



*Founded in 1993*

**HANDBOOK 2025/26**

[www.dyomusic.com](http://www.dyomusic.com)

## *Welcome Message*

On behalf of the Durham Youth Orchestra (DYO) Board of Directors, and our Music Directors, I would like to welcome you to our 2025/26 Season! For new members, congratulations on your successful audition and welcome to the DYO. Prepare to learn, make friends and enjoy this exciting experience.

Sadly, in August 2025, our founder and long time music director, Mr. John Beaton, passed away. He will be deeply missed by our orchestra community. His dedication to the orchestra was legendary for over 30 years. Our 2025/26 season will be dedicated to Mr. Beaton as we mourn and remember him.

In September 2025 the board voted to make Mr. Paul Otway our new music director. Mr. Otway has been the assistant music director for many years, and is very dedicated to the orchestra. We know he will carry on the tremendous legacy Mr. Beaton began. Mr. Otway brings decades of professional experience performing and teaching. Ms. Moira Burke will also work with the orchestra this year as our Strings Coach. She also brings lots of knowledge and experience that our youth will benefit greatly from.

To get the most out of your experience with the DYO, we encourage members to attend rehearsals and practice regularly. The real joy of music comes after much hard work through dedication and practice. Being part of the orchestra is a unique and confidence building experience which can lead towards a bright future in school and career, whether as a musician or other. In the end, what you get out of it is dependent on what you put into it.

The exceptional experience that the DYO member has is dependent on the work that goes on behind the scenes. Parents of DYO musicians are a key partner in the DYO's success. Parents and family are encouraged to volunteer their time, whether as a board member, helping with auditions, selling tickets, baking refreshments, finding silent auction items or drumming up donations. New this year, we are requiring one family member for each youth to volunteer a minimum of 5 hours with the orchestra. Volunteering is integral to running the orchestra and ensuring fees remain affordable.. Without your support, the DYO would cease to exist. Please consider helping as much as possible. It is sincerely appreciated.

All the best and we wish you a great season!

Sincerely,

Jane Pfeil  
President, Durham Youth Orchestra  
[president@dyomusic.com](mailto:president@dyomusic.com)

## ***DYO Members and Parent Responsibilities***

### **Parent Responsibilities**

Running the DYO and providing the best experience possible for members takes time and energy. It also costs approximately \$50,000 per year to successfully operate the DYO. The DYO does not receive regular funding from the government, as school programs do. We depend on the hard work of volunteers to raise the necessary funds through applications for grants, corporate and private sponsorships, as well as ongoing fundraising activities. The success of our fundraising is what will keep our membership fees as reasonable as possible.

The DYO encourages active participation of **parent volunteers** for the activities and maintenance of the orchestra. **A minimum of 5 hours per family is required.** The following volunteer positions are available:

- Board of Directors
- Music librarian
- Helping with auditions
- Distribution and collection of Concert tickets/posters
- Concert Volunteers – ticket sales, ticket collection, refreshments, stage set up, etc.
- Chaperone Volunteers (attend rehearsals, open door at St. George's and supervise members)
- Fundraising Events- eg. Silent Auction
- Fundraising Coordinator/Team
- Advertising
- Grants and Corporate Sponsorships
- Snack Program (for rehearsals)
- Writing articles, reviews and stories
- Photography

The success of the DYO depends on everyone being involved and doing their part.

### **Requirements of DYO Members**

Durham Youth Orchestra **members must faithfully attend all rehearsals and concerts**, unless prevented by illness or other serious reason. Members must also include their orchestra music in their home practice routine on an ongoing basis. Those failing to do so will jeopardize their membership in the orchestra.

