



Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras

2024 – 2025

Membership Handbook

Program Information

Policies and Procedures

PO Box 2328 | Winter Park, FL 32790 | 407.999.7800 | www.fsyo.org

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras empowers young musicians to achieve excellence and inspire their communities through a shared love of music.

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Welcome to FSYO's 68th Concert Season!

Now entering its 68th Concert Season, Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras continues to educate and inspire Central Florida's top young musicians. The ensembles that make up FSYO all reflect a commitment to provide young musicians with the opportunity to strengthen their musical talents and develop an appreciation of the arts through music education. The Artistic Staff, Administrative Staff, and Board of Directors are all committed to bringing your students an exciting and challenging season of excellence!

FSYO's programs are carefully structured for students to grow with FSYO throughout their primary and secondary years. The full range of ensembles give every student a place to excel with peers at a similar level and an opportunity to collaborate with and learn from seasoned music professionals on the local and national levels.

Overture Strings introduces advancing string players to the ensemble experience, encourages responsibility and practice along the way, and helps instill a love for orchestral playing. Prelude Orchestra is an intermediate level string orchestra where students regularly rotate chair seating, encouraging exploration, leadership, and musicality while playing as part of a whole. Sinfonia Orchestra invites students into a larger ensemble experience where they learn the intricacies of playing in a full orchestra (strings, winds, brass, percussion) while performing repertoire that focuses on furthering technique, musicianship, and leadership. Philharmonia Orchestra is an advanced full orchestra where students play standard classical literature and perform in a number of concert experiences. Symphonic Orchestra is a pre-professional, conservatory-level orchestra, in which students are challenged with exceptionally difficult literature and perform at a number of extra concerts and engagements throughout the year. FSYO's Alphonse Carlo & Joseph Wise Jazz Bands are 17-20 piece ensembles that focus on the study of big band jazz music. Percussion Ensemble provides an opportunity for percussionists to delve into the rich variety of literature written for percussion, and these musicians simultaneously serve all of our classical orchestras in preparation and performance of their literature.

For any questions, concerns or feedback, please feel free to contact the FSYO Office by phoning 407.999.7800, or by emailing operations@fsyo.org.

Here's to the best year yet!

Samuel Thomas, Board of Directors President

Abigail Tran, Executive Director

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras is sponsored in part by the State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts. FSYO is also funded in part by United Arts of Central Florida, your local agency for the arts and by the Orange County Government through the Arts & Cultural Affairs Program.



About FSYO

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has been serving Central Florida for over 67 years. In the early 1950's, Rollins College music professor, Alphonse Carlo, recognized a need for a youth orchestra and organized free Saturday classes for string students with a dream of forming a youth orchestra. The youth orchestra grew in popularity through 1957 and staged its first public concert in November 1959 with 59 students. For the first 20 years, FSYO was jointly supported by both Rollins College and the Florida Symphony Orchestra.

Today, FSYO serves almost 350 students and is comprised of eight ensembles - three symphony orchestras, two string-training orchestras, a percussion ensemble, two jazz bands - and one supplementary program, Stringmania Summer Camp. FSYO programs are carefully structured to encourage student growth with FSYO throughout their primary and secondary years. The full range of ensembles gives each student a place to excel with peers at a similar level and an opportunity to collaborate with seasoned music professionals on local, national, and international levels. During the summer, touring ensemble students participate in life-changing experiences of organized tours, alternating between international and national travel every other year.

Membership

Membership in Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras is by invitation only, following competitive entrance auditions. Ensuring equality and the opportunity for growth, membership renewal is not automatically guaranteed, as all members must reaudition each year. Participation in FSYO requires a substantial commitment to weekly rehearsals, practice hours, and concert performances.

FSYO has set age guidelines for each orchestra. The majority of FSYO students fit into the following age groups, but, upon request, exceptions are considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the FSYO Board of Directors, in consultation with the conductors:

- Overture Strings:** Students ages 9 to 12
- Prelude Orchestra:** Students ages 10 to 15
- Sinfonia Orchestra:** Students ages 11 to 16
- Philharmonia Orchestra:** Students ages 12 to 18
- Symphonic Orchestra:** Students ages 14 to 20
- Percussion Ensemble:** Students ages 13 to 20
- Joseph Wise Jazz Band:** students ages 12 to 18
- Alphonse Carlo Jazz Band:** Students ages 14 to 20

Alumni

Many graduates from FSYO go on to pursue careers in professional music as they play with the nation's top orchestras and jazz bands or teach our nation's youth in the classroom. Additionally, our alumni hold leading positions in the fields of medicine, law, and business, with a few playing a role in the life of FSYO today. The leadership, thoughtfulness, and independence learned through music education help guide our students throughout their lives.

