TACOMA YOUTH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

www.tysamusic.org

Handbook for Students and Families

2026/2027 Season Rehearsal Schedule

Orchestra/Group	Rehearsal Time
Tacoma Youth Symphony (TYS) Dr. James Welsch, Conductor	9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Tacoma Youth Orchestra (TYO) Mr. Joe Dyvig, Conductor	2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Tacoma Youth Philharmonic (TYP) Dr. Anna Jensen, Conductor	2:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tacoma Youth Symphonic Band (TYSB) Ms. Gianna DeBolt, Co-Conductor Mr. John M. Wetherington, Co-Conductor	10:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Tacoma Academy String Orchestra (TASO) Ms. Karen Helseth, Conductor	12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Tacoma String Symphony (TSS) Ms. Rebecca Pelandini, Conductor	12:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Tacoma Prelude Strings (Prelude) Ms. Katherine Sartori, Instructor	10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Tacoma Youth Symphony Brass (TYS-Brass) Mr. Morris Northcutt, Conductor	12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Music Theory 1	11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
Music Theory 2	12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Music Theory 3	12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Music Theory 4	12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Welcome to the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association's 64th Season.

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association! We anticipate an exciting and enriching year ahead and look forward to becoming an integral part of your musical education.

This handbook provides an overview of most membership information, general rehearsal times and locations, contact information and tuition costs. Additional questions can be answered by visiting our website at www.tysamusic.org.

Our Mission:

Through music education, the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association empowers young people to seek intellectual growth, to explore creative pathways, to appreciate cultural diversity, and to experience the joy of being part of a team while becoming engaged citizens and reaching their greatest potential.

TYSA Equity & Diversity Statement:

Together we create one sound.

At TYSA, we welcome & embrace *all* in our pursuit of inclusion and efforts toward social justice. Our diversity makes us stronger as we share our common love of music and learning. We value all races, ethnicities, religious beliefs, gender identities, sexual orientations, socioeconomic backgrounds, and experiences. We believe each individual is a stakeholder in our collective success and enriches our TYSA family and the broader community we serve.

We are happy to have you as part of our organization and wish you a successful and fulfilling season.



TYSA is.....

...a place for you to be surrounded by like-minded students, students who go above and beyond.

...a safe environment where you can express yourself through music.

...a culture in which you will learn how to learn.

...an extended family who accepts you for who you are, allowing you to become an even better you.

...FUN. Lifetime friendships and memories are made here every year.



IMPORTANT 2026-2027 DATES

September 12	Orientation & First Rehearsal
September 19	Theory Begins & TYBE begins
September 24	Concerto Spotlight – Semi Final @ Immanuel Presbyterian Church
September 25	TYS Retreat & TYO Retreat
October 25	TYSA Costume Concert @ Pantages Theater - 3:00 p.m. (all groups perform)
November 14	TYS Concert @ Rialto - 7:00 p.m.
December 4	TYO Victorian Country Christmas Runout Concert – time 7:00 p.m.
December 12	TSS & TYP & TYSB & Prelude Concert @ Schneebeck Hall/UPS - 1:00 p.m
December 12	TYO & TASO & TYS-Brass @ Schneebeck Hall/UPS - 6:30 p.m.
January 9	Symphony Tacoma Masterclasses with TYS/TJYS
January 22 & 23	Chamber Dress Rehearsal 5:00-8:00 p.m. (1/22) & Chamber Concert - 7:00 p.m. (1/23) Annie Wright School – Raynor Chapel (Tacoma)
February 5	TYS Discover Music Concerts - Rialto Theater - Time TBA
February 20	Trivia Night Fundraiser
March 1	All fees are due at this time.
March 7	TYS Concert @ Rialto Theater - 4:00 p.m.
March 11 & 12	String Orchestra Festival
March 27	TYSA Rocks! Concert @ Pantages Theater - 7:00 p.m. (all groups perform)
April 10	TYSA Outstanding Senior Scholarship Auditions
April 15	TYSB Art Museum Runout Concert
April 17	TSS Runout Concert
April 23	TYP School Side-by-Side Tour - TBD
April 24	TASO Runout Concert
April 24	Theory Ends
May 1	TSS & TYP & Prelude Concert - Rialto Theater - 4:00 p.m.
May 8	TYO & TASO & TYSB Concert - Rialto - 4:00 p.m.
May 16	TYS Concert - Pantages Theater - 4:00p.m.

