



August 2019

Dear Student Musicians and Parents:

Congratulations and welcome to the Hawaii Youth Symphony's (HYS) 55th season. We commend your achievements in music and your year-long commitment to grow as a musician. Your presence affects absolutely everyone in the group. The Ensemble's repertoire is based on the expectation that all members arrive fully prepared and focus diligently at rehearsals and performances.

Please read this handbook carefully and take its policies seriously. It covers our policies and procedures for financial aid, attendance, dress code, and more. HYS participation goes beyond advancement on your instrument. As an active participant in our programs, you will also be developing your sense of self-awareness, civility, and responsibility. We hope that you will become a steward for the future of music in Hawaii and a role model to other youth and thank you in advance for following this handbook.

We highly recommend you take private lessons and participate in your school's program (if one exists) to enhance and deepen your HYS experience. Partial financial assistance may be available for private lessons.

We are looking forward to having you as part of our organization, and we wish you a successful and fulfilling season.

With aloha,

Randy Wong
President



ABOUT HYS

The **Hawaii Youth Symphony** (HYS) provides young people with quality music education, performance opportunities with high standards, and community service projects, advancing the critical links among music study, academic achievement and positive growth and development. HYS envisions a Hawaii where all young people benefit from music education and are able to develop their interests in instrumental music.

Who We Serve

HYS is a state-wide organization that includes students from more than 100 schools on different islands. Approximately 750 students enroll in our programs throughout the year. HYS is one of the country's largest youth symphony programs. In addition to our seven orchestras, we also offer a program called HYS Jazz which includes two Jazz Combos, and partner with the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii.

Community Performances

Among all the programs, HYS will perform more than 40 performances this season. These performances include a Neighbor Island tour, special events, public concerts, and free Listen & Learn educational concerts for more than 10,000 of Hawaii's school children.

Costs

The overall cost for each student to participate in HYS is more than \$2,000, significantly more than what you'll pay for tuition (\$700-\$995). The balance of these costs is funded by corporate sponsorships, private foundations, fundraising activities, and individual donors such as friends and HYS parents. Every student benefits from HYS's fundraising.

Nonprofit Status

The Hawaii Youth Symphony has been incorporated since 1964 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our Federal Tax ID # is 99-0119771.



FINANCIAL AID

Thanks to the generosity of HYS community supporters, HYS is able to offer a financial assistance program based on need to help families with registration fees, instrument rentals and/or private lessons. Funds are distributed on a reimbursement basis. For families seeking assistance, please visit our website at www.HiYouthSymphony.org for more information about our financial aid program and to access our financial aid application. **You must register first before you apply for aid.**

INSTRUMENT LIABILITY

HYS claims no liability for student-owned instruments and highly recommends that parents obtain insurance through their homeowner's policy or other means. Students are responsible for keeping their instrument or other belongings safe during rehearsals and concerts. HYS is not responsible for damage or theft of your instrument or other belongings. Please do not leave instruments unattended or lying on chairs where they can be knocked off or damaged.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Schedules

Rehearsal schedules with times, dates, and locations will be available at the start of the season. Because HYS does not have its own rehearsal facilities, changes to dates and times may occur. These changes are unavoidable and so we appreciate your kokua throughout the season!

What to Bring to EVERY Rehearsal

Always bring your instrument, blank staff paper, pencil, eraser, and supplies: extra strings, reeds, mutes, donuts for string basses. Brass players must bring a receptacle or newspaper and cloth for draining their instrument. Percussionists must bring their own sticks and mallets.

Communication

HYS will communicate any necessary information to students and parents via email and text message. Phone numbers and email addresses will be automatically imported from your registration form. HYS will use the Remind Classroom App to send out reminders, urgent information, and late changes via text messages (SMS). You do NOT need to download the app to receive these messages as you will receive them as a normal text message.



CODE OF CONDUCT

Out of respect for the conductors, other students, volunteers, and our organization as a whole, HYS must uphold a strict code for how students conduct themselves during rehearsals and performances. It is essential that students treat each other with respect and as equals; harassment, taunting, hazing, bullying, stealing, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by HYS will not be tolerated at any time. HYS Concert Parents act on behalf of our conductors as enforcers of this Code of Conduct.

Non-Participation

Non-participation includes doing homework, reading, fooling around, playing video games, listening to portable music players, using a cell phone, texting, reading, sleeping, snapchatting, “talking back,” live-streaming, etc. These types of behaviors will not be tolerated and will be strictly monitored, which may result in a warning, contacting of parents, or expulsion if the behavior continues.

Students who are caught using their electronic device during the rehearsal/concert will have their device taken away for the duration of the rehearsal/concert.

Facility Care

Because HYS does not have its own facilities, our rehearsals and concerts are held at partnering schools and other facilities. The use of these spaces is crucial to HYS: rehearsal space is difficult to find, given the size of our ensembles. Please show your appreciation and maturity by taking care of school property. There shall be **NO EATING, DRINKING, SMOKING OR CHEWING GUM.**

Be considerate and respectful in the rehearsal rooms, bathrooms and on the school grounds. All brass players **MUST** bring a receptacle or newspaper **AND** a cloth to use when draining your instrument. You may **NOT** empty your instruments directly on band room carpets or stage floors/risers. Please refer any questions about the facilities to the concert parents.



Rehearsal Day/Time/Locations

Both Combos rehearse on Saturday afternoons from 3:00-6:00pm.

Combo I rehearses at the *Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii's Spalding Clubhouse; 1704 Waiola St.*

Parking is available at Washington Middle School. Parking Entrance is on King Street. There are a few parking spaces on Lokahi Street parallel to the Boys & Girls Club. Otherwise parking is available on the street. Do not park on the grass or in an unmarked area. Do not park within the gates or block the entry way. And do not block traffic when dropping off your child.

When you arrive at the Boys and Girls Club you must check-in with your Boys & Girls Club Membership Card at the front desk. Membership Cards are required for entry at each rehearsal. You will be charged \$1.00 each time you forget your membership card. If your membership card is lost, you will be charged \$5.00 for a replacement card.

Classes are located on the 2nd floor. Please take your seat immediately in the rehearsal room so attendance can be taken and instruments can be tuned. If a student needs to leave early from rehearsal, the conductor or concert parent must be informed BEFORE rehearsal begins.

Combo II rehearses at the *Moanalua Middle School Bandroom; 1289 Mahiole St.*

*Moanalua Middle School is located at 1289 Mahiole Street, Honolulu, HI 96819.

If you are coming from either town or Ewa, take the Puuloa off ramp towards Tripler Hospital.

The Band room is room K2 and is located near the park and pool and is the opposite side of the school from the parking lot.

MONTHLY EVALUATION



HiYouthSymphony.org

A one on one evaluation meeting with your Combo director will be held each month during rehearsal hours. Length and time of each meeting TBD by director.