FSYO is proud to have sent alumni to the nation's top colleges and collegiate music conservatories including:

- The Juilliard School
- The Boston Conservatory
- Manhattan School of Music
- New England Conservatory
- Duke University
- Harvard University
- Oberlin Conservatory
- Eastman School of Music
- Yale University
- New York University
- Vanderbilt University
- University of Pennsylvania

Tours, Awards, and Collaborations

- In 1989, FSYO's Touring Orchestra premiered at Carnegie Hall in New York, NY.
- In 1991, FSYO's Touring Orchestra premiered at Symphony Hall in Boston, MA.
- In Summer 1993, FSYO musicians served as Cultural Youth Ambassadors in a performance tour to Basel, Switzerland and Barcelona, Spain. The following Spring 1994, FSYO hosted the Basel Orchestra for joint concerts in Orlando, FL.
- In Summer 1995, sixty musicians from FSYO's Touring Orchestra toured and performed in Great Britain. In the following Summer 1996, the musicians from the East Herts Music Centre Orchestra reciprocated and traveled to the U.S. to perform with FSYO at Epcot as well as a standing-room-only concert at Seminole Community College.
- In Summer 1997, FSYO Touring Orchestra traveled to Australia to perform in the Sydney Youth Musicale, participating in home-stays, concerts, and tours. The tour culminated in a performance at the world-renowned Sydney Opera House.
- In Summer 1999, forty-six musicians from FSYO's Touring Orchestra visited Munich, Salzburg, Vienna, and Prague with performances in Salzburg, Vienna, and Marionkron, Austria. In Vienna, the orchestra competed in the 28th International Youth and Music Festival, winning Second Place in the Youth Orchestra Division against European youth orchestras that included members up to age 29.
- In Summer 2002, FSYO was extremely proud to be one of six youth orchestras from across the U.S. selected by audition to participate in the prestigious National Youth Orchestra Festival in Sarasota, Florida.
- In Summer 2004, FSYO's Touring Orchestra traveled to Washington, D.C., performing with Martin Hackleman, Principal Horn of the National Symphony, and participating in Master Classes with the Baltimore Symphony.
- In the 2010-2011 Season, internationally acclaimed violinist Nadja Solerno-Sonnenberg collaborated with FSYO for a series of rehearsals, culminating in a concert performance of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with the Symphonic Orchestra for an audience of more than 1,200 at the Bob Carr Theater.
- In the 2011-2012 Season, FSYO received a significant grant from the Josh Groban Foundation, leading to a backstage meet and greet for select FSYO members during Groban's "Straight to You" Concert Tour.
- In the 2012-2013 Season, FSYO raised over \$18,000 to support the creation of the Carl Rendeck Scholarship Award.
- In the 2013-2014 Season, FSYO launched its beginning violin program: Sing-Song, String-Along.
- In the 2015-2016 Season, FSYO expanded its program offerings by forming the Chamber Orchestra, originally led by Dr. Mauricio Céspedes Rivero.
- In the 2016-2017 Season, FSYO's 60th Season, FSYO named Mr. Hanrich Claassen as Music Director.
- In Summer 2017, FSYO's Touring Orchestra embarked on a two-week tour to Salzburg, Austria and Prague, Czech Republic, launching FSYO's bi-yearly International Tour. Students participated in the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival in Vienna and received Second Place with Outstanding Success in the Symphony Orchestra category.
- In the 2017-2018 Season, FSYO expanded its program offerings by forming a Jazz Orchestra, led by Mr. Jeff Rupert. The great success of the Jazz Orchestra led to the addition of Jazz II Orchestra in the 2018-2019 Season, led by Mr. Kenneth Boyd.
- In Summer 2018, FSYO launched its bi-yearly Continental Tour, with the inaugural 2018 tour spanning the East Coast. During the tour, FSYO's Touring Orchestra visited Charleston, SC, Washington D.C., and New York, NY, performing at the College of Charleston Sottile Theatre and in DCINY's "Song/Play" program at Carnegie Hall.
- In Summer 2019, FSYO embarked on a ten-day tour of China, performing in world-class venues in Beijing, Xi'an, Hangzhou, and Shanghai.
- In March 2020, FSYO's Symphonic Orchestra participated in the ASTA National Orchestra Festival, receiving first place in the youth symphony orchestra division.
- In Summer of 2021, FSYO traveled to Miami, FL, for a 3-day tour - one of the first orchestras to begin touring again post COVID-19.
- In the 2021-2022 Season, FSYO's 65th Season, FSYO named Dr. James O. Welsch as Music Director.
- In the 2022-2023 Season, FSYO expanded its program offerings by forming the Percussion Ensemble, originally led by Mr. Paul Yorke.
- In the 2022-2023 Season, FSYO hosted its inaugural Invitational featuring Oklahoma State University's Faculty Brass Ensemble. During the Invitational, the visiting Guest Artist Ensemble clinics with FSYO Members as well as local school programs in Central Florida. The instrumentation of the group rotates between Strings, Winds, Brass, and Jazz personnel.
- In the 2022-2023 Season, FSYO created the Student Engagement Council (SEC) which is a group of students elected by their peers to increase the camaraderie between members outside of rehearsals and concerts.
- In the 2022-2023 Season, FSYO hosted the first ever Play-a-thon in March, raising money to help support the organization. Play-a-thon is a community wide event that encourages the members, Artistic Staff, Administrative Staff, and Board of Directors to raise money in support of music education. The fundraising period is one month long and culminates into a free performance for the public.