No Rehearsals on November 28, December 26, January 2, February 13, & April 3

TUITION

Much of the TYSA's annual budget is raised by the Board of Directors through fundraisers, grants and donations. Disbursements include concert expenses, instrument and music purchases, administrative and artistic salaries, facility rentals, and scholarships. Every effort is made to keep the annual tuition for our members as low as possible as tuition does not cover the full cost to run these programs.

The tuition and fee schedule for the 2026-2027 season is listed below:

	Full tuition	Early bird tuition (tuition paid in full before 9/25)	
TYS	**$1520**	**$1470**	**down payment $530**
TYO	**$1390**	**$1340**	**down payment $400**
TYP	**$1260**	**$1210**	**down payment $270**
TYSB	**$1185**	**$1135**	**down payment $195**
TASO	**$1185**	**$1135**	**down payment $195**
TSS	**$1185**	**$1135**	**down payment $195**

Prelude Strings	**$115.00 monthly tuition from Sept. through April dep. $75**
Theory Classes	**$205**
Students entering mid-season	**Prorated**
Withdrawal refunds	**Prorated from the date on which written notification w/guardian signature is received in the TYSA office. No tuition refunds after March 1**
Audition Placement Fee	**$65**

Sibling discounts on a family's season tuition are as follows:	***2 children***	***$75 discount***
	3 children	***$125 discount***
	4 children	***$150 discount***

Tuition statements are mailed in August. You may pay in full or make regular monthly payments ($165) due on the 1st of each month. The first payment is due on September 1st and all fees are due on March 1st.

NEED BASED FINANCIAL AID

TYSA understands and appreciates that supporting a student's music education involves a substantial financial commitment on the part of parents/guardians. Financial aid scholarships are available with awards based on financial need.

Financial aid scholarship applications are due **August 15th** each year. Applications are also available on the TYSA website under the Auditions tab.

TYSA Concert Attire

TYSA Concert Dress code is "Concert Black" for all regular concert performances.

All TYSA students are asked to choose the components of their concert blacks within the following guidelines:

- solid black long-sleeve dress shirt or long-sleeve blouse (no low necklines or backless choices)
- solid black dress pants, slacks, skirt, or dress (skirt length must be floor length)
- please wear a black belt with your pants/slacks if needed.
- black socks or black opaque stockings/tights
- black dress shoes (heels are not recommended, particularly for performers who stand to perform)

Please do not wear:

- black jeans or leggings
- t-shirts or tank tops
- sneakers, black shoes with colored stripes or logos
- white socks or colored socks other than solid black

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR TYSA FAMILIES

Volunteer Positions: The Tacoma Youth Symphony Association relies heavily on the assistance of volunteers. Please email info@tysamusic.org if you would like to offer your services, or submit an interest form at tysamusic.org/volunteer.

Musician Pick-up: It is very important to pick up your student(s) as soon as rehearsals or other events are over for their safety. Staff members are involved in other activities and are unable to watch children who have been left.

Video Policy: To video a TYSA concert, you must obtain a video pass through the TYSA office. Video passes are available 2 weeks prior to the concert and you must purchase a ticket in order to use the video pass. **Two passes are available for each concert.**

Attendance Policy: The Attendance Policy of the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association is strictly enforced. A copy of the policy is included on the following page. Each member is required to attend all performances, retreats and tours of the orchestra of which they are a member.

Parking: Metered street parking in Tacoma's Theater District is $2 for the entire day on Saturdays. Please make sure you provide yourself enough time to get warmed up and settled before the orchestra tunes and allow for enough time at the end of rehearsal for adequate clean-up.

