concerts:

- Depending on the venue, we may ask families to contribute by arranging and removing chairs, handing out programs and donating refreshments.

Community Development:

- Community contacts: Spread the word about DCYO to musicians, potential donors and distribute fliers
- Invite friends, family, contacts to performances
- Submit ideas for fundraisers
- Network with musicians, friends, teachers and others to spread the word about DCYO
- Newspapers: make us aware of opportunities to advertise in local or school newspapers
- Serve on the DCYO Board