- In the Summer of 2023, FSYO's Touring Program expanded to include both a Touring Orchestra and Touring Jazz Band. Together, the Touring Ensembles traveled to Italy for a 12 day tour and performed in Pavia, Padua, Perugia, and Rome while visiting Milan, Venice, Perugia, Pavia, Florence, Orvieto, and Rome.
- In the summer of 2024, FSYO embarked on a domestic tour, performing and touring university music programs along the way. Stops included Nashville and Belmont University, Bloomington and Jacobs School of Music, and Atlanta, with the final destination being Chicago and Northwestern University.
- In the 2024-2025 Season, FSYO's 68th Season, FSYO named Mr. Charles Watford as Music Director.
- In the 2024-2025 Season, FSYO expanded its program offerings by forming the Sinfonia Orchestra, originally led by Ms. Andrea Reynolds.

Staff & Board of Directors

Administrative Staff

Executive Director: Abigail Tran (she/her), agoodin@fsyo.org
Development Coordinator: Cameron Frye (she/her), cfrye@fsyo.org
Marketing Coordinator: Christopher Hightower (he/him), marketing@fsyo.org
Operations Coordinator: Anna Eotvos (she/her), operations@fsyo.org
Operations Coordinator: Ray Moscarella (he/him), operations@fsyo.org

Artistic Staff

Music Director & Symphonic Orchestra Conductor: Mr. Charles Watford (he/him)
Philharmonia Orchestra Conductor: Mr. Matthew Davis (he/him)
Sinfonia Orchestra Conductor: Ms. Andrea Reynolds (she/her)
Prelude Orchestra Conductor: Ms. Sarah Morrison (she/her)
Overture Strings Conductor: Dr. Jeannine Mongeon (she/her)
Percussion Ensemble Director: TBA
Jazz Director & Alphonse Carlo Jazz Band Conductor: Mr. Kenneth Boyd (he/him)
Joseph Wise Jazz Band Conductor: Mr. Marc Kolodinsky

Contact Information

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2328, Winter Park, FL 32790
Office Phone: 407.999.7800
General Email Inquiries: info@fsyo.org

Board of Directors

President: Samuel Thomas, Ernst & Young, LLP / FSYO Alumni Parent
Vice President: Alan Gerber, Valencia College
Treasurer: Marcia Babione, Babione Kuehler & Company / FSYO Alumni Parent
Secretary: Dr. Tremon Kizer, University of Central Florida

- **Hetal Engineer, The Bancorp**
- **Edwin Fee Jr., Orlando Utilities Commission / FSYO Alumni Parent**
- **Katherin Flury, GrayRobinson, P.A.**
- **Dr. Regina Hightower, Orange County Public Schools / FSYO Alumni Parent**
- **Rebecca Hull, Siemens Corporation**
- **Stella Keiner, GrayRobinson, P.A.**
- **Jessica Lange, Darden Restaurants, Inc. / FSYO Parent**
- **Seiji Shiraishi, InCharge Debt Solutions / FSYO Parent**

Interested in joining the FSYO Board? Applications are available online at <https://fsyo.org/about-us/board.html>.

Ensemble Managers

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras' Ensemble Managers are the key volunteers for FSYO and act as a liaison between the Administrative Team and the students during rehearsals and concerts, ensuring that students are informed on all forthcoming information, have all necessary music, and are kept safe and secure on site and off.

Each FSYO Ensemble houses volunteer Ensemble Managers for the entirety of the season. The FSYO Ensemble Managers are selected during the summer by the FSYO Staff.

Personal Conduct & Attendance Policies

Equal Opportunity Policy

FSYO admits qualifying students of any race, religion, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the programs and activities generally accorded or made available to its students. It does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, or ethnicity in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship programs, or other programs it administers.

Personal Deportment

FSYO members should conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times during rehearsals, sectionals, performances, and all other FSYO functions. This means alert, observant, and courteous attention, enthusiasm for the activities, and attention to all directions given by the conductors and staff. Failure to do so may result in immediate dismissal from the FSYO program, at the discretion of the Board of Directors and staff.

In some cases, FSYO staff may notify an FSYO member of an area for improvement in personal deportment. Members so notified must show improvement in the designated areas of deportment within a reasonable time frame as determined. Disruptive behavior, sexual harassment, and drug use will not be tolerated. Members failing to comply may be immediately dismissed from the FSYO program.

Artistic Standards

FSYO is dedicated to promoting, encouraging, and maintaining high artistic standards. Each member is strongly encouraged to study with a private instructor to maintain consistent progress on their instrument and repertoire. A list of private teachers who currently instruct FSYO students is available at www.fsyo.org.

FSYO is **NOT** a substitute for school music programs as it was designed to **supplement, not replace**, school music programs. Members of FSYO are expected, when possible, to participate in and be good standing members with the music courses appropriate to their instrument at the school they attend. The school music program is an excellent place to learn and gain valuable experience, and it provides students an access to All-State and All-County groups, as well as District and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals.

