



# YOUTH SYMPHONY OF DENTON

## Member Handbook 2022-2023 Season

Youth Symphony of Denton  
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Hyunseok Chang, Music Director, Symphony Conductor  
Michael Dandron, Philharmonic Conductor  
Damia Cleaver, Executive Director, String Conductor

### **Board of Directors**

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## Introduction

We want to welcome you to the 2022-2023 Season of the Youth Symphony of Denton. The Youth Symphony of Denton was created to give students in the Denton area and beyond the opportunity to study and perform with other students who are serious about their musical pursuits. This was the dream of Damia Cleaver, local music teacher and performer, and Hyunseok (Hank) Chang, local music teacher, performer and conductor of the Ascolti Korean Chamber Orchestra in Korea, and the Denton Community Orchestra. Denton has an exceptionally good school music program, and we desire to enhance the education students are receiving at school and help these students achieve greater depth in their music studies as they join the family of the Youth Symphony of Denton. The lessons they learn as a part of the Youth Symphony will not only help them in their future musical pursuits but will also help their development of professionalism, leadership skills and becoming the influencers of the future.

## About the Youth Symphony of Denton Ensembles

Membership in the orchestra is formed through an audition process. Most students in the orchestras will be of middle and high school age, but younger students are encouraged to join us if their playing skills fit one of our ensembles and if they are able to focus for the length of the rehearsal time. Students are expected to participate in their school music programs if one exists. There will be some exceptions to this rule, but they are evaluated on a case by case basis. Please talk with the Executive Director if you need a waiver for this.

**Youth Symphony**, conducted by Mr. Hyunseok (Hank) Chang, is the highest of our ensembles and is a string orchestra program for the first yearly concert and becomes a full orchestra program in November. They perform standard, high level orchestral repertoire, by the classical composers and also experience more obscure works as well. They tour nationally and internationally every few years and also perform side-by-side concerts with members of the Adult Denton Community Orchestra. Mr. Chang has worked with musicians of all age levels and desires to teach students how to make music, not just play notes. He also leads them in greater knowledge of musical repertoire and the different styles represented in the mainstream literature.

**Philharmonic**, conducted by Mr. Michael Dandron, is an intermediate string level orchestra that also performs standard orchestral literature, alongside arranged works and educational compositions. Students in this ensemble will work on music of continuing difficulty as they eventually develop the skills required to participate in our Youth Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Dandron's extensive work with middle school students, (at Navo Middle School and Braswell High School in Denton) has given him the foundation necessary to lead these Philharmonic students into a deeper understanding of performing orchestral music.

**String**, conducted by Damia Cleaver, is a beginner group of students who have played at least one year and are continuing to develop their individual and ensemble skills while performing educational music. They will work on deepening their knowledge of how music works by learning new finger patterns and working with progressively more difficult rhythms. Mrs. Cleaver has been a private music instructor in the Denton school district and in her private studio for over 20 years and desires to give her students a strong technical foundation on which to build their musical lives.

## Rehearsals

All of the ensembles meet on Saturdays during the school year at our rehearsal venue, Redeemer Church of Denton, 1404 N. Corinth St., Corinth. The following is the schedule for the rehearsals, unless otherwise notified:

String 12:30 – 2:00  
Philharmonic 12:00-2:00  
Symphony 2:15-4:45

## Concerts

The Youth Symphony of Denton Concert season consists of 3 – 4 major concert cycles. These concerts are typically scheduled in October, December, March and May and take place at a variety of locations (though we are hoping to make Ryan High School our usual venue.) There may be other opportunities for performance that develop throughout the year, where students can represent the Youth Symphony. These include Denton Arts and Jazz Fest in October, performing at senior care centers, pop up performances around the city, etc.

## Financial Obligations

Each member of the Youth Symphony of Denton will be responsible for paying tuition and fees. Tuition helps fund the program's operating costs, music and supplies, and salaries for the directors.

### Tuition

Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestras	\$600
Preparatory and String Orchestra	\$450
Chamber Music Program	\$300
Wind & Brass students (joining Nov)	\$420
Yearly Family Registration Fee	\$50

New students can join the orchestra at the beginning of any concert rehearsal set, and fees will be prorated accordingly.

