

# East Valley Youth Symphony

Making Beautiful Music for OVER a DECADE!

[www.evysaz.org](http://www.evysaz.org)



Encouraging & Inspiring  
Young Musicians

come play with us...



## PARENT & MUSICIAN HANDBOOK

2019 – 2020



## PARENT & MUSICIAN HANDBOOK 2019-2020

The East Valley Youth Symphony is now in its 13th season and consists of nearly 100 musicians from Gilbert, Chandler, and Queen Creek with 5 conductors and music specialists.

EVYS was founded in 2006 with the mission to encourage and inspire young musicians in the East Valley by providing an uplifting and challenging orchestral experience under the guidance of skilled conductors and supportive parents.

We welcome our musicians for the upcoming 2019-2020 season!

In order to maintain our high standard of performance, it is the policy of the EVYS Board of Directors that each member of East Valley Youth Symphony attend every EVYS rehearsal and performance.

All parents and musicians are requested to read this handbook and sign 3 necessary forms. In order to participate in EVYS, the following items will be due at the first rehearsal:

1. **Tuition** – full payment or first installment payment
2. **Member Contract** – signed by musician and parent
3. **School Participation Letter** – signed by school conductor
4. **Parent Volunteer Pledge** – each family must sign up to assist with at least two events this season on the EVYS Parent Volunteer Form or signup list.

## East Valley Youth Symphony 2019-2020 Season

Dear EVYS Families,

We are thrilled to welcome you all to the 2019-20 EVYS season of making music! Judging from the high caliber of youth musicians, both the returning and new members, along with the level of enthusiasm for playing their instruments, we are in for a tremendous season!

We are very pleased to announce our new members on our conducting staff. Mr. Robert Nichols will serve as the new Principal Conductor of the Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Nichols is a fine cellist and brings to EVYS many years of experience as a teacher in the Arizona public school system as well as a professional conductor. Ms. Sheryl Saupe Frey will serve as our new String Specialist for both Concert and Chamber Orchestras and will also serve as the Assistant Conductor to the Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Frey is a violinist and also joins our staff with 30 years of experience as an orchestra teacher in Alaska and youth orchestra conductor. Ms. Richelle Schultz will move from her previous position as String Specialist to become the Principal Conductor of our Concert Orchestra, and Mr. Jon Gomez will continue as the Wind Specialist for the Symphony!

As a conducting staff, we sincerely appreciate the Board of Directors and the strong support they offer through planning, organization, fundraising, and truly believing in our mission. There will be many exciting innovations this year in our programs including a concert tour for the Symphony and auditioned members of Chamber Orchestra!

Congratulations on your support of music, music education and positive character development in our youth! We are looking forward to a full season of making great music, creating lifelong friends and sharing our passion for a better world through our music. Whether you are a student musician, an encouraging parent or family member, or a community friend supporting our mission, we applaud and thank you for joining us on this spectacular musical ride!

- Cindy H. Petty

Artistic Director and Conductor, East Valley Youth Symphony

### EVYS CONDUCTORS

Cindy Petty  
Symphony Conductor

Richelle Shultz  
Concert Conductor

Robert Nichols  
Chamber Conductor

Sheryl Saupe Frey  
String Specialist

Jon Gomez  
Wind Specialist

# East Valley Youth Symphony 2019-2020 Season

Dear Fellow Parents and EVYS Members:

We pride ourselves in maintaining a culture that fosters the growth and development of our children to both inspire and encourage these young minds to become some of the best musicians in the valley. As an organization, we are entering our 13<sup>th</sup> season and I could not be more proud of the accomplishments by our board and conductors. Our team is working hard to provide an amazing experience that will challenge your children. They will work through the guidance of skilled conductors to take on difficult literature while learning the secrets of the masters. As Ludvig van Beethoven once said, "Don't only practice your art, but force your way into its secrets; art deserves that, for it and knowledge can raise man to the Divine." As we look to build our program in the coming years, I can assure you there will be one constant: we will work hard to provide your children with an amazing experience. But don't take it from me, take it from our alumni. Those who have come through our doors and because of their hard work, your support, and the work of our staff, have gone on to do amazing things. Many have become musicians performing around the world. Some have returned to our community to teach and pass the good work forward to others. As a proud parent of an EVYS participant, I too look forward to the amazing things our children will accomplish through this program. Thank you for your membership and continued support of EVYS.



