

East Valley Youth Symphony

Making Beautiful Music for OVER a DECADE!

www.evysaz.org



Encouraging & Inspiring
Young Musicians

come play with us...



PARENT & MUSICIAN HANDBOOK

2020 – 2021



PARENT & MUSICIAN HANDBOOK 2020-2021

The East Valley Youth Symphony is now in its 14th 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 2020-2021 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 as many EVYS rehearsals and performances as possible, within appropriate state and school health guidelines.

All parents and musicians are requested to read this handbook and sign required forms. In order to participate in EVYS, the following items are 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 Form or Signup Genius** – one parent from each family to assist with at least three practices/events during the season
5. **COVID Waiver** – signed by musician and parent

East Valley Youth Symphony 2020-2021 Season

Dear EVYS Families,

We are thrilled to welcome you all to the 2020-2021 EVYS season of making music! This will certainly be a season like no other as we navigate the many different ways to share music with each other and our community.

Once thing I KNOW for certain during these uncertain times..... is that MUSIC will *always* live on. Music of the heart, mind, spirit and body will always rejuvenate, excite, console, heal, motivate and enlighten through the power of the melody and harmony. Music speaks passionately and confidently with strength and beauty no matter what trials and joys life brings.

I am also confident we will continue to share great moments of learning as we grow and develop our musical ideas as a team of musicians, not only to enrich our own lives, but the lives of our families, friends and communities. Creating music will instill hope and satisfaction showing we are here with and for each other. Judging from the high caliber of youth musicians, both the returning and new members, along with the level of enthusiasm and hunger to return and make music, we are in for a tremendous season full of creative new experiences and welcome traditions of the past!

As a conducting staff, we sincerely appreciate our TREMENDOUS Board of Directors and the strong support they offer through planning, organization, fundraising, facilitating, and truly believing in our mission.

Congratulations on your support of music, music education and positive character development in our youth! Despite the unusual conditions existing in the world right now, we are looking forward to a full season of making great music in a safe and secure environment, creating lifelong friends and sharing our passion for a better world through our music. Whether you are a student musician, an encouraging parent, a 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 & Chamber Conductor

Jon Gomez
Wind Specialist

EVYS CALENDAR 2020-2021

October 12 – Board Meeting 5:30 pm

October 19 – First Rehearsal online – Tuition & Contracts Due

October 26 – Rehearsal

November 2 – Rehearsal

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

November 16 – Rehearsal

November 23 – Rehearsal

November 30 – Rehearsal

December 7 – LAST Rehearsal of 2020

December 14 – Winter Auditions & Board Meeting 5:30 pm

Break for the Holidays

January 4 – In-Person Rehearsal – Higley High School

January 11 – Rehearsal (Board Meeting 5:30 pm)

January 18 – Rehearsal

January 25 – Rehearsal

February 1 – Rehearsal (Board Meeting 5:30 pm)

February 8 – Rehearsal (Dress Check/Photos – Wear concert attire!)

February 15 – No Rehearsal (President’s Day)

February 20 – Playathon SATURDAY – Mission Church 8am-4pm

February 22 – Dress Rehearsal (Not on stage, no concert attire required)

February 24 – Concert WEDNESDAY – HCPA 7pm

March 1 – Rehearsal (Board Meeting 5:30 pm)

March 8 – Rehearsal

March 15 – No Rehearsal (Spring Break)

March 22 – Rehearsal

March 29 – Rehearsal

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

April 12 – Rehearsal

April 19 – Rehearsal

April 26 – Rehearsal

May 3 – Rehearsal

May 10 – Dress Rehearsal (Not on stage, no concert attire required)

May 11 – Final Concert TUESDAY – HCPA 7pm

May 17 – Final Board Meeting & Auditions for 2020-21

***Board Meetings are open - parents are encouraged to attend.**

EVYS ORCHESTRA POLICIES 2020-2021

I. Rehearsals online starting Monday October 19th – more info to follow. Rehearsals in person starting January 4, 2021.

Monday Evenings at Higley High School (HHS)

4:45 - 6:15 pm Concert Orchestra & Chamber Orchestra

6:30 - 8:30 pm Symphony Orchestra

II. Tuition

The tuition fee for this year, October 2020 to May 2021, is **\$250** for Concert and Chamber Orchestra and **\$275** for Symphony Orchestra. All musicians will have an additional sheet music fee of **\$25**. All tuition fees are non-refundable. 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 using Visa/Mastercard (please add 3% for service fee).
- d. We also offer a payment program with three equal installments. Please contact the EVYS Treasurer for more info.

III. Eligibility

All student musicians who are able to perform the minimum audition requirements as stated on www.evysaz.org are eligible to audition to become a member of EVYS. EVYS members are required to participate in a school band or orchestra program if offered by the school and if the student is attending school in person. If so, EVYS members must obtain the signature of the school band or orchestra conductor on the School Participation Letter (see end of handbook) to verify student participation at school and to give consent for participation in EVYS.

If a school does not offer band or orchestra class, a school counselor may sign the release form indicating no program is available. If a student is doing homeschool or online school, a parent or private teacher may sign to give consent for participation in EVYS.

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 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, so musicians should be prepared.