Use of Facilities

FSYO members will respect the rules, premises, and instruments found at all rehearsal and concert locations. When on site, members should not enter closed off areas, nor should they exit the property with an adult without explicit permission and accompaniment from one of the Ensemble Managers or parent/guardian.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Musicians are expected to take personal responsibility for the following:

- Be seated, warmed up, tuned, and ready by the start time of each rehearsal and conductor's first downbeat
- Have the current music in their folder and on their stand
- Have a pencil for note taking
- Have extra instrument supplies in their cases (strings, reeds, mutes, etc.)
- Restrain from the use of an electronic device during all rehearsals and concerts

*Electronic device usage is **prohibited** during rehearsals and concerts. You may use your devices before rehearsal and during the break. If device usage is observed, your device will be confiscated and then returned to you after the rehearsal or concert. A follow up discussion will take place with your parent/guardian, and disciplinary action may be taken for repeated offenses.*

Rehearsal and Concert Attendance

Being a member of an FSYO ensemble is both a privilege and a responsibility. Consistent participation of each individual at weekly rehearsals results in successful performances.

- Each student is allowed **one absence per concert cycle** (cycles outlined below), regardless of the absence being excused or unexcused. Two tardy arrival or early dismissal markings equals one absence. To remain in good standing, a student cannot exceed the allowed one absence per cycle. If an emergency situation arises, please notify your Operations Coordinator as soon as possible at operations@fsyo.org, OR complete the Absence Request Form located on the website.
- If you fall into bad standing because of attendance, your attendance is required at a conference with your conductor, the Music Director, the Executive Director, and your parents; whereupon your bad standing may result in disciplinary action or dismissal from FSYO.

- The FSYO Operations Coordinators keep track of all attendance. If you have a question about your standing, please see them for your records.
- Good standing is tracked throughout the season and compiled in a Merit Point total for each student. Merit Points are used to identify students for awards, scholarships, and ensemble placement.
- On Concert Days, students **cannot** leave the venue after rehearsal and before they perform. Once a student arrives, they are required to stay on the premises until the concert ends. Additionally, after you have performed with your ensemble, you are expected to stay and listen to the remainder of the concert.

Concert Cycles

- **Cycle 1:** First Rehearsal (August 18) to your Season Opener (October 13)
- **Cycle 2:** Rehearsal following your Season Opener (October 20) to Miracle at Mead Concert (December 15)
- **Cycle 3:** Rehearsal following Winter Break (January 19) to Spring Classics Concert (March 9)
- **Cycle 4:** Rehearsal following Spring Classics (March 23) to your Season Finale (May 18)

Absence Request Form

Please submit your absence requests through the Google Form found on our website under the Parent/Members/Documents tab.

Unexpected Absences

- Contact your FSYO Operations Coordinator by email at least two hours before the scheduled event. **Do NOT call the FSYO Office.**
- FSYO understands that personal and family emergencies happen. Whether or not unexpected absences are counted toward your good standing is handled on a case-by-case basis.

Tardy Arrival / Early Departure

- A tardy arrival is when you walk into rehearsal after tuning has begun, and an early departure is when you walk out of rehearsal prior to the conductor dismissing the ensemble. Tardies and early departures are **NOT** acceptable in any FSYO ensemble, and both instances are recorded/communicated on a weekly basis to the Administrative and Artistic Staff.
- **Two** instances of a tardy arrival or early departure count as one absence.
- Students typically need **15 to 30 minutes** of personal warm-up before a rehearsal. "Being early to an event is being on time; being on time to an event is being late."

Scheduling a Missed Rehearsal

- Personally speak with your conductor at least **two weeks** in advance about the situation, and complete the digital FSYO Absence Request Form found on the FSYO website. Verbal confirmation is unacceptable, and the absence will be marked as Unexcused.
- To remain in good standing, each student must not have more than one absence per concert cycle. Two tardy or early departure markings equal one absence.

Scheduling a Missed Concert

- Personally speak with your Conductor at least **one month** in advance about your situation, and work with your Conductor and your FSYO Operations Coordinator to complete the **digital FSYO Absence Request Form** found online. Verbal confirmation is unacceptable.
- Any student who misses a concert without prior approval from their conductor may be subject to suspension for the remainder of the year.

General Member Guidelines

- Bring all music and a pencil to every rehearsal, and come musically prepared.
- Arrive 15 minutes before rehearsal begins so that your instrument is ready, music is on the music stand, and you are ready to begin.
- Make rehearsals a priority by honoring the Attendance Policy.
- Being a Section Leader/Principal is an honor to earn that comes with a higher level of responsibility. These students must be available for all rehearsals, and the conductors consider them "assistant conductors." They will be expected to model excellent attendance, attitude, leadership, discipline, and cooperation.
- Percussionists are expected to assist in the moving, setting up, dismantling, and putting away of all percussion equipment for rehearsals and concerts. They must arrive to rehearsal at least 30 minutes prior to the downbeat to set up the section, and they need to plan to stay until all percussion equipment is put away.
- All ensemble members are responsible for breaking down their sections by stacking their chairs and putting away their stands in a neat and orderly fashion at the end of each rehearsal.