Edwin Reyes, President EVYS Board of Directors

## EVYS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Edwin Reyes  
President

Estee Marrujo  
Concert Director

Loriann Johnson  
VP

Cheri Tropp  
Auditions Director

Tami Messenger  
Social Media/Website Director

Sue Steele  
Picture Day Director

Tasha Giacinto  
Concert Attire Director

Sheridan Chumley  
Publishing

### OPEN POSITIONS

Secretary, Treasurer, Volunteer Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator,  
Recruiting Director, & Photographer

## EVYS CALENDAR 2019-2020

**August 26 – First Rehearsal at HHS** - Tuition, Contract, School Participation Letter, & Parent Volunteer Pledge due

**September 2 – No Rehearsal (Labor Day)**

September 9 – Rehearsal (Board Meeting 5:30 pm)

September 16 – Rehearsal

September 23 – Rehearsal

September 30 – Rehearsal

**October 7 – No Rehearsal (Fall Break)**

October 14 – Rehearsal (Board Meeting 5:30 pm)

October 21 – **Rehearsal (Dress Check/Photos – Wear concert attire!)**

October 28 – Rehearsal

**November 4 – Rehearsal**

November 11 – Dress Rehearsal (HCPA stage) (Board Meeting 5:30 pm)

**November 14 – Concert (THURSDAY) – HCPA 7pm**

November 18 – Rehearsal

December 2 – LAST Rehearsal of 2019

December 9 – Winter Auditions & Board Meeting 5:30 pm

**Break for the Holidays**

January 6 – Rehearsal

January 13 – Rehearsal (Board Meeting 5:30 pm)

January 20 – Rehearsal

January 27 – Rehearsal

February 3 – Rehearsal

February 10 – Rehearsal (Board Meeting 5:30 pm)

**February 17 – No Rehearsal (President’s Day)**

February 24 – Dress Rehearsal (Not on stage)

**March 4 – Concert (WEDNESDAY) – HCPA 7pm**

March 9 – Rehearsal (Board Meeting)

**March 16 – No Rehearsal (Spring Break)**

March 23 – Rehearsal

March 30 – Rehearsal

April 6 – Rehearsal (Board Meeting 5:30 pm)

April 13 – Rehearsal

April 20 – Rehearsal

April 27 – Rehearsal

May 4 – Dress Rehearsal (Not on stage)

**May 6 – Final Concert (WEDNESDAY) – HCPA 7pm**

May 11 – Final Board Meeting

**\*Board Meetings are open to parents to attend.**

# EVYS ORCHESTRA POLICIES 2019-2020

## I. Rehearsals

Monday Evenings at Higley High School (HHS)

4:45 - 6:15 pm Concert Orchestra

4:45 - 6:15 pm Chamber Orchestra

6:30 - 8:30 pm Symphony Orchestra

## II. Cost

The cost for the year, September to May, is \$300 for Concert and Chamber Orchestra and \$325 for Symphony Orchestra. All musicians will have an additional sheet music fee of \$25. Payment may be made using one of the following methods:

- a. Pay cash or check to East Valley Youth Symphony.
- b. Pay online using Venmo.
- c. Pay through PayPal at [www.evysaz.org](http://www.evysaz.org) using Visa/Mastercard (please add 3% for service fee).
- d. We also offer a payment program with three equal installments. Please contact the EVYS Board of Directors for more info.

## III. Eligibility

All students who are able to perform the minimum audition requirements as stated on [www.evysaz.org](http://www.evysaz.org) are eligible to audition to become a member of EVYS.

As EVYS members, students are required to participate in and support their school band or orchestra program. Each member must ask their school conductor to sign the School Participation Letter (see end of handbook) to verify student participation at school or to give consent for the member to participate in EVYS.

