

Lawrence Youth Symphony & Sinfonietta String Orchestra Handbook

2023-2024 Season



lawrence • youth • symphony

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<https://lawrenceyouthsymphony.weebly.com>

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About the Lawrence Youth Symphony Organization

The Lawrence Youth Symphony (LYS) was founded in 1967 by Dr. Larry Williams, former Director of Orchestral Activities at Lawrence High School, as an extension to the instrumental music classrooms of the Lawrence Public Schools. Since then, the program has continued to carry out its mission to provide aspiring musicians from Lawrence and surrounding areas with a platform to hone their musical skills, explore their creativity, and forge lifelong connections.

The Lawrence Youth Symphony organization is made up of two orchestras.

- The **Sinfonietta String Orchestra** is our non-auditioned string ensemble intended for beginning- to intermediate-level musicians with at least one year of experience on a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass). Students in this ensemble are typically in grades 7 through 9, although younger students are allowed with director approval.
- The **Lawrence Youth Symphony** is our auditioned full symphonic orchestral ensemble. It is intended for proficient- to advanced-level wind, percussion, and string musicians. Students in this ensemble are typically in grades 9 through 12, although younger students are allowed by audition. Woodwind, brass, and percussion students must have at least two full years of experience on their instrument to audition.

Students seeking to participate in LYS organization must be an active member of their school band or string orchestra program (when available).

The group is sponsored by the University of Kansas and the Lawrence Public School District.

Contact Information

Lawrence Youth Symphony
c/o Jacob Dakon
1530 Naismith Drive, Murphy Hall
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Website:
<https://lawrenceyouthsymphony.weebly.com>



Directors

Dr. Jacob M. Dakon

Director, Sinfonietta Orchestra

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Dr. Jacob M. Dakon is Associate Professor and Area Coordinator of Music Education at the University of Kansas where he oversees all string teacher training activities. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Dakon taught string orchestra in the public schools of South Carolina and served as a Suzuki violin instructor at the Appalachian State University Community Music Program in Boone, North Carolina. He holds a Ph.D. in Music Education from The Ohio State University, a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of South Carolina, and a Master of Music in Violin Performance from Appalachian State University. His areas of specialization include string class pedagogy, community music, memorization, and music practice. Dr. Dakon remains actively engaged as a clinician, conductor, and performer in orchestral and educational settings throughout the United States.

Dr. Emily G. Rossin

Director, Youth Symphony

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Dr. Emily G. Rossin is Associate Professor of the Practice of Music Education at the University of Kansas. There, she oversees all aspects of band music teacher education. A proud Jayhawk, Emily Rossin received her Ph.D., Master of Music Education, and Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Kansas. Prior to pursuing her doctorate, Emily was a music teacher in the Blue Valley School District in Overland Park, Kansas. There, she taught elementary, middle, and high school band, as well as elementary orchestra. She has taught undergraduate courses in elementary and secondary instrumental methods, conducting and rehearsal techniques, and human learning and development. She is passionate about utilizing the latest research on group psychology to empower music teachers to develop musicianship and confidence in their ensembles.

LYS & SSO Season Concert Cycle Schedules

Fall 2023 Concert Cycle

Date		Time	Event	Venue
September	14	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	21	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	28	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
October	5	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	12	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	19	No Rehearsal (No School for USD 497)		
	26	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
November	2	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	9	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	16	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	18	TBA	Dress Rehearsal	TBA
	20	7:30 pm	Concert with KU Bands	Lied Center

Spring 2024 Concert Cycle

Date		Time	Event	Venue
January	4	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	11	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	18	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	25	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
February	1	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	8	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	15	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	22	No Rehearsal (KMEA/All State)		
	29	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
March	7	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	21	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
	28	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Rehearsal	LHS
April	3	7:30 pm	Concert with KU Orchestras	Lied Center

Rehearsal Venue	Concert Venue
Lawrence High School 1901 Louisiana Street Lawrence, KS 66045	Lied Center of Kansas 1600 Stewart Drive Lawrence, KS 66045

Policies

Tuition

There is no tuition for participation in the Lawrence Youth Symphony Organization. The symphony is funded by The University of Kansas, The Lawrence School District, and community donations. Students may be offered the opportunity to purchase LYS T-shirts (etc.) during the 23-24 season. Purchase of LYS items will never be required.