Music Folders: Students' music folders will include rehearsal schedules and music. Check the rehearsal schedule to make sure that you are aware of any changes in dates and locations. Please return all music and folders at the end of each concert. Members agree to pay a $7 fee for each piece of music that is not returned within 30 days of the concert, $5 for missing Glaesel folders and a $30 fine for missing TYS black folders. *Copied music is property of TYSA and no student is allowed to keep copied music issued by TYSA.*

Withdrawal: Please submit in writing to the TYSA office of your students' request to withdraw (including non-acceptance) from TYSA. The day your letter with parent/guardian signature is received by TYSA will be the official withdrawal date. Refunds will be on a case-by-case basis. No refunds after March 1st. There will be no refund of the audition fee if you do not accept placement.

Supply List: Instrument, folding music stand, instrument accessories, metronome, mute(s), tuner, and pencils. **Optional:** staff paper

Payments: Please use the payment drop box located inside the TYSA office or mail any payments/money to the TYSA office. Please do not hand checks or cash to TYSA staff on Saturdays or at concerts. You may also pay online at tysamusic.org.

Tacoma Youth Symphony Association

Student Code of Conduct

Our Commitment

At the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association (TYSA), we believe that music education is about more than learning to play an instrument. It is about learning to listen, collaborate, take responsibility, and contribute to a community.

Every TYSA student has the right to learn and make music in an environment that is **safe, welcoming, respectful, and inclusive**.

By participating in TYSA, students agree to uphold the following Code of Conduct.

---

1. Respect Others

TYSA students are expected to treat fellow musicians, conductors, coaches, staff, volunteers, and guests with respect.

Students will:

- Use respectful and appropriate language.
- Listen when others are speaking or rehearsing.
- Respect differences in backgrounds, identities, abilities, experiences, and musical perspectives.
- Give others the space and attention they need to learn.
- Treat everyone with kindness and professionalism.

Bullying, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, threats, or intentionally hurtful behavior are not acceptable at TYSA.

---

2. Be Ready to Learn

Music rehearsals are a team effort. Every student contributes to the success of the ensemble.

Students are expected to:

- Arrive on time and ready to rehearse.
- Bring their instrument, music, pencil, and other required materials.
- Practice assigned music outside of rehearsal.
- Follow directions from conductors, coaches, and staff.
- Stay engaged during rehearsals.
- Make a sincere effort to improve.

Being prepared is one of the most important ways a musician shows respect for the rest of the ensemble.

3. Take Care of Our Shared Spaces

TYSA uses facilities that are shared with other students, organizations, and members of the community.

Students will:

- Treat rehearsal rooms, performance venues, classrooms, bathrooms, and common areas with care.
- Keep personal belongings organized and out of walkways.
- Clean up after themselves.
- Respect TYSA property and the property of others.
- Follow facility rules and safety instructions.

Students may be held responsible for damage caused intentionally or through reckless behavior.

---

4. Safety Comes First

Students must follow all reasonable safety instructions from TYSA conductors, staff, coaches, volunteers, and venue personnel.

This includes:

- Following emergency evacuation instructions immediately.
- Remaining with the ensemble when directed.
- Keeping exits, aisles, doors, and emergency equipment clear.
- Reporting unsafe behavior or conditions to an adult.
- Never interfering with fire alarms, emergency equipment, or other safety systems.

During an emergency, **students must follow instructions first and ask questions afterward.**

---

5. Technology and Social Media

Technology should support the TYSA experience—not interfere with it.

Students are expected to:

- Keep phones, smart watches, and other devices put away during rehearsals unless permission is given.
- Use technology appropriately during breaks and other designated times.
- Respect the privacy of other students, staff, and volunteers.
- Never photograph, record, or post another person without appropriate permission when doing so could reasonably violate their privacy or create harm.

Online behavior can affect the TYSA community. **Bullying, harassment, threats, or intentionally harmful conduct involving TYSA students or activities may be addressed even when it occurs outside of rehearsal.**

---

6. Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Weapons

TYSA is committed to providing a safe environment for young musicians.

Students may not possess, use, distribute, or be under the influence of:

- Alcohol
- Cannabis or illegal drugs
- Tobacco or nicotine products, including vaping products
- Weapons or other items intended to cause harm

TYSA may take immediate action when a student's behavior presents a safety concern.

---

7. Performance and Concert Etiquette

Performances are an important part of being a TYSA musician.