- Respect all members' desire to participate fully without distraction. If your behavior becomes a distraction, you will be asked to leave rehearsal.
- FSYO is a guest at rehearsal and concert facilities, and all FSYO members are expected to abide by all facility rules and regulations.
- Food and drinks (except water with a closed lid) are not allowed in the rehearsal rooms.
- Pick up all trash around the rehearsal room, and return extra music at the conclusion of each rehearsal, sectional, or concert.
- FSYO makes all information about rehearsals, concerts, special events, and changes available to its members. It is the responsibility of the parent and/or student to obtain this information and to be aware of any changes. This information is electronically provided for all FSYO ensembles through the Weekly Wednesday Newsletter. Any questions about the schedule should be directed to your FSYO Operations Coordinator.

Policies and Agreements

Media Release & Hold Harmless Agreement

The Media Release and Hold Harmless Agreement gives FSYO Members legal permission to work with FSYO and releases any liability from FSYO. This agreement also provides FSYO staff members and volunteers access to FSYO Member medical information, in case of any emergency. This agreement must be submitted by the first rehearsal.

From time to time, member activities or achievements warrant public praise and acknowledgement. The Consent Agreement gives FSYO worldwide right and license to use photographs, videos, likeness, and any other words and symbols that identify the student ensemble members in the advertising and promotion of the ensembles in any medium, without restrictions as to frequency. This agreement applies to both web and print and must be submitted by the first rehearsal.

Harassment Policy

FSYO is committed to maintaining a positive learning and working environment, free of harassment or discrimination of any kind. FSYO will not tolerate harassment by or toward its students, conductors, staff, or any other individuals associated with the organization. FSYO considers harassment to be any online, social media, verbal, or physical conduct that creates an intimidating or hostile environment based on race, national origin, gender, age, religion, creed, disability, sexual orientation, or status as a Veteran.

FSYO will promptly respond to complaints of harassment and where FSYO determines that harassment has occurred, will impose any necessary corrective action. In the case of students, corrective action may include being asked not to play in certain concerts or being asked to leave the program. In the case of FSYO staff, corrective action may include disciplinary action, including termination.

Sexual Harassment Policy

FSYO does not tolerate sexual harassment towards its students, conductors, staff, or any other individuals associated with the organization. FSYO considers sexual harassment of any kind to be a serious offense and is committed to maintaining an environment free of harassment. FSYO will promptly respond to complaints of sexual harassment and, where FSYO determines that sexual harassment has occurred, will impose any necessary corrective action. Sexual harassment can be physical, verbal, and/or psychological. Sexual harassment includes behavior between any members regardless of sex or gender. Employees, contractors, students, and volunteers of FSYO are prohibited from engaging in sexual harassment of any kind in any setting associated with FSYO.

If any individuals associated with FSYO believe they are the victim of sexual harassment, they should as soon as possible inform the harasser(s) of their unease with/disapproval of the behavior (if possible); and report the incident(s) to the Executive Director, Music Director, other member of the Artistic Staff, or any member of the Board of Directors of FSYO. All information will remain absolutely confidential. FSYO will use its best efforts to complete any sexual harassment investigation within one week of receiving any complaint. FSYO will not tolerate retaliation against anyone for reporting of sexual harassment or cooperating in any investigation of sexual harassment.

Dismissal from FSYO

The final decision regarding dismissal from the FSYO programs for excessive absences or unacceptable conduct will be made by the Music Director and Executive Director in direct consultation with the Board of Directors.

Tuition Payment

No qualifying student will be turned away from FSYO due to the inability to pay tuition. FSYO fundraises to provide Tuition Assistance for musicians whose families demonstrate need. Scholarships are not available for the Audition Fee, Concert Tickets, or uniform cost. Please contact the FSYO office to request a Tuition Scholarship Application.

Tuition for the 2024-2025 Season may be paid in one of three ways:

- **In Full** by August 18, 2024.
- **Per semester**, with the deposit and first payment due on August 18, 2024, and the remaining balance due January 1, 2025.
- **Monthly**, with the first installment due on September 15, 2024, and the remaining balance paid monthly by automatic payment.

FSYO Tuition for the 2024-2025 Concert Season

Overture Strings: \$550
Prelude Orchestra: \$650
Sinfonia Orchestra: \$750
Philharmonia Orchestra: \$850
Symphonic Orchestra: \$950
Percussion Ensemble: \$950
Alphonse Carlo Jazz Band: \$750
Joseph Wise Jazz Band: \$550

Tuition Details

- A \$100 non-refundable Seat Deposit is due on or by June 13, 2024 to secure your seat.
- The remaining tuition for the 2024-2025 Season is due on or by August 18, 2024.
- If a student withdraws for personal reasons on or before September 1, 2024, 50% of the remaining tuition due is refundable.
- If a student withdraws for personal reasons on or after September 2, 2024, none of the remaining tuition due is refundable, and the family is fully responsible for the remainder due.
- In instances of moving, serious illness, or other events beyond a student's control, the FSYO Board of Directors will review the tuition due on a case by case basis.