At some point during this season, we may move to an automatic draft system of payment to make it easier to collect tuition. Until that time, fees can be paid in full, partial payments, or monthly payments and can be paid with cash, checks, or via Venmo (Youth-SymphonyDenton). If paying by cash, please put the money in an envelope with the child's name and amount enclosed on the front. Checks can be given to the Executive Director at rehearsals or mailed to:

Youth Symphony of Denton  
2120 Crestmeadow St.  
Denton, TX 76207

### Withdrawal

If a student desires to drop from the Orchestra for any reason, a one month's written notice is required. This can be done by sending an email to the Executive Director at [youthsymphonydenton@gmail.com](mailto:youthsymphonydenton@gmail.com). Tuition, is non-refundable unless approved by the Board. Refunds may be considered only for members providing proof of future residency more than 50 miles away from rehearsal facility, proof of a major life event (death, divorce, health problem, job loss, military displacement, or custody change) or other rare circumstances beyond the control of the parent or child.

### Financial Aid/Scholarships

The Youth Symphony has a scholarship program in place to help any family in need. There is an application process, and the Board of Directors will make the final decision concerning the awarding of the scholarships. We do not want any child to be left out of the program because of financial issues. Please talk with the Executive Director if you would like to apply.

### Accommodation

The Youth Symphony of Denton will make every effort to accommodate individuals with disabilities or medical exception. Please notify the instructor of your child's ensemble of any individual needs and we will make every effort to accommodate them. Instructors may request instructions in writing and will only share this information with individuals who must know to ensure that the student's needs are met. Individuals who feel their needs are not being met are encouraged to reach out to the Executive Director for assistance.

### Discrimination

The Youth Symphony of Denton does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. We only necessarily discriminate on the basis of age to ensure programs remain isolated to youth and are developmentally appropriate.

### Diversity

Our goal is to promote and inspire the continuing development of musical talent in qualified area youth regardless of cultural heritage, gender, ethnicity, and economic status through intensive training in classical orchestral music and performance. We recruit and enroll a diverse group of students for all our ensembles and include reaching out to the local schools in underserved area.

## Attendance Policy

A musical ensemble is a unique team requiring attendance by every one of its members. Any single absence has a negative impact on the quality of preparation and performance. It is the responsibility of the members and families to be familiar with the rehearsal schedule and to report expected absences well in advance. Please contact the Executive Director via email or text to report absences before the rehearsal.

1. Attendance at all rehearsals is required. However, we do understand that absences will occur due to occasional illnesses, familial situations, religious conflicts, school activities, etc. In the event of these and other extenuating circumstances, each member may be permitted to miss up to two (2) rehearsals per concert cycle. Exceptions to this rule are made on a case by case basis and are determined by the Executive Director and the Conductor of the ensemble.
2. A student will be considered tardy if they are not in their seat when the rehearsal initially begins, when the rehearsal resumes after break, or if the member leaves rehearsal early. Three (3) instances of tardiness equal one absence.
3. An student will be ineligible to participate in an upcoming concert if more than two absences occur during the concert cycle, for any reason. If more than two absences occur, the conductor and administration will evaluate the ensemble member's eligibility on a case-by-case basis, and participation in the upcoming concert will be at the discretion of the conductor.
4. Attendance at all concerts is required. If an ensemble member is absent for two performances, for any reason, it is grounds for dismissal from the remainder of the YSD concert season, at the discretion of the conductor.
5. Students are required to maintain their presence for the entirety of all concerts that feature multiple YSD ensembles. Younger students will remain together as a group before and after their performances and will be seated together in the audience when possible. Students will not be permitted to leave the concert venue after their performance without advance notice and prior approval. This policy is enforced to ensure the safety of all members, to show respect for fellow musicians, and to display the professionalism of our orchestras at performance venues.
6. Please plan family activities so that they will not conflict with rehearsals or performances, when possible.
7. When All-Region and Solo and Ensemble events approach, please have your child ask their school orchestra or band director to schedule them at a time that does not conflict with their Youth Symphony rehearsal, if possible. Make this request on the event application form that you turn in to the director.

Please plan ahead! An unexpected illness or conflict may arise later in the concert cycle, preventing you from attending a rehearsal or performance, so be diligent not to miss for an imprudent reason in the early stages.