Rehearsal Cookies

Cookies are provided for musicians at the end of each rehearsal. All cookies are provided by musicians' families. Families are requested to sign up to provide cookies (2 dozen) at least once during each concert cycle (once in the fall, once in the spring). Cookie signups will be coordinated via electronic signup.

Inclement Weather Policy

Should inclement weather occur, impacting either a rehearsal or concert, an email will be sent to all families regarding LYS event cancellation. Cancellation will be largely dependent on the site of LYS activities, namely, Lawrence High School and the University of Kansas. If the Lawrence School District or the University of Kansas cancels all activities, including evening activities, on the day of rehearsal or a concert, then LYS will not meet. Any postponement plans will be communicated via email and the LYS website.

Rehearsal Dress

Members are expected to dress in an appropriate manner. Normal school dress code is required.

Leaving Rehearsal

Students may only leave rehearsal with the permission of the director and should do so quickly and quietly so as not to disturb the rehearsal process. Students are expected to complete their business and return to the rehearsal as soon as possible.

Concert Dress

Musicians will wear "concert black", all black clothing for concerts. Musicians may wear long dresses, long skirts and top, or long pants and tops, including a black jacket. Necklines should be high. All dresses and skirts should be below the knee. Black hose/stockings, socks, and black shoes are expected. Please no short skirts, spaghetti straps, or strapless attire. Musicians may wear ties. Musicians are welcome to wear all-black concert attire provided by their school.

Discrimination, Violence, Harassment, Bullying, and Code of Conduct

The Lawrence Youth Symphony is committed to each student's success within the program. Any forms of discrimination, violence, and/or bullying are not tolerated. A musician engaging in any form of discrimination, violence, harassment, or bullying will be dismissed from the program. Membership in the ensemble is a privilege. Only the highest levels of conduct, citizenship, and responsibility are accepted. Members not adhering to these standards will be dismissed from the program.

LAWRENCE YOUTH SYMPHONY: MUSICIAN AGREEMENT 2023-2024

Membership in the Lawrence Youth Symphony is a privilege. Adequate advance preparation of music and attendance at all rehearsals and concerts for an entire season is essential for the success of the whole ensemble. Musicians depend on each other for success. As such, the musicians of the Lawrence Youth Symphony ensembles and the parents/guardians of those musicians agree and accept the policies listed below.

ARTISTIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- A. The musician is responsible for learning their assigned music outside of rehearsals, conferring with private teachers when necessary.
- B. The musician and parent/guardian shall understand that the Lawrence Youth Symphony Organization has final authority regarding all musician placement in the orchestras and seating arrangements.
- C. The musician shall participate fully in their school instrumental music program (if available), playing the same instrument that they play in the Lawrence Youth Symphony and Sinfonietta String Orchestra. Musicians not able to participate in the music program at their school for reasons beyond their control are required to submit a written waiver signed by their school's music teacher to continue their participation in the Lawrence Youth Symphony.
- D. The musician is responsible for bringing the following to all ensemble rehearsals and concerts: (1) instrument, in working order, (2) all necessary instrument equipment, (3) assigned sheet music, (4) a pencil and eraser.
 1. All string, woodwind, and brass members are required to provide a personal instrument and all necessary supplies for each rehearsal and concert. Percussion members are required to provide their own sticks and mallets.
 2. The Lawrence Youth Symphony Organization, rehearsal/concert venues, and staff/volunteers are not responsible for any damage, theft, or loss of any personal instruments or belongings.
- E. The Lawrence Youth Symphony Organization is responsible for providing sheet music for the musician. The musician must return their sheet music upon request of the LYS Organization. A replacement fee will be assessed for any folder and/or individual piece of music not returned or returned in unacceptable condition.
- F. The Lawrence Youth Symphony reserves the right to dismiss the musician if the responsibilities and expectation set forth in this Agreement are not being fulfilled.
- G. The Lawrence Youth Symphony rehearses on Thursday evenings during the school year at Lawrence High School. In the event of a rehearsal venue change, families will be given, at minimum, four days' notice.

- I. Musicians may only perform on their personal instrument during rehearsals and concerts. Only percussionists are allowed to play the percussion instruments. In most situations, the percussion instruments are owned by the school district or University and are not the property of the Lawrence Youth Orchestra or its musicians.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Frequent absences and tardiness reflect unsatisfactory commitment to the Lawrence Youth Symphony and are detrimental to the success of the entire ensemble. All absences are treated the same; there are no excused or unexcused absences.