Students are expected to:

- Arrive at the designated call time.
- Follow backstage and stage instructions.
- Remain quiet and attentive when appropriate.
- Respect performers, conductors, staff, and audience members.
- Remain in designated areas unless given permission to leave.
- Represent TYSA positively when performing or participating in TYSA activities.

---

8. Responsibility and Accountability

TYSA students are expected to take responsibility for their choices.

When a concern arises, TYSA may consider:

- What happened.
- The student's age and level of maturity.
- Whether the behavior was intentional.
- The impact on others.
- Whether the behavior is repeated.
- The student's willingness to take responsibility and make things right.

Depending on the situation, responses may include a conversation with the student, parent/guardian notification, a restorative conversation, a behavior agreement, removal from an activity, suspension, or dismissal from TYSA.

Serious behavior may result in immediate removal from an activity or program.

9. Speak Up

Students should tell a trusted TYSA adult if they:

- Feel unsafe.
- Experience bullying, harassment, discrimination, or threatening behavior.
- See someone else being mistreated.
- Have a concern about another student's behavior.
- Need help resolving a conflict.

Speaking up is not "getting someone in trouble." **It is helping keep our community safe.**

Students may speak with a conductor, coach, staff member, or another trusted adult and ask for help.

---

10. Be the Kind of Musician You Want Beside You

Being a TYSA musician means being part of something bigger than yourself.

We expect our students to:

Listen. Respect. Prepare. Participate. Take responsibility. Support one another. Make beautiful music together.

Our goal is not simply to create excellent musicians.
It is to create **excellent musicians and excellent human beings**.



Rehearsal etiquette

Personal Deportment

TYSA members are expected to conduct themselves in a professional, respectful, and responsible manner during rehearsals, sectionals, performances, trips, and all other TYSA functions. This includes attentive participation, enthusiasm for the activities, respect for peers and adults, and compliance with directions from conductors and staff.

TYSA may notify a member when improvement in personal deportment is needed and will provide a reasonable opportunity for improvement when appropriate. Disruptive behavior, harassment of any kind, and possession or use of illegal drugs are not tolerated and may result in dismissal from the program.

Artistic Standards

TYSA is dedicated to promoting, encouraging, and maintaining high artistic standards. **TYSA is not a substitute for school music programs.** Members are **expected** to participate in music courses appropriate to their instrument at the school they attend when such courses are available. School music programs also provide valuable opportunities such as All-State and All-County groups and District and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals.

Use of Facilities

TYSA members must respect the rules, premises, equipment, and instruments at all rehearsal and concert locations. Members should not enter closed areas or leave a facility with an adult without explicit permission and appropriate accompaniment from TYSA staff or a parent/guardian.

Rehearsal Etiquette

- Be seated, warmed up, tuned, and ready at the scheduled start time and for the conductor's first downbeat.
- Have current music in your folder and on your stand.
- Bring a pencil for note-taking.
- Cell phones/electronic devices are to be put away throughout the duration of rehearsal.
- Carry necessary instrument supplies in your case (strings, reeds, mutes, etc.).
- Give the conductor and other musicians your full attention and contribute to a focused rehearsal environment.

Rehearsal & Concert Attendance

Being a member of a TYSA orchestra is both a privilege and a responsibility. Consistent participation in weekly rehearsals is essential to successful performances.

- Students are expected to maintain consistent attendance and may have up to six formally excused absences during the entire season. Three tardies equal one absence.
- Consistent attendance is essential to the success of every ensemble and to the experience of each individual musician. Each student may have up to six formally excused absences during the season. Three tardies equal one absence.

- If a student's attendance begins to interfere with their participation or with the work of the ensemble, the student may be asked to meet with the conductor, Executive Director, and/or Music Director to discuss the circumstances and determine an appropriate path forward. Continued or significant attendance concerns may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from the program.
- Studio Managers maintain attendance records. Students or families with questions about attendance standing should contact their orchestra's Studio Manager.

Unexpected Absences

- Contact the appropriate Studio Manager by phone or email at least two hours before the scheduled event.
- TYSA understands that personal and family emergencies happen. When unexpected circumstances arise, the impact of an absence on a student's overall participation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Tardy Arrival

- A tardy is arriving after the conductor has begun rehearsal.
- Three tardies count as one absence.
- Students typically need 15–30 minutes for personal warm-up before rehearsal. Being early to an event is being on time.