## Rehearsal Expectations

Members of YSD Ensembles are expected to be familiar with their rehearsal schedule, which is regularly communicated and distributed by the staff and conductors, and readily available on our website. The rehearsal venue will be open and rehearsal spaces will be prepared 15–30 minutes prior to the rehearsal start time, to allow members to arrive early and prepare for their rehearsal in a timely manner. Members are expected to understand and abide by the following rehearsal expectations:

1. Arrive 15 minutes before rehearsal start time to unpack, tune, and ensure you have all necessary materials for rehearsal
2. Members are responsible for providing all equipment necessary for the successful operation of their instrument(s), including backup supplies
3. Bring all assigned orchestral parts and a pencil to all rehearsals
4. Printed copies of orchestral parts must be secured in a binder (no loose pages please!)
5. If a member does not have their orchestral parts at rehearsal, they may ask the Conductor or Executive Director for a copy to borrow for that rehearsal
6. Respect your conductor and peers by listening and remaining quiet when you are not playing your instrument – when the conductor is working with another section, it is always relevant and valuable information for you to consider as well

7. Cell phones or other devices are to be placed in the instrument case or bag. NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED ON THE PERSON WHILE REHEARSING OR PERFORMING. Undivided attention is required for the best results of a rehearsal.
8. Food & drink is not permitted inside the rehearsal room with the exception of water that has been properly secured inside an enclosed container.
9. Members are responsible for cleaning up after themselves at the end of rehearsals – please remove all personal belongings, and clean/dispose of any trash accumulated
10. Any moisture from wind instruments should be deposited on a disposable pad and thrown away at the end of rehearsal
11. Members are not permitted to leave the rehearsal property during their scheduled rehearsal times
12. Members & families are responsible for arranging transportation to and from rehearsals and other YSD functions – please be considerate of the staff by arranging for transportation to be available to pick up members on time at the end of rehearsals (building will remain open and staff will remain present until all members have departed)
13. Negative words and actions and profanity are considered inappropriate and will not be tolerated. This includes inappropriate discussions on social media.
14. No roughhousing or horseplay is allowed due to the delicate nature of the instruments and the potential of accidents occurring.
15. Students who are able will assist with the set-up or resetting the rehearsal room after rehearsal is over. This is part of our leadership training.

## **Disciplinary Action**

Infractions of any of the above rules will be discussed with the student and parent by any staff member. Staff reserve the right to:

1. Suspend students from program participation temporarily
2. Deny students performing opportunities regardless of rehearsal attendance expectations
3. Revoke the award of solos, scholarships and other honors
4. Removal from the program for the season
5. Permanent removal from the program
6. Referral to authorities for criminal, civil or other action
7. Take away trip travelling privileges.

Appeals of any disciplinary action may be made to the Board of Directors by discussion with the Executive Director. Decisions made by the Board are final.

Tuition will not be refunded in causes of disciplinary dismissal.

## **Concerto Competitions**

YSD Concerto Competitions are held annually in February, and the winners will be invited to appear as soloists with the orchestra at the May Concert. Specific details, instructions & policies will be provided to individuals wishing to audition for this competition in the Fall, and the choice of solo must be approved of by Mr. Chang. Competitions are open to all members of the Youth Symphony Ensembles. Winners will not be allowed to audition the following year.

## **Media Release**

To help the community learn about our orchestra, we have a website and are on Facebook and Instagram. We will also occasionally have articles in the local media. Photos and videos will often be taken during rehearsals and performances and will be posted online or in the paper. If you do not wish for your child's image or name to appear in this way, please notify the Executive Director and the child's conductor.

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with what's happening with the orchestra and share our pages with others.

Website: [www.youthsymphonydenton.com](http://www.youthsymphonydenton.com)  
Facebook: Youth Symphony of Denton  
Instagram: Youthsymphonydenton

## Regarding the Pandemic

The orchestra will factor in the guidelines of the CDC, the governor, local officials and the decision of the Denton school district when making decisions regarding safety measures for rehearsals and performances. We are currently not requiring masks, social distancing, or vaccines. For those concerned with safety measures, any student wishing to have social distance between themselves and others can be seated 6' away from others and can wear a mask. All directors are fully vaccinated.

## Concert Attire

As a training organization, the Youth Symphony of Denton will require a specific dress code for all concerts. Concert Black is a standard style of dress for most orchestras. The purpose of this attire is to unify all members and put the focus on the music, not the clothing worn.

Option #1 – Black pants and a black button-down dress shirt.

Option #2 – Full-length black dress OR full-length black skirt or dress pants with black blouse. Dress/blouse must be a modest cut without ornate designs, must not be strapless, sleeves must be at least elbow length, and must extend to the skirt/pant waist;

ALL – Black dress shoes with closed toes/heels and black socks/hosiery; neatly styled hair; jewelry and hair ornaments should be modest and should not interfere with playing your instrument; avoid perfumes, colognes, etc.

For informal concerts, students will wear the official Youth Symphony t-shirt and jeans (or shorts if it is warm.) These t-shirts will be offered for sale in the Fall and again in the Spring. This is also a fund raiser for the organization, so family and friends are welcome to buy t-shirts as well.