- Musicians are responsible for the music and folder in their possession
- Pay attention during rehearsals - listen to the conductor, coaches and to each other
- Practice regularly at home
- Attend coaching sessions and master classes
- Show respect and courtesy towards conductors, coaches, chaperones, other orchestra members
- Regularly attend rehearsals

- Arrive at rehearsals and performances punctually to set up, to tune instruments, to receive announcements and concert tickets, etc.
- Come prepared to each rehearsal with a pencil and attached eraser, music and folder, and instruments
- **During rehearsals, cell phones must not be placed on music stands or chairs, but must remain out of sight in pockets, music cases, coats, etc. The only acceptable time to use these devices is during the orchestra break time or at the end of rehearsals**
- Listen at home to recordings of our concert repertoire performed by professional ensembles
- Maintain a positive attitude towards DYO activities
- Enjoy, Learn and get Inspired!

### *Concert Dress*

The DYO presents three concerts each season.

Musicians are required to maintain the following dress code for all DYO performances:

**Ladies** - Black dress, skirt or dress pants; black blouse or sweater; black tights, pantyhose or socks and black dress shoes. Modest and conservative attire is required for all performances. For ladies, skirts should be knee length or lower; jewelry and other accessories should be kept to a minimum. Shoulders must be covered and modesty must be maintained.

**Gentlemen** - Black dress pants; black shirt or sweater; black dress shoes and black dress socks.

### *Individual Practice*

Durham Youth Orchestra members are expected to regularly include orchestra music in their daily practice routine at home to maintain the high standard of performance that is expected of each member. This is a requirement and failure to meet this may result in being dismissed from the orchestra. As well, DYO members must also listen to recordings of our concert repertoire performed by professional ensembles.

### *Discipline*

A professional attitude is a requirement at all times during rehearsal and performances. Out of respect to the conductor and fellow musicians, members are asked not to engage in disruptive behaviour during rehearsal (e.g. talking, arriving late or unprepared, failing to pay attention to the conductor). A warning may be issued to orchestra members who fail to obey these requests, and if warranted, a dismissal from rehearsal. Subsequent dismissals will result in parent consultation with the conductor and Board. Additional dismissal may result in permanent removal from the orchestra.

### *Letter of Discipline*

If a member of the Youth Orchestra fails to meet the expectations of regular attendance,

consistent practicing and proper behaviour, a Letter of Discipline will be sent to the parent or guardian stating area(s) in which their child is deficient. The member will be under a probation period of 8 weeks. The member will be expected to correct the stated area(s) of deficiency by the end of this period.

### *Appearance*

It is extremely important to the DYO that its members maintain a clean, conservative and professional image at rehearsals, performances and trips. We strongly encourage a natural and healthy appearance. Make-up and jewelry are to be used appropriately.

### *DYO Concert Ticket Policy*

Concert ticket price is \$25. Members will receive 18 complimentary tickets. Beginners ensemble members do not receive complimentary tickets. You are encouraged to gift or sell your complimentary tickets to family, friends, and teachers. We also encourage each member to sell additional tickets, available upon request.

We may receive special municipal government funding to sponsor one of our concerts, making it free, but this is not yet confirmed. This will not change the number of complimentary tickets allotted.

Tickets are available for purchase on the DYO website at [www.dyomusic.com](http://www.dyomusic.com). Children and youth grade 12 and under will be admitted free of charge.

## ***DYO Fee Schedule***

The annual membership fee is due at the second rehearsal in September 2024. Payment is preferred by e-transfer to [president@dyomusic.com](mailto:president@dyomusic.com) or by cheque. Payment through credit card can be made [online](#). Cheques must be made payable to the Durham Youth Orchestra. E-transfers should include a message stating the full name of the orchestra member. Musicians entering the orchestra in the middle of the year are charged a pro-rated amount.

