



RDYO

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS
& CODE OF CONDUCT

WWW.RDYO.CA



Richmond
Delta
Youth
Orchestra

Come play with us!

WELCOME

Welcome to the Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra! We are delighted to welcome new and returning musicians to our Orchestra family. We invite parents and musicians to review the membership commitments outlined here, to increase your understanding of what is involved in youth orchestra participation.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO JOIN A YOUTH ORCHESTRA?

Attendance

RDYO's orchestral program is an intensive one. Each rehearsal involves development of technique and advancing in the repertoire. Missing even one week can mean that players fall behind their peers, making it difficult to catch up. Conductors are not able to work with individual players to review missed instruction.

If you are considering joining the RDYO and plan to participate in other extracurricular activities, we ask that you prioritize RDYO for both rehearsals and concerts. It is impossible for conductors to prepare the ensemble for a concert without the full commitment of all musicians. If you feel that your attendance may be sporadic due to other commitments, then RDYO is likely not a good fit for you.

Attendance is recorded at each rehearsal and concert, with a notation of whether the absence is excused or unexcused. An excused absence means that you have a valid reason for missing a rehearsal or concert, and that you have completed the absence request form on our website (currently on the "students" page; after Christmas available at www.myRDYO.ca). Examples of an excused absence include:

- Illness;
- School or family trip; and

- School-related event,

An unexcused absence means that either you did not notify your Division Manager, or that your reason for absence was not deemed valid. Examples of invalid reasons include:

- Sports game or practice;
- Too busy/tired; and
- Forgot.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals have set start and finish times. The start time indicates the time at which all musicians are to be tuned, warmed up, and ready to rehearse. The recommended arrival time is 15 minutes before the start of rehearsal. Arriving late for rehearsal shows disrespect for the conductor and fellow musicians, and will not be tolerated.

Practicing outside of rehearsals

Players are expected to practice their orchestral pieces during the week, so that they are ready to play at their regular rehearsals. Many players find it beneficial to work on their orchestral pieces with their regular music teacher. Your conductor will tell you how often to practice.

Understanding the Orchestra hierarchy

Conductors decide how musicians are seated within an ensemble, and these decisions are final. The “first chair” or principal player in a section is responsible for leading that section. Being selected as a principal player is an honour and a responsibility; the principal must set an excellent standard for practicing, attendance, and attitude.

Each division is overseen by a parent volunteer, known as the Division Manager. The Division Manager takes attendance, noting any late arrivals (there should be none!), and assigns tasks to parents through the year. These tasks will include participating in the snack rota, helping

organize a social event for players, and helping to transport and set up equipment for concerts.

Concerts

Concert attendance is mandatory. As noted above, conductors cannot plan a concert performance unless they know exactly which musicians will be playing. Players who miss a concert may not be allowed back into their ensemble, at the discretion of the conductor.

Players are required to follow the concert dress code, which is found on our website. Players who are not appropriately dressed for a concert may be assigned to the back of their section, or may be denied the opportunity to perform, at the discretion of the conductor. Division Managers will monitor concert attire and record infractions. Players with a recorded infraction will not be eligible to participate in the Concerto Competition or the Scholarship Competition, at the discretion of the Division Manager.

Concert attendance is an essential part of our players' musical education. Attendance shows support for the musicians in other divisions, and allows younger musicians to familiarize themselves with the repertoire and standards of other divisions. Your division manager will tell you the appropriate time to move into the auditorium during a concert.

Scholarships

RDYO sponsors an orchestra-wide Concerto Competition and a Scholarship Competition each year (more details on both events are available in the Parent Handbook). For the Scholarship Competition, the adjudication process considers not only musicianship, but also attendance, self-discipline, attitude, and participation. RDYO considers these attributes to be essential to success in the Orchestra, and in life. Players with unexcused absences (as outlined in Attendance, above) will not be considered for the Scholarship Competition or the Concerto Competition, at the discretion of their Division Manager or Conductor.

VOLUNTEERING

RDYO is a registered charitable organization governed by a parent-based volunteer Board of Directors. Volunteers are vital to the success and operations of RDYO and an important component of your commitment. **RDYO Membership involves a minimum 12-hour volunteer contribution, or four hours per term.** Every family is required to volunteer for at least one concert. Your volunteer hours help the Orchestra operate and ensure that tuition costs remain affordable. During registration, you will complete information about your preferred areas of service. A volunteer team leader will contact with specific information about volunteer opportunities.

RYDO CODE OF CONDUCT

Our Code of Conduct is a representation of our core values and an outline of expected behaviour and attitudes for all members of our Orchestra family.

- **Demonstrate respect for yourself and others.** Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself and never intentionally harm another musician. If you see someone being bullied, intervene by telling them to stop or immediately report it an adult in charge.
- **Demonstrate courtesy to others.** Use appropriate language and behavior at all times while maintaining friendly and courteous behavior.
- **Behave in a positive and responsible manner.** Follow the conductor's instructions and expectations at all times.
- **Attend regularly with requested permission for absences.** Attendance and participation are an essential part of the educational process. Regular attendance is necessary for student success. All students are encouraged to be present and prompt.

Rehearsal attendance is the responsibility of both parents and students. Parents will be contacted if a pattern of late arrivals is noted.

- **Be prepared for rehearsals and concerts.** Be in the assigned place with appropriate materials, ready to work at the time that rehearsal begins.
- **Acknowledge in your contribution to the success of the Orchestra.** Take your part in the Orchestra seriously. Do not become a distraction for others. Give every other musician the opportunity to maximize their potential. Encourage your fellow students. Never tear them down.
- **Cooperate with others.** This includes peers, conductors, administrators, volunteers, parents and visitors. Be polite and respectful.
- **Dress appropriately.** See dress code in the Orchestra Family Handbook for more details.
- **Respect other's property.**

SIGNATURE PAGE

By signing and agreeing to the RDYO code of conduct you pledge to adhere to these rules. Violations will result in a consequence ranging from a warning for minor infractions or, in the most extreme cases, expulsion from the Orchestra. Please sign this form and return it to your Division Manager at the first rehearsal.

Musician's Name

Printed _____

Signed _____

Date: _____

Parent's Name

Printed _____

Signed _____

Date: _____