If a school does not offer band or orchestra during regular school hours, a school counselor may sign the release form indicating no program is available. For homeschooling students, please ask a parent to sign.

## IV. Auditions

All eligible applicants will be auditioned by a fair and qualified adjudicator. Orchestra placement will be determined by each member's EVYS audition performance only.

Orchestra placement auditions will take place at the beginning of each school year. At the discretion of the conductor and the EVYS board, additional placement auditions may be scheduled throughout the year. In rare circumstances, and by invitation only, adjustments may be made following the first concert.

Seating must ultimately be at the discretion of the conductor of each ensemble for musical and educational reasons. There will be periodic skills proficiency playing tests for each concert set throughout the year, and seating may be adjusted following these. Materials for the skills tests will be announced in advance at rehearsal. Members absent for chair auditions or skills tests may forfeit their current ranking in their section.

Exceptions for missed chair auditions or skills tests due to school concerts may be arranged prior to audition or test date. Late chair auditions will only be given under circumstances deemed excusable by the Board of Directors or conductors.

The conductors reserve the right to schedule additional chair auditions or skills tests without notice – be prepared!

## **V. Attendance**

In order to maintain our high standard of performance, it is the policy of the EVYS Board that each member of EVYS be expected to attend every rehearsal and concert.

Punctuality is of utmost importance. Musicians are required to be in their seats with their music out and their instruments tuned at the rehearsal start time.

Absences due to a school concert, personal illness or family emergency will be excused. We do realize that members may occasionally have a conflict with a scheduled rehearsal. Each of these conflicts would be reviewed on an individual basis.

However, reoccurring absences or tardies, though excused, may result in a written warning, a skills test, a change of chair position, ineligibility to perform in a concert, or possible dismissal from EVYS.

We request that every absence, regardless of the reason, be reported through an absence request form. These forms can be found on the website at [www.evysaz.org](http://www.evysaz.org) and must be submitted within 24 hours of the date in question.

## **VI. Rehearsal Rules**

- EVYS members will respect the property of rehearsal and concert facilities.
- Food is not allowed in the rehearsal room. Water is the only beverage allowed.
- No running or rough play.
- Guard instruments and do not play or tamper with anyone else's instrument.
- Use and care for equipment appropriately, i.e. do not lean on music stands or tilt back on chairs.
- Be courteous and respectful to conductors, EVYS parent volunteers or board members, and Higley High School employees.
- No cell phone usage during rehearsals or concerts. Text messaging is specifically prohibited during these times.
- Be punctual and seated early for rehearsals, performances, and after breaks.
- Always bring personal copy of music in EVYS music folder and a pencil; do not assume a stand partner will bring it.
- Music should only be marked with light pencil markings. Do not use ink or colored pencils to mark EVYS music!
- Music must be returned at the specified time. Lost music will incur a replacement fee.

## **VII. Concert Conduct**

Part of the EVYS experience is to learn proper concert etiquette as a musician and an audience member. Please show respect to fellow musicians by turning off electronic devices and remaining quietly seated during performances. Also show support to all three EVYS orchestras by staying to the end of the entire concert. In the event that anyone must enter or exit the performance hall during a concert, proper etiquette is to wait until the music stops to discreetly enter or exit.

## **VIII. Concert Attire**

In order to provide an atmosphere of professionalism and excellence the following attire will be required for concerts.



All girls: Black, closed-toe dress shoes and black nylons or tights (no bare legs or feet allowed).

Concert & Chamber Orchestras: Long, black, ankle-length skirt (no denim or high slits); long-sleeved white blouse (no showing cleavage; must cover elbows; no T-shirts); only cellists may wear dressy, long, black slacks (no denim).

Symphony Orchestra: Long black dresses (no denim or slits).

All boys: Black dress slacks (no denim); long-sleeved white button-up dress shirt (tucked in); black bow tie, black shoes, black socks and black belt.

Concert & Chamber Orchestras: No Jacket.

Symphony Orchestra: Jacket.

