



Rivers Youth Orchestras

2011-2012 Handbook

All RYO members are required to abide by the conditions of membership as outlined below. The information in this handbook is provided to enhance the orchestral experience for all players and their families. Failure to abide by these conditions may result in non-participation in one or more RYO concerts. Multiple infractions may lead to dismissal from RYO, which will be determined at the discretion of the Music Director.

I. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. RYO 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. RYO members are responsible for bringing their instrument (including mutes, extra strings, etc.) 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. RYO members are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior and participation throughout the entire rehearsal.

D. RYO members are expected to bring a pencil and eraser to rehearsal, or leave more than one in the folder.

E. RYO members are expected to study their orchestra instrument privately and participate in their school orchestra program, if one exists.

II. REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

A. Rehearsals for all ensembles are held Fridays from September through May in Bradley Hall at The Rivers School Conservatory, located at 333 Winter Street in Weston, MA.

B. **The regular rehearsal time is Friday from 4:00–5:30 p.m. All musicians should arrive by 3:50 p.m. for tuning and warm-up.** There will be extended rehearsals prior to each concert and warm-ups on the day of the concerts. Please consult the season calendar for all rehearsal dates and times. All rehearsals will begin promptly at the scheduled time.

C. There is a short break scheduled for each orchestra in the middle of the rehearsal.

All musicians are expected to remain in the general rehearsal area and return to the rehearsal room on time. **A snack rotation schedule will be posted online and e-mailed at the beginning of each concert cycle.** Each child's parent has been randomly assigned a rehearsal to provide a snack for their child's ensemble. Please check your student's snack roster for the quantity of food to provide. Please avoid brownies, cake or other foods that may stick to the floor. **Snacks must be clearly marked with the name of the ensemble they are intended and left in the lobby of Bradley Hall.**

D. No food or drink is allowed in any rehearsal room or the recital hall.

E. Musicians should place their instruments in their cases when not in use. Students should not touch each other's instruments without permission. Instruments are fragile and students are to avoid running or horseplay to reduce the risk of damage to the instruments.

F. **Please help us set the rooms at the beginning and end of each rehearsal by setting and stacking your chair at the beginning and end of each rehearsal. The ensemble's assistant manager will be on hand to assist with this. Students in Youth Symphony are asked to help re-set the recital room for that evening's student recital.**

III. ATTENDANCE POLICY

A. **Attendance at all rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and concerts is required.** An orchestra cannot properly prepare for a performance unless all of its members work together at rehearsals. RYO 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 or dress rehearsal is a very serious matter and can be considered grounds for immediate dismissal from RYO. If you foresee a conflict including a school music or academic activity that you cannot avoid, you must notify the Orchestra Manager as early as possible.

C. **Students are to be at RSC, ready to tune 10 minutes before the start of rehearsals.** Two late arrivals equal one absence for the purpose of determining participation at concerts. If a student must leave rehearsal before the normal dismissal time, please present the Orchestra Manager a written note from a parent or guardian. Leaving rehearsal early disrupts the orchestra's preparation, is strongly discouraged, and should be done only in the event of illness or family emergency.

D. **During each of the concert preparation periods, you will be allowed one excused absence.** More than one absence, excused or un-excused, within a concert set is considered a serious amount of missed rehearsal time. If a student accumulates multiple absences, the following will apply:

1. Missing two rehearsals for any concert "set" will result in a warning and parental contact.
2. Missing three rehearsals, the dress rehearsal or warm-up for any concert will require conductor evaluation to determine the student's ability to participate in the

concert.

3. A cumulative total of four absences at any point in the season will result in an evaluation of continued participation in the Rivers Youth Orchestras.

E. **All absences must be reported ahead of time to the Orchestra Manager.** Notice of an absence may be made via:

1. E-mail: l.hartunian@rivers.org (from a parent's e-mail address)
2. Written note, from a parent or guardian, one week prior to the anticipated absence.

F. Communication regarding rehearsals, upcoming concerts, schedules and any student issues will be made via email as well as being posted in the weekly parent e-newsletter. It is your responsibility to check these emails. **Please keep the Orchestra Manager informed of any change in e-mail address.** Any materials distributed during rehearsals will be posted on the website if you wish to print multiple copies.

IV. CONCERT ATTIRE

Preparatory Orchestra, Youth Sinfonia, and Philharmonia:

LADIES: White blouse with long sleeves over long, full black skirts, black hosiery and black shoes. Female cello and bass players may wear black slacks. No colored sashes, scarves or ties please.

GENTLEMEN: Long-sleeved white, collared dress shirt, with black bow tie; long, black slacks, black socks, and black dress shoes.

Youth Symphony:

LADIES: Concert Black

GENTLEMEN: Black Suit or Tuxedo, black bow-tie and cummerbund.

V. MUSIC

Music for the 2011-2012 season will be e-mailed to the primary parent email address and posted on The Rivers School Conservatory website (www.riversschoolconservatory.org). It is your responsibility to print this music. A music folder with hard-copies of the music will be provided for each music stand. This music folder is for rehearsals only and cannot be brought home for practice.

VI. DRIVING AND PARKING AT RIVERS

The safety of the children before, during, and after rehearsal is our primary concern. Please observe the driving and parking directions, as they directly affect the safety of the RYO members.

Please observe the posted directions of the main road through campus; it is a one-way road and vehicles should never enter campus by Bradley Hall.

Pick up for all RYO ensembles is approximately 5:35 pm. **Please DO NOT wait for your child in the roadway between Blackwell House and Bradley Hall. This will be strictly enforced this year.** This causes a back-up in traffic for those trying to exit the school using this road way. You may wait for your child in the parking lot next to

Blackwell House or the student parking lot behind Bradley Hall.

VII. CONTACT INFORMATION

Lilit Hartunian, Orchestra Manager (l.hartunian@rivers.org or 781.235.6840)

Please direct all inquiries concerning RYO to the Orchestra Manager.

