



Valley Symphony Association Orchestra

Membership Policies and Community Expectations

Troy Raper, Conductor

The goal of this document is to provide shared expectations for participation in the VSA Orchestra. As an amateur, volunteer orchestra we are able to accomplish astonishing things when we work together and are dedicated to our collective success. Please review the following policies to ensure that you are aware of the expectations we hold for each other as members of this community.

Attendance

- All members must prioritize and commit to attending all rehearsals/concerts. There will be an attendance roster at every rehearsal for member check-in
- **Life happens! If you need to miss a rehearsal:**
 - Notify your section principal or concertmaster as soon as you know you will be missing a rehearsal.
 - Contact your section principal or concertmaster after the rehearsal to obtain any important information from the rehearsal you missed
 - Practice at home! Look through your music, use recordings, etc. to keep up with the efforts of your section.
- **If you miss more than two rehearsals in a concert period and are not able to keep up with the work at home, I will reach out to you personally to determine if you are able to perform with us in the concert.** If you are regularly missing rehearsals your absence has a direct effect on the group's efforts.
- Arrive for rehearsals at least 15 minutes before downbeat. This allows time for questions, music edits, adjustments to seatings, and other administrative tasks. For performances, please arrive at the performance location at least 30 minutes prior to performing.
- During rehearsals, focus on identifying how your part fits within the group. Be listening to instructions given to other sections and apply relevant instructions to

your part. You are rehearsing even when the director isn't specifically working with your section.

- Save conversations for outside of rehearsal times. It is vital that we use the time we have for music.

You are here because you love music and performing with an ensemble. Playing in an orchestra is an incredibly unique experience: you are a part of a team that requires trust, sharing, listening, and heart.

Sheet Music

- Receipt of the music from the music library implies a sacred trust. You are responsible for proper maintenance of your music and folders.
- Music should be marked only in pencil.
- All music must be returned. Before returning your music, remove extra markings, tabs, tape, or clips you may have used and erase any cuts.

A few more important notes:

Members will be required to attend the dress rehearsal to participate in the final concert. If a member is unable to attend due to serious illness, family emergency, etc., the conductor must be notified. If unable to attend the final concert(s) due to similar situations, please notify the conductor immediately. Alternatively, if you can find a replacement player to cover your part effectively please arrange for them to get your music, rehearsal notes and schedule. Clarify with the conductor who you have to replace you, and contact the director immediately.

It is a privilege to play in this orchestra. Membership and concert participation depend on rehearsal attendance. There are consequences to the entire group if rehearsals are missed, which is why this document is so crucial.

Our dress code is as follows:

- Concert Black - All performances of any kind, unless specifically stated otherwise.
(Pick one)
 - Tuxedo - (Black) w/Jacket/White shirt/Bowtie
 - (Black) Floor Length Dress/Skirt and Shirt
 - Black Pants/Black Shirt/Tie
 - Black/Very Dark Suit

- Limited jewelry
- No heavy perfumes/essential oils on stage

-Please sign and return the following to the conductor -

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I have read and understood the expectations for the 2024-2025 VSA Season. I agree to the policies outlined in the Membership Policies and Community Expectations document and will follow them to the best of my ability.

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____