## Parent Communication

We will communicate with parents via our website and email. Please feel free to email us at [youthsymphonydenton@gmail.com](mailto:youthsymphonydenton@gmail.com) anytime you have questions. If you'd like to talk with us on the phone, send an email or text (940-390-5956) with a good time to call you, and which person you need to talk with, and we will get back with you as soon as possible. PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL OR WEBSITE ON FRIDAY NIGHT FOR ANY CHANGES THAT MIGHT BE MADE FOR THE FOLLOWING DAY'S REHEARSALS. Any potential closings due to weather will be sent via email.

## Parent Volunteers

Parent Volunteers are vital to the success of the program. The following are areas in which the program need assistance:

1. Join one of the many committees that help make this organization great. Some require an occasional meeting. Others can communicate in other ways. We need everyone to support us in some form.
2. Program Design and development for each concert. If you are gifted in this area, please let us know so that we can utilize your gift.
3. Distribution of program posters within the community about one month prior to the concert. Everyone can help with this.
4. Concert Greeters – assist with checking tickets, pass out programs and assist patrons with seating
5. Trip Fundraising – Assist the student fundraising committee with choosing and implementing projects, and collecting funds.
6. Capital Fundraising – Work with the Board of Directors to help plan and implement the major fundraising efforts that occur to benefit the program as a whole.
7. Find financial sponsors for the orchestra from the business community. There is a presentation package available. It includes sponsoring one month of rehearsal (\$1,000) and sponsoring a concert (\$500), as well as the Silent Auction and Program Ads listed below.
8. Sell program ads to local businesses to be included in the programs to help raise money for the group.
9. Silent Auction – Gather items to be auctioned and help with the displaying of items at the event.
10. Party planning – help plan and or host parties.

11. Develop ways to honor our graduating Seniors.
12. Trip Chaperones – we will need a few parents to assist with chaperoning during the trip to South Korea during the summer of 2023. Philharmonic and Symphony students are eligible for the trip.

### **Student Fundraising**

One of the highlights of being in a Youth Symphony program is the chance to go on trips as a group. Our plan is to travel to South Korea in the summer of 2023. There are two Youth Orchestras there that would like us to visit and combine with them to perform concerts, and we could possibly perform at US military bases there. A trip of this sort costs quite a bit, so to help offset the cost, we will have fundraising opportunities throughout the year. If your child chooses to participate in a fundraising activity, the money earned by the student will be held in the Youth Symphony savings account, and that amount will be saved for this child only. In the event that the child leaves the program, money earned will go into a general fund for trips and will be divided among the students. At no time will fundraising money be given directly back to the student. This money is earned for the Youth Symphony program and it would be disrespectful to the donor for it to be used for any other purpose.

### **Sponsorship and Capital Campaign Fundraising**

Tuition only covers approximately 60% of the necessary funding required to run this quality program. We are actively seeking sponsorships from individuals and corporations who would be willing to cover the facility rental costs per month or provide donations to help with operating costs. Funding for these items is difficult to find through grants.

The company you work for might participate in a matching gifts program. If you plan to give to the Youth Symphony, ask your company if they have a matching gifts program.

People you regularly do business with might like to sponsor us or purchase an ad in one or all of our concert programs or provide an item for our Silent Auction. All you have to do is ask! We will provide the materials.

Participate in one of our other fundraising opportunities, such as Restaurant nights, Garage Sales and car washes. This is all separate from the individual student fundraising, though sometimes this might be giving to the general trip fund.

## Youth Symphony of Denton Member Handbook Acknowledgement Form

I have read the YSD Parent Student Handbook, and I will adhere to the policies and behavioral expectations stated within. I will discuss any absences my child may have as soon as possible with their conductor or the Executive Director. I commit my time and energy to a positive experience in the Youth Symphony of Denton.

(All student members from one family may sign together on this form. Continue on back ,if necessary)

Student Name (print):

Student Name (sign):

Parent Name (print):

Parent Name (sign):

Date:

I give permission for my child to be photographed or video for the purpose of placing the photo or video on social media or other public outlets.

Parent Signature:

I (the parent) am willing to help in the following capacity to make the Youth Symphony the best possible experience (please circle areas in which you are willing to help):

Board Member

Program Design

Distribution of Concert posters

Concert Ticket Sales/Greeters/Ushers

Fundraising

Gather Program Ads

Silent Auction

Party planning

Trip Chaperone

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_