V. Attendance

In order to maintain a high standard of performance, it is the policy of the EVYS Board that each member of EVYS attend as many rehearsals and concerts as possible. However, at this time we recognize the need to take precautionary health measures. If any student has a fever, coughing, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19 or contact with anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, they will not be allowed to participate in EVYS until cleared by a healthcare professional.

Vulnerable individuals should not participate in or oversee EVYS activities. Participation in EVYS is voluntary. Parent and student signature of the EVYS COVID-19 waiver is mandatory prior to participation.

Absences due to a health situation, a school concert, family emergency or illness will be excused. We do request that participants let their conductor know and complete an absence notice online in a timely manner. Absences are to be reported through the [absence request form](http://www.evysaz.org) on the website at www.evysaz.org.

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

If a member has reoccurring absences or tardies without absence notices, it may be necessary to have a skills test or a change of chair position.

VI. Rehearsal Rules

- EVYS follows all COVID-19 state guidelines and Higley High School requirements and precautionary measures. EVYS members will wash hands upon arrival, facilities will be sanitized, social distancing will be observed, and students will not share any items.
- EVYS members commit to respect the property of rehearsal and concert facilities (i.e. no leaning on music stands, tilting back on chairs, or pushing chair racks into the wall).
- No food is allowed in the rehearsal room, only water. No sharing of food or water items is allowed.
- Instruments need to be protected. EVYS members commit not to play or touch anyone else's instrument.
- EVYS musicians are expected to be courteous and respectful to conductors, EVYS parent volunteers, and Higley HS employees.
- No cell phone usage is allowed during rehearsals or concerts. Text messaging is specifically for emergencies only.
- EVYS musicians are expected to be punctual and seated early for rehearsals, performances, and after breaks.
- Musicians should always plan to bring their personal copy of music in the EVYS music folder and their own pencil, as well as their own music stand.
- Music should only be marked with light pencil markings; no use of 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. During performances, we respect and support fellow musicians by turning off electronic devices and remaining quietly seated until the end of the concert after all EVYS orchestras have performed. 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 quietly 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 February 8th, 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 would like to access our gently used concert attire donation box or 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 of EVYS, each family must pledge service by signing the EVYS Parent Volunteer Form or Signup Genius for at least two events this season. If parents or family members have additional talents or ways to give back to EVYS, please reach out to 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, social media, or our website on 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 2020 – 2021

Every member matters in the realization of the East Valley Youth Symphony mission—to encourage and inspire young musicians by providing an uplifting and challenging orchestral experience. Upon reading the handbook and EVYS policies herein, members will 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 2020-2021 and will honor the policies as stated herein.
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 bring tuition to the first rehearsal.
4. I understand that I will not be allowed to play in EVYS concerts unless my Member Contract has been signed and submitted and my tuition has been paid.
5. I commit to abide by this contract, or my participation in EVYS may be discontinued.

EVYS Member Name

Signature

Date

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 Genius.

Parent Name

Signature

Date

MEDIA RELEASE 2020-2021

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 print publications, newspaper, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media to promote EVYS. I understand that no royalty, fee or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Parent Signature & Date: _____

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



Dear Orchestra or Band Teacher / Conductor,

Members of the East Valley Youth Symphony are required to participate in a school band or orchestra program if the student is attending school in person and if the program for their respective instrument is offered by the school. Please sign this form to provide verification of enrollment and being in good standing, OR to give consent for participation in EVYS even though the student may not be enrolled in a school music program presently.

Student Name:

School:

Orchestra or Band Teacher / Conductor Name & Email:

Orchestra or Band Teacher / Conductor Signature & Date:

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

(HOMESCHOOL & ONLINE STUDENTS – Parent or private teacher may sign in place of school conductor.)

***Also, please indicate name & email of your private music teacher:**

Please return to EVYS Conductor or Board Member at first rehearsal.

East Valley Youth Symphony 2020-2021 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 14th 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. This year we will be looking to add a fall retreat as well as continue to build upon the great foundation that was established last season during the February Play-A-Thon. We are revamping our website to provide better communication to our membership and better transparency to all stakeholders. We are broadening our outreach in the community and have also begun the task of grant writing.

Our membership continues to grow and develop thanks largely in part to the guidance of our skilled conductors/specialists while taking on difficult literature. During these uncertain times created by COVID-19, I can assure you there will be one constant: we will work hard to provide your children with an amazing and safe experience. As a proud parent of an EVYS participant, I too look forward to the many 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
Jerry Giacinto Vice-President	Cheri Tropp Auditions Director
Shireen Olsen Treasurer	Marilou Maricut Fundraising Director
Emily Meyer Recruiting Director	Sue Steele Picture Day Director
Rocio Joo Photographer	Ginger Wengert & Ana Rubino Librarians
Tasha Giacinto Concert Attire Director	Sheridan Chumley Publishing

OPEN POSITIONS

Secretary, Social Media/Marketing Director, Volunteer Coordinator

Absence Reminder

If a musician must be absent,
please submit an Absence Request Form online
at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

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 February Fundraiser

Please note: All musicians are expected and encouraged to be present and
to participate in our Play-a-thon on Saturday, February 20, 2021.

We will have instrument technique training & music education,
games & door prizes, and a very good time!

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 / info@evysaz.org