

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

2021 – 2022



PARENT & MUSICIAN HANDBOOK 2021-2022

The East Valley Youth Symphony is now in its 15th season and consists of nearly 100 musicians from Gilbert, Chandler, and Queen Creek with four 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 2021-2022 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 per family to assist for at least 4 practices/events over the season
5. **COVID Waiver** – signed by musician and parent

East Valley Youth Symphony 2021-2022 Season

Dear EVYS Families,

We are beyond excited to welcome everyone to the 2021-22 East Valley Youth Symphony season! This will be a year of dreams as we continue to meet as musical ensembles to learn, prepare and share music with each other, friends, family and community members. We are excited to add Priscilla Benitez as the Chamber Orchestra Director and Hana Giauque as the Director of the Concert Orchestra! Both of these fine teachers come to us with a wealth of experience as Music Educators as well as professional performers.

Mr. Mendoza is returning as our Wind Specialist! Our team of leadership, both artistically and within the board is extremely talented and our combined dedication to teaching young musicians and providing them with musical opportunities is focused and determined!

We are also moving into a new home and are pleased to announce our partnership with the Benjamin Franklin Charter Schools where we will rehearse and perform. This new performing arts center is fresh, beautiful and state of the art! We are fortunate to have the opportunity to meet in this wonderful facility and look forward to a long relationship with BFHS! The administration of the Charter School System and the High School are supportive and also excited to be in partnership with EVYS.

Congratulations on your support of music, music-education and 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 / 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

Hana Giauque
Concert Conductor

Priscilla Benitez
Chamber Conductor

Victor Gomez
Wind Specialist

EVYS CALENDAR 2021-2022

August 23 – First Rehearsal – Tuition & Contracts Due
 August 30 – Rehearsal

September 6 – Labor Day – No Rehearsal
 September 13 – Rehearsal
 September 20 – Rehearsal
 September 27 – Rehearsal

October 4 – Fall Break – No Rehearsal
 October 11 – Rehearsal
 October 18 – Rehearsal
 October 25 – Rehearsal

November 1 – Rehearsal (Dress Check & Photos – Wear concert attire!)
 November 8 – Rehearsal
 November 15 – Dress Rehearsal (On Stage at BF Performing Arts Center)
November 19 – Concert FRIDAY – 7pm at BF Performing Arts Center
 November 22 – Rehearsal
 November 29 – Rehearsal

December 6 – LAST Rehearsal of 2021 & Winter Auditions
 December 13 – Combined Conductors & Board Meeting

Break for the Holidays

January 3 – Rehearsal
 January 10 – Rehearsal
 January 17 – Rehearsal (MLK Day – Rehearsal will occur)
 January 24 – Rehearsal
 January 31 – Rehearsal

February 7 – Rehearsal
 February 14 – Rehearsal
February 21 – No Rehearsal (Presidents Day)
February 26 – Play-a-thon SATURDAY
 February 28 – Dress Rehearsal (Not on stage, no concert attire required)

March 4 – Concert FRIDAY – 7pm at BF Performing Arts Center
 March 7 – Rehearsal
 March 14 – Rehearsal
March 21 – No Rehearsal (Spring Break)
 March 28 – Rehearsal

April 4 – Rehearsal
 April 11 – Rehearsal
 April 18 – Rehearsal
 April 25 – Dress Rehearsal (Not on stage, no concert attire required)

May 2 – Final Concert MONDAY – 7pm at BF Performing Arts Center
May 9 – Final Board Meeting & Auditions for 2022-2023 Season

*Monthly Board Meetings on Zoom are open – parents encouraged to attend.
 Dates TBD – please ask a board member or email us.

EVYS ORCHESTRA POLICIES 2021-2022

I. Rehearsals in person - starting Monday, August 23rd

Monday evenings at Benjamin Franklin High School (BFHS)

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

6:30 - 8:30 pm Symphony Orchestra

II. Tuition

The tuition fee for this year, August 2021 to May 2022, is \$300 for

Concert and Chamber Orchestra and \$325 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. 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 will 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. We also recognize the need to take precautionary health measures, and we will follow all the COVID procedures and mitigation plans of Benjamin Franklin Charter Schools. We will provide hand sanitizer and require anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or known exposure or positive test results to stay home and follow CDC protocols.

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](#) 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, a skills test or change in chair position may result.

VI. Rehearsal Rules

- 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 Benjamin Franklin High School facility and 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.
- 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 and bassists 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 November 1st, when there will be a “concert dress” check and group photos taken during rehearsal. 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 / Signup Genius for at least two events per semester, or a total of four volunteer events. Alternatively, parents may pay a fee if they are unable to keep their volunteer commitment.

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.

EVYS is run by parent volunteers. We are counting on all parents to participate and volunteer. It is necessary for the success of our program. A \$50 fee per semester will be assessed if parents do not volunteer.

East Valley Youth Symphony MEMBER CONTRACT 2021 – 2022

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 2021-2022 and will honor the policies as stated herein.
2. I will further promote EVYS excellence by learning my instrument and the assigned EVYS music to the best of my ability.
3. I understand that I must sign and return this Member Contract and the School Participation Letter and pay tuition by the first rehearsal.
4. I understand that I will not be allowed to play in EVYS concerts unless my signed Member Contract and tuition have been submitted.
5. I commit to abide by this contract in order to participate in EVYS.

EVYS Member Name

Signature

Date

EVYS Member Email & Mobile Phone Number

As a parent, I will support and facilitate my child's good standing in EVYS. I pledge to support our EVYS musicians by assisting with at least 4 events this season (2 per semester) through the EVYS Volunteer Signup Genius.

EVYS Parent Name

Signature

Date

EVYS Parent Email & Mobile Phone Number

MEDIA RELEASE 2021-2022

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, Phone Number & 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.)

***If you have a private music teacher, please indicate name, phone number & email contact:**

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

East Valley Youth Symphony 2021-2022 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 15th 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 Spring Play-a-thon. We are revamping our website to provide better communication to our membership and better transparency to all stakeholders.

Our membership continues to grow and develop thanks largely in part to the guidance of our skilled conductors/specialists while taking on difficult literature. 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.

- Garin Campbell, President EVYS Board of Directors

EVYS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Garin Campbell
President

president@evysaz.org

Jerry Giacinto
Vice-President

vice-president@evysaz.org

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Treasurer

treasurer@evysaz.org

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Secretary secretary@evysaz.org

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Concertattire-director@evysaz.org

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Dana De Los Monteros
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auditions@evysaz.org

Marilou Maricut
Fundraising Director

fundraising-director@evysaz.org

Sue Steele
Picture Day Director

Ramie Hancock
Publishing

publishing@evysaz.org

OPEN POSITIONS

Volunteer Coordinator, Recruiting Director, Social Media/Marketing,
Music Librarian, Photographer

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 Spring Fundraiser

Please note: All musicians are expected and encouraged to be present and
to participate in our Play-a-thon on Saturday, February 26, 2022.

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

Connect With Us:



Find us on
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Instagram

Linked in

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

East Valley Youth Symphony
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www.evysaz.org / info@evysaz.org