Available Tuition Discounts and Payment Options

- A \$30 discount on the 2024-2025 Season tuition is available if it is paid in full on or by August 4, 2024.
- If needed, tuition balance may be paid in monthly installments throughout the 2024-2025 Concert Season. Please contact the FSYO office for details by emailing agoodin@fsyo.org. You must contact the office before September 1, 2024 to request this option.
- Families with multiple students in FSYO receive a \$30 discount per student AFTER the first student. If this discount is applicable to your family, please contact the FSYO Office for an updated tuition amount.
- Students who are in multiple FSYO ensembles receive a \$30 discount for each ensemble tuition AFTER the first ensemble. If this discount is applicable to your family, please contact the FSYO Office for an updated tuition amount.

FSYO tuition **does not** include cost of concert tickets, uniforms (with the exception of Overture Strings shirts), CDs, DVDs, or professional picture packages.

Concert Information

Please see the Season Schedule for upcoming concerts and events.

***All dates are subject to change and some may be added at any time as decided by FSYO.**

Concert itineraries will be distributed to the students 2 weeks before concerts. You will receive both a hard copy and a digital copy through email.

Photography and Recording

FSYO is pleased to offer professional group photographs and individual portrait sessions for sale. Order forms are distributed during the rehearsals leading up to the Season Opener.

Most FSYO concerts are professionally recorded and mastered, and these recordings will be posted onto FSYO's YouTube page in a timely manner. Concert-goers are welcome to record movies and take pictures during concerts, as long as the process does not interfere with the concert performance or other audience members. Be mindful that selfie sticks, tripods, etc. obstruct the view of other concert attendees, so if you plan to use one of these devices, please ensure you do not block the view of other audience members.

Concert Tickets

Concert tickets are sold both individually and in Season Subscription packages. Concert tickets are available for sale online through www.fsyo.org. Tickets are also always available at the box office on the day of concerts.

What to Expect on Concert Days

Student call times are typically between 2 and 4 hours before the concert start time. Families drop off their students to the concert site, fully dressed in their complete uniform with their instrument, all instrument supplies (strings, reeds, mutes, etc.), and all FSYO music. Students should pack a small snack and beverage with a lid as all students are required to stay on site from the time they check in until the end of the concert. This policy is in place for the safety and liability of the members. After a student performs, they are expected to stay and listen to the remainder of the concert.

Full details on specific concert days are sent out in the FSYO Weekly Newsletter. Students are also sent home from rehearsal with a printed itinerary one week before the concert.

Concert Uniforms

The concert attire for each ensemble can be found in the following descriptions. All of the items listed can be found online or at department stores. If you have further questions about attire, please email operations@fsyo.org. In addition to your ensemble's specific concert attire, you will also need to purchase the FSYO Polo specific to Outdoor Concerts. More information will be provided to the members and their families on how to order your FSYO polo.

Members must have their full uniform ready by the first concert in October.

Symphonic Orchestra and Percussion Ensemble Concert Attire

- Black dress shirt or blouse with 3/4 to full-length sleeves
 - *No plunging necklines, rising slits, low cut backs, or displays of midriff.*
- Black dress pants or skirt
 - *Pants must be loose and flowing - nothing tight and **no jeans**. Skirts must be full length with no slits.*
- Members may also choose to wear their school's concert black dress instead of a blouse and pants/skirt.
- Black dress shoes (*no sneakers, boots, flip flops, or open toed shoes/sandals*)
- Long black dress socks or hosiery
- Long black tie (Optional)
- Black suit jacket (Optional)
- Minimal jewelry
- Hair accessories must be black, silver, or gold (*no ribbons, sequins, or sparkles*)
- Religious Head Covering (Optional)
 - *If you wear a religious head covering, please ensure it is all black.*

Philharmonia Orchestra, Sinfonia Orchestra, and Prelude Orchestra Concert Attire

- White dress shirt or blouse with 3/4 to full-length sleeves
 - *No plunging necklines, rising slits, low cut backs, or displays of midriff.*

- Black dress pants or skirt
 - *Pants must be loose and flowing - nothing tight and **no jeans**. Skirts must be full length with no slits.*
- Black dress shoes (*no sneakers, boots, flip flops, or open toed shoes/sandals*)
- Long black dress socks or hosiery
- Minimal jewelry
- Hair accessories must be black, silver, or gold (*no ribbons, sequins, or sparkles*)
- Religious Head Covering (Optional)
 - *If you wear a religious head covering, please ensure it is all black.*

