



## Rivers Youth Wind Ensembles

*WELCOME to RYWE. All RYWE members are required to abide by the conditions of membership as outlined below. The information in this handbook is provided to enhance the experience for all players and their families.*

Director, RYWE Sr Conductor: Claire Nalven ([c.nalven@rivers.org](mailto:c.nalven@rivers.org))

RYWE Jr Conductor: Nicole O'Toole ([n.otoole@rivers.org](mailto:n.otoole@rivers.org))

Manager: Kira Ousey ([k.ousey@rivers.org](mailto:k.ousey@rivers.org))

### **I. REHEARSAL AND CONCERT SCHEDULE**

A. Rehearsals for all ensembles are held Mondays from September through April in Bradley Hall at The Rivers School Conservatory, located at 333 Winter Street in Weston, MA. See p. 3 of this handbook for the 2025-2026 schedule of rehearsals and concerts.

B. **The regular rehearsal time for the Junior Ensemble is 5:00pm-6:15pm, and the Senior Ensemble rehearses from 6:30pm-8:00pm.** All Junior students should arrive by 4:50pm and all Senior students should arrive by 6:20pm for tuning and warmup. **PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR REHEARSAL!**

C. **Please help us set the rooms at the beginning and end of each rehearsal by setting and stacking your chair and stand at the beginning and end of each rehearsal. Percussionists should assist with setting up and tearing down instruments.**

### **II. RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. RYWE members are responsible for knowing their assigned parts to the best of their ability and should confer with their private teachers and/or the conductor whenever necessary.

B. RYWE members are responsible for bringing their instrument, (including mutes, reeds, etc.), folder and a pencil to all rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and concerts. Instruments should be in good working order. **All items should be clearly marked with the student's name.** Stands are provided.

C. RYWE members are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior and participation throughout the entire rehearsal.

D. RYWE members are expected to study their instrument privately and participate in their school orchestra and/or band program, if one exists.

### III. SECTION LEADERS

- A. High school students (grades 9-12) in RYWE Senior are eligible to apply to be section leaders. The section leader application will consist of a few short answer questions.
- B. Section leaders should make every effort to be at all rehearsals. Section leaders should plan to arrive by **6:15pm** ready to assist with last minute setup or answer questions from other section members.

### IV. ATTENDANCE POLICY

- A. **Attendance at all rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and concerts is required.** A band cannot properly prepare for a performance unless all of its members work together at rehearsals. RYWE members are excused from rehearsals only in instances of illness, family emergency, or conflict with a school musical organization. Other conflicts cannot be permitted. In order to be sure you can fulfill this time commitment, please review your upcoming year's schedule, including musical and non-musical activities, in-school or otherwise. **Musicians are expected to be punctual and remain for the duration of all rehearsals and concerts.**
- B. Conflict with a concert, dress rehearsal or final rehearsal before a concert is a very serious matter and may result in dismissal from the group. If you foresee a conflict, including a school music or academic activity that you cannot avoid, please notify Ms. Nalven as soon as possible.
- C. **During each of the concert cycles, you will be allowed one excused absence** (not to be used unless there is illness, family emergency, or a conflict with a school musical organization-games; other clubs or non-major family events are not acceptable excuses). More than one absence, excused or unexcused, within a concert cycle is considered a serious amount of missed rehearsal time and may result in dismissal from the group.
- E. **All absences must be reported at least 48 hours ahead of time to our Manager, Kira Ousey by filling out the [ABSENCE JOTFORM](#).** It is vital that this is filled out so that if students need to be absent, the director can plan rehearsal accordingly.
- F. Communication regarding rehearsals, upcoming concerts, schedules and any student issues will be made via email. It is your responsibility to check these emails. **Please keep Ms. Ousey informed of any change in e-mail address.**

### V. CONCERT ATTIRE

Dress is concert black or a tuxedo with bow tie and cummerbund. Students dressing in concert black must wear floor length skirts or dress pants and a formal long sleeve top. Skirts shorter than floor length, leggings, and black jeans are not permitted.

### VI. MUSIC

Students will receive a RYWE folder/binder with their music. Please keep the folder and music in good condition- you will receive original copies from the RYWE music library. Music and folders will be collected at the end of each concert.

*Rehearsals are MONDAYS 5:00-6:15 pm for the Junior Ensemble and 6:30-8:00pm for the Senior Ensemble in the Orchestra Room (Bradley Hall Room 300).*

***Remember, early is on time!***

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| <p><b><i>Cycle 1:</i></b></p> <p>September 15<br/>September 22<br/>September 29</p> <p>October 6<br/><i>NO REHEARSAL October 13 (Indigenous People's Day)</i><br/>October 20*<br/>October 27</p> <p>November 3<br/>November 10<br/>November 17<br/>November 24</p> <p>December 1</p> <p><b>CONCERT 1:</b><br/>Monday, December 8<br/>7:30pm<br/>Kraft Dining Hall</p> <p><i>*Potential Low Attendance Day (Diwali)</i></p> | <p><b><i>Cycle 2:</i></b></p> <p>January 5<br/>January 12<br/><i>NO REHEARSAL January 29 (MLK Day)</i><br/>January 26</p> <p>February 2<br/>February 9<br/><i>NO REHEARSAL February 16 (President's Day)</i><br/>February 23</p> <p>March 2<br/>March 9<br/><i>NO REHEARSAL March 16** (Private School Break)</i><br/>March 23<br/>March 30</p> <p>April 6</p> <p><b>CONCERT 2:</b><br/>Monday, April 13<br/>7:30pm<br/>Kraft Dining Hall</p> <p><i>**Private school students, please do your best to miss only 1 rehearsal during spring break if you have a 2 or 3 week break!</i></p> |
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