

Northwest Iowa Symphony Youth Orchestra Handbook

WELCOME

Welcome to the Northwest Iowa Symphony Youth Orchestra! Your membership in NISYO shows commitment to growing as a musician and also dedication to pursuing musical excellence. This handbook will give you a better idea of the procedures, policies, and practices that we will follow. These guidelines will allow us to become a quality orchestra and will enable us to offer to our supporting community the very best of ourselves.

MISSION

The Northwest Iowa Youth Symphony Orchestra seeks to provide a youth orchestra program that motivates and inspires progressing instrumentalists in the pursuit of musical excellence.

GOALS

As an orchestra we will strive to meet the following goals:

1. To improve our playing abilities
2. To sharpen our listening skills
3. To deepen our musical appreciation
4. To exhibit unity in rehearsals and in performances
5. To demonstrate stewardship of time, talents, and resources.

PROCEDURES

1. Be in your place with your instrument and music, ready to tune and ready to rehearse, by the designated time. Use your time efficiently to avoid being late for rehearsal.
2. Have all necessary items (instrument, music, & pencil) at every rehearsal. Use your pencil to call attention to markings in the music and to write down instructions from your director.
3. Follow instructions the first time they are given. Be an orchestra member who makes things happen, not one who watches things happen or wonders what happened.
4. Eating and drinking don't mix with instruments. Food, drink (other than bottled water), and candy are not allowed in any rehearsal or performance situation.

CONCERT DRESS

Concert dress consists of black pants/skirt (skirts should come below the knee when seated), white shirt/blouse, and black dress shoes. The idea of concert dress is to look as uniform as possible, so avoid clothes that draw attention, e.g. shiny or shimmering fabric, trendy styles, etc. The best fabric is a poly/cotton blend (or something similar) that has a “flat” finish. The white shirt/blouse needs to have a collar of some sort. This uniform need not cost much money if you don’t want it to--check second-hand stores, clearance sales, or any other means you need.

HOME PRACTICE

Individual practice outside of rehearsal will be necessary. Students are expected to know their parts in each selection; therefore, they need to practice as long as it takes to learn the part. Practicing does not mean just playing through the literature. Productive practicing involves playing the most difficult passages over and over, often out of tempo at first, until those passages can join the easier ones without changing tempo or style. Pay special attention to articulation, bowings, accidentals, fingerings, and other markings in the music as you practice. If this is difficult on your own, consider asking your private teacher or orchestra director to help you learn your parts.

CALENDAR OF REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

Rehearsals held in the rehearsal room (dates noted with * will be held on Christ Chapel stage)

FALL 2023

September 9:	NISYO Auditions 9:00am
September 16, 23, 30:	Rehearsals, 9:30-11:00am
October 7, 14, 21, 28:	Rehearsals, 9:30-11:00am
November 4, 11, 18, 25:	Rehearsals, 9:30-11:00am
December 2:	Rehearsals, 9:30-11:00am
December 9*:	Dress Rehearsal, 1:00-2:30pm
December 9*:	Concert, 3:00-4:00pm

SPRING 2024

January 13, 20, 27:	Rehearsals, 9:30-11:00am
February 3, 10, 17, 24:	Rehearsals, 9:30-11:00am
March 2, 9, 16:	Rehearsals, 9:30-11:00am
April 6, 13, 20, 27:	Rehearsals, 9:30-11:00am
May 4*:	Dress Rehearsal, 1:00-2:30pm
May 4*:	Concert, 3:00-4:00pm

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is expected at all rehearsals (including sectionals) and concerts. However, if you do need to miss a rehearsal, please email Dr. Angela Holt at angela.holt@nwcsiowa.edu in advance (or in case of emergency, call Dr. Holt at 712-707-7066 or Dr. Onsby Rose @ 712-722-6204). If you miss more than two rehearsals in a given semester, it is likely that you will not be able to play in the culminating concert.

TUITION

Tuition for full-year membership in NISYO is \$100. This amount (check for \$100 payable to NISO) needs to be paid in full by September 30, 2023. If you live in Sioux Center or Orange City, "All Kids Can" is an organization that helps with assisting families pay for student activities. Please contact "All Kids Can" for further information about this program.

REFRESHMENTS

All parents are asked to take at least one turn per year in providing refreshments for NISYO members during their rehearsal breaks. For regular morning rehearsals, a break will usually be taken sometime around 10:20 am. On concert days, the break will be taken some time around 2:00 pm. Cookies or other hand-held snacks along with juice are the most appropriate for our refreshments. _____ has graciously agreed to coordinate this schedule and will be contacting everyone. Her contact information is _____.

Please sign below and return to your director by September 16, 2023. Signing below indicates that I have read the NISYO handbook and that I am familiar with the expectations and procedures contained within.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Please fill-out the following information so that our records are current.

Student name _____

Parent/guardian name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home phone _____

Parent Cell _____

Parent email _____

Student email _____

Student cell phone _____ Student age _____

School _____ Grade _____

Instrument _____ Years playing instrument _____