Overture Strings Orchestra Concert Attire

- Black FSYO polo (*This polo is included in your Tuition cost and will be provided by FSYO.*)
- Black dress pants or skirt
 - *Pants must be loose and flowing - nothing tight and **no jeans**. Skirts must be full length with no slits.*
- Black dress shoes (*no sneakers, boots, flip flops, or open toed shoes/sandals*)
- Long black dress socks or hosiery
- Minimal jewelry
- Hair accessories must be black, silver, or gold (*no ribbons, sequins, or sparkles*)
- Religious Head Covering (Optional)
 - *If you wear a religious head covering, please ensure it is all black.*

Alphonse Carlo Jazz Band and Joseph Wise Jazz Band Concert Attire

- Dark suit with white long sleeve button down
- Choice of tie (Optional)
- Black dress shoes (*no sneakers, boots, flip flops, or open toed shoes/sandals*)
- Long black dress socks or hosiery
- Minimal jewelry
- Hair accessories must be black, silver, or gold (*no ribbons, sequins, or sparkles*)
- Religious Head Covering (Optional)
 - *If you wear a religious head covering, please ensure it is all black.*

Outdoor Concert Attire (all ensembles unless otherwise noted)

- FSYO Outdoor Concert Polo
 - *This polo will need to be purchased in addition to the items specified above for your ensemble attire.*
- Black dress pants or skirt
 - *Pants must be loose and flowing - nothing tight and **no jeans**. Skirts must be full length with no slits.*
- Black dress shoes (*no sneakers, boots, flip flops, or open toed shoes/sandals*)
- Long black dress socks or hosiery
- Minimal jewelry
- Hair accessories must be black, silver, or gold (*no ribbons, sequins, or sparkles*)
- Religious Head Covering (Optional)
 - *If you wear a religious head covering, please ensure it is all black.*

Special Interest

Communication

Communication with musicians and their families is essential to FSYO's success. To enable good communication, we ask that you keep the FSYO Staff up to date on changes in email or home mailing addresses.

FSYO Weekly Newsletter is sent out every Wednesday afternoon with important information for the weekend and reminders on due dates and policies. **Please read these emails** as they contain imperative information for your family, and ensure that emails from "@fsyo.org" are not blocked as spam.

Remind101 is the platform that we use for last minute updates and changes. All students and parents should sign up for the Remind101 platform using the information provided in the weekly email.

For instant feedback, please search the FSYO website at www.fsyo.org.

Family Involvement / Volunteering

Families are important partners in their musician's participation and development through FSYO programs. Student success at FSYO is a direct result of dedicated parents/guardians who help their children understand the importance of practicing, being on time, and contributing to the ensemble.

Volunteerism drives passion! Come join the ranks of helpful parent volunteers and lend a hand. When you go behind the scenes of FSYO and get involved, you meet new people, discover new talents, and help produce large-scale events for your community.

Here's how you can help:

- **Rehearsal Set-Up and Break Down:** Setting up eight ensembles every Sunday takes a lot of work! If you are able to arrive early or stay late on Sundays, we need as much help as possible setting up or striking chairs and stands. Talk to your student's FSYO Operations Coordinator about how you can assist.
- **Fundraising:** FSYO also has a number of fundraisers in which we invite families to get involved. Please contact FSYO's Development Coordinator, Cameron Frye, at cfrye@fsyo.org with your desire to assist.
- **Concert Production / Concert Hospitality:** FSYO concerts and events demand a need for volunteers. If you are interested in helping run informational tables, merchandise sales, working backstage, or passing out programs, please contact the office. Additionally, FSYO transports large equipment, stands, and chairs to and from every concert location. Strong arms are always needed for loading and unloading!

Community Service Hours

Due to the time commitment involved in rehearsing and performing with FSYO and the immeasurable effect the concerts have on the Central Florida community, we are pleased to offer students community service hours for a full season with FSYO, as well as additional opportunities to earn hours for backstage, administrative, and fundraising duties. If your school accepts hours from FSYO as community service hours, please track your hours with the **FSYO Community Service Form**, downloadable online. We **CANNOT guarantee** that your hours will be accepted by your school. Please check with your advisor as to whether or not your time with FSYO counts toward your volunteer hours. If you receive pushback from your school in regards to approval of these hours, please contact the FSYO Office.

Scholarships and Awards

FSYO offers hardworking and talented students a number of awards and collegiate scholarships. All awards are presented at the Finale Concerts.

- **Charles Gottschalk Award:** This scholarship is a musicianship award given to a graduating senior. The recipient is chosen by the conductors and is based on dedication, service, and musical leadership.
- **Germaine Haserot Service Award:** Three graduating seniors (one string, one wind/brass/percussion, one jazz) receive this award. The recipients are chosen by the students.
- **Dr. Joseph Wise Scholarship:** This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior. The recipient must have continued membership in FSYO over several years, be a member in good standing, have an unweighted 3.0 GPA, and must have demonstrated outstanding leadership, musicianship, and service. The scholarship is not limited to music majors, but it must be used for music credits.
- **Andrew Lane Scholarship:** One of the Concerto Competition Winners is the recipient of this award, and they are selected by the Music Director.

