

STUDENT HANDBOOK



Hawaii Youth Symphony

2010-2011 Season

**Youth Symphony I
Youth Symphony II
Concert Orchestra**



Hawaii Youth Symphony

Welcome!

Dear Musician (and Parents, too):

Congratulations and welcome to the Hawaii Youth Symphony's (HYS) 46th 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 orchestra'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. It covers our policies and procedures for attendance, dress code, financial aid, and more. HYS offers an opportunity to advance in the study of your instrument that is not available elsewhere. To facilitate this, you are asked to have a private teacher. Partial financial assistance may be available for private lessons. For neighbor island students, HYS will pay a portion of travel costs to rehearsals.

HYS distributes a monthly bulletin, *Taking Note*, at the last rehearsal of each month. The bulletin, which is written for HYS families, lists changes in rehearsal times and events for the upcoming month. It's important that you review this bulletin monthly.

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

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry Miyamura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Henry Miyamura
Music Director

About HYS

Recognizing the critical link between music study and positive growth and development, the **Hawaii Youth Symphony** (HYS) creates programs for young people to experience the intrinsic value of orchestral music through excellent musical education, performance opportunities with high standards, and community service projects that include youth mentoring other youth. HYS envisions a Hawaii where every young person is given the chance to experience the timeless value of orchestral music.

Student Participation

HYS is a state-wide organization that includes students from nearly 100 schools on different islands. Approximately 400 students comprise three full orchestras and four string orchestras during the regular season. An additional 200 students participate in HYS's summer programs.

Community Performances

Among all of the orchestras, HYS will perform more than 20 concerts this season. These performances include a Neighbor Island tour, special events, public concerts, and free "Listen & Learn" educational concerts for more than 9,000 of Hawaii's school children.

Costs

The overall cost for each student to participate in HYS is more than \$1,200, significantly more than the registration fee of **\$360--\$460**. The balance of the costs is funded by corporate sponsorships, private foundations, fundraising activities, and individual donors such as friends and HYS parents.

Nonprofit Status

The Hawaii Youth Symphony has been incorporated since 1964 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Rehearsal Information

Schedules

Rehearsal schedules with times, dates, and locations will be available at the start of the season. Change is unavoidable since HYS does not have its own rehearsal facilities. Revised schedules are distributed as needed at rehearsals. Please check the HYS website: www.HiYouthSymphony.org, and click on Members in the upper right hand corner, for updated schedule information. The website is updated every Friday.

What to Bring to EVERY Rehearsal

Always bring your instrument, music a pencil, eraser, and supplies: extra strings, reeds, mutes, donuts for cellos and basses and, for brass players, a receptacle for draining your instrument. YSII students are now required to bring their own music stand to every rehearsal.

Rules

We are guests in our rehearsal rooms, so HYS members must treat the school facilities and equipment with respect. Absolutely no gum, food, or drinks are allowed anywhere in these facilities. Shoes must be removed before entering the University Laboratory School Band Room. No use of cell phones during rehearsals including text messaging.

Pick-Up

Students must be picked up **PROMPTLY** at the end of rehearsal, so our parent volunteers and conductors are not inconvenienced. Our volunteers and conductors cannot leave until each student is picked-up.

Parents, we ask that you please pick up your child immediately after rehearsal.

Locations

Rehearsals are at the facilities listed below. If a change is necessary, you will receive a flyer in advance, and information will be posted on our website and outgoing voice mail (941-9706, option 3) each Friday.

Youth Symphony I

UH Music Department—Room 108
2411 Dole Street

Youth Symphony II

University Laboratory School—Band Room
1776 University Avenue at Metcalf Street

Concert Orchestra

Kaimuki Middle School—Music Department
631 18th Avenue

HYS provides a detailed schedule, at the start of the season, for your planning purposes. The fall semester is August-December 2010. The spring semester is January-May 2011 for all orchestras.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is closely monitored by the conductors.

Maximum of Two (2) Absences Per Semester

Tardies: 2 tardies = 1 absence

Early Exit: 2 early exits = 1 absence

After the second absence, parents and students will be notified, by the conductor, as to the consequences, which may include demotion in seating, being barred from participating in concerts or tours, or expulsion.

The conductor's decision is final.

Reporting An Absence

If you have a schedule conflict with a rehearsal and (1) you will be late for the rehearsal; or (2) you will miss the rehearsal, **you must inform your concert parent in advance.** Please call the HYS office at 941-9706 if you are unable to contact your concert parent. An excuse note, signed by a parent, must be turned in at the next rehearsal.

Check In At Every Rehearsal

Concert parents take attendance at **every** rehearsal and assist the conductor. If a student needs to leave rehearsal early, the conductor or a concert parent must be informed **before** rehearsal begins.

Other Information

Schedule Updates & Changes

HYS issues a monthly bulletin, *Taking Note*, on the last Sunday of each month with updated schedules and activities for the upcoming month. Parents, please ask your child for this bulletin each month. The bulletin will also be posted on HYS's website. For additional questions about time/location of a rehearsal, you may either call the office (941-9706) or visit the HYS website: www.HiYouthSymphony.org and click on the Members icon in the upper right corner of the homepage.

Non-Participation

Out of respect for the conductors and other students, non-participation will not be tolerated. Non-participation at rehearsal includes reading, fooling around, playing video games, listening to portable music players, using a cell phone, sleeping, etc. This behavior will result in a warning, contacting of parents, or expulsion if the behavior continues.