Planned Absences & Missed Concerts

Students should identify potential conflicts as early as possible and make every reasonable effort to resolve them before a TYSA event. ***Dress rehearsals and concerts are essential commitments and should not be missed.***

For planned absences:

- Students should speak personally with their conductor well in advance and;
- Submit the TYSA Report an Absence form.
- Verbal confirmation alone is not sufficient.

Students are expected to attend all performances, retreats, and tours of their orchestra. Absences from concerts are especially serious, particularly for students in leadership positions or those playing one on a part. A student who misses a concert without prior approval may be subject to suspension for the remainder of the year.

Report an Absence information and forms: https://tysamusic.org/tysa-programs/absences/

TYSA Pick-Up and Drop-Off Policies & Procedures

The safety of our students, families, and community is our top priority. With hundreds of young musicians attending rehearsals and events in downtown Tacoma, we ask all families to be mindful of traffic, parking, and pedestrian safety.

Please plan ahead! Allow plenty of extra time to find parking and walk to rehearsals, lessons, and concerts. Arriving at the scheduled start time does not allow for time to park, unload instruments, and get to the rehearsal space. We encourage families to plan to arrive early so students are ready to begin on time.

Parking Options

There are several parking options available throughout downtown Tacoma, including:

- Street parking
- Public parking lots
- Parking garages

Please familiarize yourself with the available parking options and allow sufficient time to find a space.

No Double Parking
Please do not double park or stop in traffic lanes to drop off or pick up students. The City of Tacoma Parking Enforcement actively monitors downtown areas and has been known to issue citations for double parking, even when the driver remains inside the vehicle.

Pedestrian Safety
Please drive slowly and remain alert when entering and exiting the rehearsal and concert areas. Be especially mindful of young musicians and other pedestrians crossing streets, walking between parking areas, and entering or exiting buildings. Students may be carrying large instruments or traveling in groups, so please exercise extra caution.

Working Together
We appreciate everyone's cooperation in keeping our downtown rehearsal and concert spaces safe and accessible. A little extra planning, patience, and courtesy go a long way in ensuring a positive experience for all TYSA students and families.

Thank you for helping us keep our young musicians safe!

For General Inquiries - info@tysamusic.org

Ms. Megan Berkinshaw, Operations Manager (rehearsals, chamber music, attendance, and scheduling)
operations@tysamusic.org

Ms. Marie Hoffman, Education Manager (run-outs, retreats, student volunteers, and summer camps)
education@tysamusic.org or emf@tysamusic.org

Ms. Annie Drassal, Engagement Manager (Special events, Donor and alumni engagement and TYSA instrument rentals)
adrassal@tysamusic.org

Mrs. Kristina Thomas, Marketing Manager (tickets, advertising, social media and parent volunteers)
marketing@tysamusic.org

Ms. Rebecca Reinmuth, Finance Manager (tuition payments and invoices)
finance@tysamusic.org

Ms. Heidi Davidson, Music Librarian (all music folder related questions and copies of parts)
librarian@tysamusic.org

Ms. Laura Stone, Advancement Officer (scholarships, concert sponsorships, and legacy giving)
lstone@tysamusic.org

Dr. James Welsch, Music Director and TYS Conductor (Discover Music and Symphonic Orchestra Festival)
musicdirector@tysamusic.org

Dr. Anna Jensen, Executive Director and TYP Conductor
ajensen@tysamusic.org

Tacoma Youth Symphony Offices
901 Broadway, Suite 500, Tacoma, WA 98402

Pantages Theater/Pantages Building/Tacoma Theaters Building
901 Broadway, Tacoma, WA 98402

Rialto Theater
310 S 9th St, Tacoma, WA 98402

Schneebeck Hall - UPS
1567-1625 N Union Ave, Tacoma, WA 98416

Tacoma Art Museum
1701 Pacific Ave, Tacoma, WA 98402

Annie Wright School (chamber concert venue)
827 N Tacoma Ave, Tacoma, WA 98403

Immanuel Presbyterian Church (concerto spotlight concert venue)
901 N J St, Tacoma, WA 98403