Concert dress will need to be approved on October 21st, when there will be a “concert dress” check and group photos taken. Any inappropriate and unapproved concert attire will not be allowed on the stage during a concert.

Contact the Board if you like to access our gently used concert attire donation box or if you have extra concert attire to donate (gently used).

## **IX. Parental Support**

Music is the universal language, and it is our desire to facilitate the learning of that important language in our society. We believe that can be best accomplished by providing a nurturing environment of supportive parents, families, teachers, and community.

In order to accomplish the goals and aims of EVYS, each family must pledge service by signing up on the EVYS Parent Volunteer Form for at least two events this season. If you have additional talents or interests that would benefit EVYS, please contact a board member.

## **X. Additional Information**

EVYS member photos or videos may be taken occasionally and published in EVYS related publications such as brochures, newspaper articles, or [www.evysaz.org](http://www.evysaz.org). Please see the Media Release in this handbook.

EVYS does not provide insurance for musical instruments. Members are responsible to provide their own insurance against damage or theft as they may deem necessary.

# East Valley Youth Symphony MEMBER CONTRACT 2019 – 2020

Every member matters in the realization of the East Valley Youth Symphony (EVYS) mission, “...to encourage and inspire young musicians by providing an uplifting and challenging orchestral experience...” Once you have read the handbook and understand EVYS policies as explained, please sign this contract signifying your commitment to conduct yourself according to those policies.

Thank you for being a part of EVYS excellence!

1. I have read and understand the Orchestra Handbook 2019-2020 and will honor the policies as stated therein.
2. I will further promote EVYS excellence by learning my instrument and EVYS music to the best of my ability.
3. I understand that I must sign and return this Member Contract, the School Participation Letter, and tuition by Monday, August 26th, the first rehearsal.
4. I understand that I will not be allowed to play in any EVYS concert unless my Member Contract has been signed and submitted and my tuition has been paid.
5. I understand that by not keeping this contract, my participation in EVYS may be discontinued.

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EVYS Member Name	Signature	Date
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As a parent, I will support and facilitate my child’s good standing in EVYS. I also pledge to support our EVYS musicians by signing up to assist with at least two events this season on the Parent Volunteer Form or signup list.

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Parent Name	Signature	Date
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## MEDIA RELEASE 2019-2020

During rehearsals and concerts, opportunities will arise to photograph or video record musicians engaged in music learning and performance. I give permission for the use of photos or videos of my musician for a variety of purposes, including, but not limited to, advertising, design, and social media. Musician names will not be used with photos, videos or postings.

Parent Signature & Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return signed to EVYS Conductor or Board Member at 1st rehearsal.



Dear Orchestra Teacher, Band Teacher or Conductor,

Members of the East Valley Youth Symphony are required to participate in their school's band or orchestra program as dictated by their respective instrument. Please sign this form to provide verification of membership in good standing (OR to give consent for participation in EVYS even though the student is not enrolled in a school music program this year).

Student Name:

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School:

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Teacher or Conductor Name & Email:

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Teacher or Conductor Signature:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you teachers and conductors for encouraging and inspiring the young musicians of East Valley Youth Symphony!**

(HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS – Parent may sign instead of teacher.)

Private music teacher name & email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return signed to EVYS Conductor or Board Member at 1st rehearsal.

## Absence Reminder

If a musician is absent for any reason, please submit an Absence Request form online at least 24 hours in advance. Thank you!

[www.evysaz.org](http://www.evysaz.org)

## Support EVYS

EVYS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that relies on fundraising endeavors to keep member tuition affordable.

There are many opportunities to contribute to EVYS. Every donation matters and makes a difference!

## Annual April Fundraiser

Please note that the Play-a-thon in April is a mandatory rehearsal for all musicians.

### Connect With Us:



Connect with us on LinkedIn as an EVYS parent member or volunteer.

East Valley Youth Symphony  
P.O. Box 1195, Higley, AZ 85236  
[www.evysaz.org](http://www.evysaz.org) / [info@evysaz.org](mailto:info@evysaz.org)