

Winnipeg Youth Orchestras – Code of Conduct For All Musicians and Parents

Purpose

This Code of Conduct promotes self-control and respect for others, ensuring that all musicians in Winnipeg Youth Orchestras have a positive experience and are therefore more likely to achieve their full potential.

Attendance

Musicians are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Although occasional unforeseen absences due to illness or family emergency are unavoidable, musicians must make every effort to inform their conductor of anticipated absences as far in advance as possible.

Musicians should arrive 10-15 minutes before rehearsals and performances to set-up and tune. Conductors may set an earlier arrival time for performances.

Students who miss more than three (3) rehearsals in a term may be asked to withdraw from orchestra.

Rehearsals and Performances

Musicians must:

- Bring a music stand and all music in their folders issued to them by WYO to every rehearsal and performance.
- Have a sharpened pencil with them during every rehearsal and to mark their own copies of the music with conductor notes, even when sharing a stand.
- Pay attention at all times, even when their section is not rehearsing.
- Never talk when the conductor or guest clinicians is speaking to the group.
- Refrain from chewing gum, eating, or drink during rehearsal.
- Turn off all electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, computers) during rehearsal.
- Practice their parts in order to be prepared for rehearsals and performances.

Learning the Music

Musicians must learn their music at home so that rehearsal time may be spent on musical concepts and developing the ensemble performance. Parents are asked to help students design an effective, regular practice schedule. Students should ask private teachers for help with orchestra music.

Behaviour

WYO is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination and harassment, where all persons:

- Are treated with respect and dignity.
- Can contribute fully.
- Have equal opportunities.

WYO does not tolerate teasing, fighting, provocative, or aggressive behaviour.

Musicians must:

- Be considerate and respectful of others.
- Speak and listen respectfully to peers and adults.
- Use appropriate language during rehearsals, performances, breaks, and at all other times when representing WYO.

- Respect the property of rehearsal and performance venues. Vandalism is grounds for **immediate expulsion** from WYO.
- Clean up after themselves.

Controlled Substances

The consumption of alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs while participating in WYO activities is strictly forbidden and will be grounds for **immediate expulsion** from WYO.

Smoking

Smoking and vaping is prohibited in and around rehearsal and performance venues.

Safety

- Musicians must remain within the specified rehearsal and breaks areas at all times. Musicians must always be visible to conductors or chaperones.
- No playing in or on elevators, stairs, or bathrooms, and no running, wrestling, fighting, or other similarly disruptive behaviour is tolerated during rehearsals and breaks.
- Parents must provide transportation for musicians to and from rehearsals and performances.
- Parents must pick up musicians immediately after rehearsals and performances. There is no supervision after the session has ended.

Organizing and Managing Music

At the start of every season, each musician will receive the majority of his/her parts for that season. Throughout the season, musicians may receive additional parts for concert preparation or to practice sight reading. Musicians are expected to sort and organize the music and tape pages together or insert them in a 3-ring binder.

Instrument Upkeep

Each Musician is expected to maintain their own instrument. String players must carry a full set of strings at all times in case any string breaks.

Resolution of Code of Conduct Issues

1. Any breach of the Code of Conduct will be brought to the attention of the musician.
2. If appropriate, resolution is encouraged between musicians and facilitated by an adult in charge – conductor, tutor, chaperone, volunteer.
3. If negative behaviour does not stop is will be brought to the attention of the musician's parents.
4. If there is continued problematic behaviour, the musician may be placed on membership probation and/or dismissed from WYO, at the discretion of the conductor.

Musician Signature

Parent Signature

Date