



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 expected and involved in youth orchestra participation.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO JOIN A YOUTH ORCHESTRA?

RDYO's orchestral program is an intensive and educational enrichment program designed for musicians who want to strengthen their playing abilities. 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. In addition, conductors are not able to work with individual players to review missed instruction. Being a part of the orchestra involves the full participation of all musicians, conductors, staff and families.

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

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 notified someone (Orchestra Administrator or Division Manager) of your absence ahead of the rehearsal.

Examples of an excused absence include:

- Illness;
- School or family trip;
- School-related event,

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

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

We understand with the current restrictions and uncertainty that additional absences may occur. Absences for illness or required self-isolation will be considered excused absences. If you are not attending in-person rehearsals, every effort must be made to attend the online rehearsal livestream in order to keep up with the expectations from your conductor.

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 10 minutes before the start of rehearsal. Not only does arriving late for rehearsal show disrespect for the conductor and fellow musicians, but it is unprofessional and will not be tolerated. Arriving late and absences will be noted and may affect musicians chances when applying to scholarships.

Practicing outside of rehearsals

Players are expected to practice their orchestral pieces during the week, so that they are prepared and 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.

Division Managers

Each division is overseen by a parent volunteer, known as the Division Manager. The Division Manager helps the Orchestra staff pass on information to their respective group usually through email. He or she may also take attendance, noting any late arrivals (there should be none!), and assigns tasks to parents throughout the year. The role of the division manager is to help bridge the gap between the staff and the families of RDYO. If you are interested in becoming a division manager, please contact admin@rdyo.ca.

Concerts/Recordings

With the current guidelines, regular concerts are not possible, and we are working to find alternatives. Concert attendance and participation is still an essential part of our players’ musical experience with RDYO. As musicians, we recognize the benefits of performing and giving back to our community. RDYO has developed alternative recording performance opportunities in place of concerts. We continue to expect and strive for excellence and level of professionalism even with these recording sessions. As noted above, conductors cannot plan a concert or recording 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. Attendance at concerts (in-person and online) shows support for the musicians in other divisions, and allows younger musicians to familiarize themselves with the repertoire and standards of other divisions.

Scholarships

RDYO sponsors an orchestra-wide Concerto Competition and Scholarship Competition each year (more details on both events are available in the Family 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 and/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 8-hour volunteer contribution. Every family is required to volunteer for at least one concert or recording. 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 to 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 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 others property.**

SIGNATURE PAGE

By completing your online registration form, you agree to the RDYO code of conduct and 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. This Signature Page will be required if further action is necessary.

Musician's Name

Printed _____

Signed _____ Date: _____

Parent's Name

Printed _____

Signed _____ Date: _____