Facility Care

We also enforce the schools' policies regarding: **NO EATING, DRINKING OR CHEWING GUM.** Shoes must be removed before entering the University Laboratory School Band Room. Be considerate and respectful in the rehearsal rooms, bathrooms and on the school grounds. The use of these facilities is crucial to HYS's programs, since the organization does not have its own facilities. Also, rehearsal space is difficult to find, considering the size of our orchestras. Please show your appreciation by taking care of school property.

Music

Each student must bring his/her own music. Do not depend on your stand partner. A fee of \$1 per page may be charged for any music that is borrowed or lost. HYS will refund your money if the music is returned.

Dress Code

Students must be properly dressed in order to participate in concerts. No slits, straps, low necklines, barebacks, boots, T-shirts, jeans, radical hairstyles or hair colors, no extra colors or colored trim on clothing or in the hair. The waist must be covered when seated, no skirt waistbands rolled to the hips.

Youth Symphony I and Youth Symphony II

Men: Black suit jacket and dress pants; solid-white dress shirt (tucked into pants); black bow tie; black dress shoes; long, black, dress socks (no anklets).

Women: Solid black, modest dress (ankle-length or longer) **with sleeves** or black skirt (ankle-length or longer) and black blouse **with** sleeves; black dress shoes; black knee-high nylons or pantyhose. Black pantsuits are permitted.

Concert Orchestra

Men: Long-sleeved, all-white dress shirt (tucked into pants); long black dress pants (no jeans); black bow tie; black dress shoes; long, black dress socks (no anklets).

Women: Long-sleeved, modest, all-white blouse with collar (tucked into pants or skirt); black skirt (ankle-length or longer) or long dress pants (no jeans); black, knee-high nylons; black closed-toe dress shoes (no sandals). No extra colors or trim on clothing or in hair.

Suggested Places to Find Concert Attire for Men/Boys:

Black Tie Affair (Kaimuki Municipal Parking Lot on Harding Avenue—tel. 732-9474)

Celebrity Tuxedo (Sears Ala Moana - 947-0397, Sears Windward Mall – 247-8390, Sears Pearlridge – 487-4341)

Financial Aid

Why was the financial aid program established?

HYS's Financial Aid Program was established over 20 years ago to benefit members of the organization. This unique program makes it possible for HYS to offer all of its student musicians an equal opportunity to benefit from HYS's quality music programs, regardless of financial situations. Financial background is not a consideration for program participation.

Through corporate and private donations, all HYS students receive "financial aid" of sorts. The registration fees cover only a fraction HYS's costs, which is currently **more than \$1,200 per student**. This includes conductor and clinicians' salaries, instruments, music, rental of performance halls, technical support such as sound and light engineers for concerts, student meals, program designing and printing, vehicles for transporting equipment, etc.

Where do the funds come from?

The HYS Financial Aid Program funding historically comes from the McInerny Foundation and ABC Stores. HYS submits proposals for these and other grants each year. Writing grants is a major activity for HYS's staff. The competition for grant monies is stiff, and HYS cannot be certain what amount of funding will be awarded each year.

How does the Financial Program work?

The financial aid program subsidizes financially deserving students on a **reimbursement** basis. Assistance is available for registration fees, private lessons, instrument rentals, and travel for neighbor island students.

On what factors are awards based?

Awards are based **solely on financial need**, not on the musical ability of the applicant. Consideration is given to each student's attitude, attendance, and evidence of responsibility. We also consider the support a student recipient, and his or her parents have shown for the HYS program. The majority of recipients make the most of what the Financial Aid Program can offer, as reflected by teacher evaluations. Most take their instruction seriously, practice daily, and make rapid progress. Out of hundreds of recipients, there have been only a few students in recent years whose subsidies have not continued at the recommendation of their music teachers because of poor preparation, tardiness, and/or poor attitude. In these cases, the amounts allocated were given to alternate applicants.

Can I declare my award as a scholarship on my college application?

No. HYS's Financial Aid Program is not a scholarship program and should not be referred to as such. Selections are based on financial need and not musical ability.

How can I apply for financial aid?

Download an application from www.HiYouthSymphony.org or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to HYS, c/o the Financial Aid Program. **Deadline to apply is September 24, 2010.** Please remember that the program is administered on a reimbursement basis.

Have more questions?

Please call the HYS office at 941-9706 if you have any questions or send an e-mail to admin@HiYouthSymphony.org.



Hawaii Youth Symphony

Music Staff

HENRY MIYAMURA: Music Director, Conductor, Youth Symphony I

DERRICK YAMANE: Conductor, Youth Symphony II

SUSAN OCHI-ONISHI: Conductor, Concert Orchestra

HANNAH WATANABE: Associate Conductor, Concert Orchestra

Administrative Staff

Selena Ching: Executive Director

Ann Doike: Programs Manager

Janet Morita: Programs Associate

Meredith Prescott: Administration and Finance Manager

Kelly Shigeta: Special Projects

Hawaii Youth Symphony

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96826-1508

☎ Phone: (808) 941-9706 📠 Fax: (808) 941-4995

🌐 Website: www.HiYouthSymphony.org ✉ Email: admin@HiYouthSymphony.org

Office Hours Monday through Friday from 9 am - 5 pm

Office Location

The HYS office is located on the second floor of the round, Varsity Building on University Avenue (where the Varsity Theater was located). Parking is available in the lot behind the Varsity Building, lot entrance is on Coyne Street. The following parking rates apply with HYS validation: \$1 per hour for the first 2 hours, then \$1 per 20 minutes after the first two hours (\$6 max charge). Street parking is free.