- Alphonse Carlo Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded to a member in the Philharmonia Orchestra who shows outstanding musicianship and leadership.
- Carl Rendek Scholarship: The recipient of this scholarship is a graduating high school senior, and they are chosen by the conductors.

Private Instrument Teachers

FSYO maintains a list of all musicians' private instrument teachers in order to both recognize their hard work in the annual FSYO Program and to provide a resource for the community. Please keep the office up to date on any changes.

FSYO Summer Programs

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras' Summer Programs offers a musically enriching program for string players ages 7 to 15. (String players should be playing at a Suzuki Book 2 level or higher.) Participants are provided with a challenging and fun musical experience that includes: string orchestra and chamber ensemble experiences, chamber group coaching, instruction in fiddling and improvisation, and more. Each summer program culminates with a camp showcase presented at the end of each session. Dates for FSYO's 2025 Summer Programs will be released in the spring of 2025.

Small Ensemble Gigs

If you are a member of the Symphonic Orchestra or Alphonse Carlo Jazz Band, you receive first priority for a number of contracted gigs and performances that are available throughout the season. Our small ensemble students play in a variety of groups and have performed for some of Central Florida's top corporations, large weddings, and intimate at-home parties. Ensembles consist of high achieving FSYO members who rehearse together in duos, trios and quartets. FSYO provides students with a library of music to ensure diverse musical selections for party guests as well as making public to patrons the ensemble's repertoire. Students must be available for travel within the immediate Orlando area.

Donate

The work of Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras would not be possible without the generous support of individuals, groups, and corporations. By investing in FSYO, you invest in the lives of talented musicians from 10 different counties and sustain the future of music education in Central Florida. Donations to FSYO provide an excellent music education experience for students at all ability levels, scholarships and tuition assistance for talented students, and concerts that enrich the cultural landscape of Central Florida.

Individual Gifts

FSYO depends on the generosity of individuals! Support from grants and student membership fees only provide FSYO with 60% of the needed funds to run the program and retain our commitment to providing an excellent music education experience for the students in Central Florida. In challenging economic times, individual gifts of any size are critical to the survival of one of Central Florida's oldest and most cherished music education programs.

There are many ways that individuals can support FSYO:

- **Give to our Annual Campaign:** A gift to FSYO supports our mission and offers high-level music education to Central-Florida students from different 10 counties. A donation can be given in honor of someone else or as a tribute. All cash gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
- **Make a monthly contribution:** Monthly contributions allow individuals to give a large amount by giving smaller amounts throughout the year. Contributions can also be made on a quarterly or 6-month basis.
- **Employer matching gifts:** Many companies offer matching funds for employee donations, enabling donors to make a bigger impact. Ask your employer to find out if they participate in a matching benefit and their requirements.
- **United Arts Collaborative Campaign:** From December 1 through April 30, individuals can make donations to FSYO through United Arts of Central Florida. Individuals can choose to make a gift, pledge a gift and pay at a later time, or make a workplace gift that will come out of the paycheck. Gifts made during this campaign are eligible to be matched by 15% thanks to United Arts.
- **Planned Giving:** Looking for a way to leave a legacy and help generations of future young musicians? Consider making a planned gift to FSYO. The most common and easiest way to make a planned gift is a bequest to FSYO in your will. To learn more about this option or to find out more ways to leave your legacy, please contact the FSYO office at 407.999.7800.

Donations can be made on our website, www.fsyo.org. No amount is too small to make a difference!

Corporate Support

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras continues to provide the highest quality and most enriching musical experiences for its students and audience members each year. Whether it is a concert at the Linda Chapin Theater, Mead Botanical Garden Amphitheater, The Grove, a private concert, or a display of musicianship in Central Florida's public schools, FSYO is recognized as one of the premier youth orchestras in the Southeast.

A Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras' sponsorship provides a unique opportunity for your organization to channel its public relations and marketing initiatives through an attractive and engaging event to a receptive, relevant, and attentive audience. Each event that we orchestrate instantly evolves and grows into an original and thematic experience. Sponsorship of FSYO allows your organization to stand out in the Central Florida community and reach thousands of diverse consumers while also helping Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras meet its mission.

There are several ways that companies can contribute to FSYO:

- **Season Sponsorships:** Make your impact by sponsoring all or part of an FSYO Season!
- **Concert Sponsorships:** Make your impact by sponsoring one or more of FSYO's concerts featuring some of the most talented young musicians in Central Florida.
- **Program Ads:** Reach a new audience for your products or services with an FSYO season program ad.
- **Newsletter Sponsorships:** Sponsor and place your ad in one of FSYO's monthly newsletters.

FSYO is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. For more information on supporting FSYO, please contact info@fsyo.org.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT & RECEIPT OF FSYO'S POLICIES

On the student's Letter of Intent (LOI), please acknowledge that both the student and parent have received, read, and understand FSYO's policies. This handbook can be found on the FSYO website, www.fsyo.org, under the Parents/Members Documents section. By signing the LOI, you agree to abide by the policies and procedures that have been set in place by FSYO.