### **2025/26 Season:**

- **\$870 Standard fee: Includes a \$175 income tax-deductible donation to the DYO and a total of 18 tickets valid for use at any of the three concerts this season.**
  
- **\$570 Juniors: Young musicians new to DYO, staying for half the rehearsal time, playing in limited repertoire. Includes an \$87.50 income tax-deductible donation to DYO and a total of 18 tickets valid for use at any of the three concerts this season.**
  
- **\$250 Beginner's ensemble: Our youngest group of musicians who are just beginning to play in an ensemble. Includes a \$50 income tax-deductible donation to DYO. They rehearse for half an hour on Monday evenings. They are usually at RCM or Suzuki Level 1 and 2.**

Families that have 2 or more members in the DYO will pay a reduced fee. Please contact the DYO Treasurer for more information

\*A payment schedule can be arranged upon request to the Treasurer. An additional 3% fee will apply to process payments in installments. Contact Jake Robinson, DYO Treasurer by email at [treasurer@dyomusic.com](mailto:treasurer@dyomusic.com) to arrange.

For families in financial need, an application for assistance is available. Contact [treasurer@dyomusic.com](mailto:treasurer@dyomusic.com).

### **Refunds**

If after a trial period of 2 weeks, new members to the orchestra decide not to continue, they will be entitled to a full refund of their membership fee minus a \$35 administration fee.

If new and existing members decide to resign from the orchestra during the season, they will be refunded payments for the months remaining in the current season, excluding partial months minus \$35 administration fee.

## Rehearsal Information

Full orchestra rehearsals are held from September to June, every **Monday evening from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at Sinclair Secondary School Music Room, 380 Taunton Rd E, Whitby, ON**. Please refer to "Rehearsal Procedures" in the following section. **The rehearsal is in Room 227. (Please enter through Sinclair through the northeast doors off of the parking lot. Turn right at the cafeteria and go to the 3rd room on the right).**

Sinclair Secondary School  
Music Room 227  
380 Taunton Road East,  
Whitby, ON  
L1R 2K5

Saturday rehearsals will take place at St. George's Anglican Church in Oshawa. Times will be announced. They will be for **strings normally, but occasionally for full orchestra**. There will also be occasional **coaching sessions** at the Monday or Saturday rehearsals, given by members of the Ontario Philharmonic and/or the Toronto Symphony. For Saturday rehearsals, orchestra members are required to bring their own stands.

St. George's Anglican Church  
51 Centre Street South,  
Oshawa, ON  
L1H 3Z9

The orchestra can only produce its best performance when all musicians are in attendance. Therefore, all musicians are expected to faithfully attend all rehearsals, masterclasses and concerts unless prevented by a serious reason (e.g. illness or school exams). **In the case of an unavoidable absence, musicians are required to contact Mr. Otway by email - [potway@dyomusic.com](mailto:potway@dyomusic.com)**. If you are unable to attend a Saturday rehearsal, please email Ms. Burke at [moira\\_music@hotmail.com](mailto:moira_music@hotmail.com).

If orchestra members miss rehearsal, it is their responsibility to note any changes to bowings, fingerings, etc., and to get updated on any important announcements made during the absence. This information can be acquired from fellow orchestra members or from our music directors.

If an orchestra member is absent without a valid reason more than twice during the term (September to December/January to June), they may be required to forfeit their position in the orchestra.

Each rehearsal normally includes a 10-15 minute break. Breaks will fall halfway through the rehearsals. Families will take turns providing a snack for rehearsal.

### Rehearsal Procedures

- It is the responsibility of all DYIO members to be aware of all rehearsal and concert dates. Please mark them carefully in your calendar or date book.
- Musicians are expected to be in their seats 10 minutes before the scheduled start of each rehearsal. At this time, attendance will be taken, announcements will be made and the orchestra will tune.

- The orchestra is tuned by sections. You must play *only* when your particular section is tuning. Please do not practice during this time.
- During rehearsal, musicians must stop playing immediately when stopped by the conductor. Talking is not permitted, since it is disturbing to your fellow musicians. When the conductor is working with another section, please be courteous and remain quiet.
- It is important for each member to come to rehearsals prepared with a pencil and eraser to make any changes to bowings, fingerings, breath markings, tempo markings, etc.