- A. Concert Attendance. Participation in all concerts is mandatory. The Lawrence Youth Symphony reserves the right to review concert absences on a case-by-case basis.
- B. Rehearsal Attendance. Musicians shall make their best effort to attend every rehearsal. However, when non-avoidable scheduling conflicts arise, the music and/or parent/guardian is responsible for notifying the Lawrence Youth Symphony via online form submission. Musicians are allowed a maximum of four (4) absences throughout the course of the entire season. Should the musician exhaust the four allowed absences, the musician and their family will be notified by the Youth Symphony Orchestra to determine path forward.
- C. Rehearsal Start/End Times. The musician shall arrive at rehearsals and concerts early enough to be seated and ready to fully participate by the specified call time. Tardiness at call times and after announced rehearsal breaks is unacceptable.
- D. The parent/guardian must make arrangements for transportation of musicians to and from all activities, unless otherwise stated. Drop off and pickup shall occur consistent with printed start and end times of all activities. Prompt pickup from rehearsal is expected. Students must be off the rehearsal site within fifteen (15) minutes from the end of rehearsal.
- E. Attendance records shall be kept for all Lawrence Youth Symphony activities. LYS reserves the right to review these records in consideration for the musician's future participation in the program.
- F. Seating Auditions. Seating auditions are held in the fall for all members of the Symphony Orchestra. Members not taking part in seating auditions, for any reason, will be placed in the back of their respective sections and/or have parts assigned accordingly. Members will receive audition music, instructions, and requirements approximately two weeks before each audition. String players wishing to participate in the Sinfonietta String Orchestra do not need to audition and should be present for the first rehearsal.

- G. Musicians are expected to treat all fellow musicians, their families, directors, staff, interns, and guest directors with respect.
- H. Items such as alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, vaping equipment, weapons, or similar are not allowed at rehearsals, concerts, or other venues. Members observed having such items will be removed from the program immediately. The Lawrence Youth Symphony reserves the right to alert the police if a student is found to have such items.

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

- A. The Lawrence Youth Symphony reserves the right to audio/video record and/or photograph any activities for later use including printed or electronic materials and/or radio/television/online broadcast.
- B. Musician and parent/guardian likeness, either in print, electronically, or in audio/video recordings, may be used for any person, with or without the use of name, school, grade, and other personal information by the Lawrence Youth Symphony when utilized for the purpose of internal or external communication.
- C. All personal phones should be silenced or powered off for all rehearsals and concerts. Personal audio or video recording of any rehearsal is prohibited without prior approval by the director(s).

Academic Research

As part of the University of Kansas, a research institution, University faculty and students may occasionally request Lawrence Youth Symphony musician participation in academic research studies. All research procedures will be approved by the University of Kansas Institutional Review Board as part of the Human Research Protection Program prior to advertisement with musicians. Minors wishing to participate in studies can only do so with written consent of their parent/guardian. Participation in research studies will never be required of musicians. Musicians and their families will be given thorough information regarding the study prior to participation. Musician withdrawal from research studies can occur at any time without threat of repercussion as a member of the Lawrence Youth Symphony, a student of the Lawrence School District, or as beneficiary of any ongoing goods or services rendered by the University of Kansas.

LYS Season Audition Information

The Lawrence Youth Symphony Organization consists of two orchestras:

- The Sinfonietta String Orchestra comprises string players with at least one full year of experience on their instrument. This orchestra does not require a seating audition for membership. Musicians may attend the first day of rehearsal with no prior audition.
- The Youth Symphony is comprised primarily of high school instrumentalists from the string, winds, and percussion families. Most students have at least two years of experience on their instrument. This ensemble requires a seating audition for membership. Audition information is below:

String:

- A short, 1-2 minute solo of your choice
- One major scale (2 or 3 octaves) containing at least two sharps or two flats
- One minor scale (2 or 3 octaves) containing at least two sharps or two flats

Woodwind and Brass:

- A short, 1-2 minute solo of your choice (percussionists select an instrument of your choice)
- 2 major scales of your choice (the more octaves, the better; percussionists will be provided with a keyed instrument such as a xylophone)

Audition Day 2023-2024

DATE

TIME

LOCATION

Musicians who are unable to participate in audition days should plan to audition for a staff member on the first day of rehearsal or submit an audition tape prior to XXXXX.

Audition Assessment Scoring:

Scale #1: (10 points)

Scale #2: (10 points)

Solo:

- Difficulty (5 points)
- Technique (5 points)
- Tone (5 points)
- Musicianship (5 points)

Notes: