



# 2021 -2022 Member Handbook

## **Contact Information**

**Dr. Steven Ward, Conductor**  
[steven.ward@abilenephilharmonic.org](mailto:steven.ward@abilenephilharmonic.org)

**Susie Rockett, Education Manager**  
[srockett@abilenephilharmonic.org](mailto:srockett@abilenephilharmonic.org)

## **Purpose**

The Abilene Youth Orchestra (AYO) is a full symphony youth orchestra that provides a unique opportunity for talented young musicians in the Big Country to perform advanced repertoire that will challenge and inspire.

The primary purpose of the AYO is to provide its members with exemplary symphonic training and performance opportunities and to inspire a culture of musical excellence. In doing so, the organization promotes advanced musical education and offers quality music to the community. The AYO recognizes the excellent musical education and private instruction that students in the Big Country receive and seeks to provide the opportunity for talented student musicians to perform together in a full symphonic setting.

The AYO exists for the benefit of young musicians, responds to their needs, and keeps their interest in music education paramount. The organization does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status.

## **Attendance**

It is expected that members of the AYO attend ALL rehearsals and performances. Orchestral music is a group experience, yet each individual is very important. The absence of one person changes the sound and dynamic of the entire group. It is therefore understood that the commitment to the AYO rehearsal and performance itinerary should be highly prioritized.

Students should be tuned and in their assigned seat at least five minutes before rehearsal begins. Tardiness and absences will be considered in the determination of chair positions. Students should request an excused absence by filling out an Absence Excuse Form in the AYO Members section of [www.ayo.abilenephilharmonic.org](http://www.ayo.abilenephilharmonic.org) at least two weeks in advance. In case of unexpected illness or emergency, the student should contact Susie Rockett at 325-677-6710.

Please remember that AYO members are guests at Abilene Christian University and are expected to act accordingly. Please show respect for the private property of others and the University.

## **Expectations**

1. Come to rehearsal prepared. Listen to all musical selections and practice individual parts prior to each rehearsal.
2. Always be punctual. To be on time is LATE, to be early is ON TIME!
3. Have a pencil on your stand at all rehearsals.
4. Mark changes/reminders in the music at the time it is discussed and do not rely on memory.
5. Treat sheet music with care.
6. Listen quietly when instructions are given.
7. Do not tap feet or cross legs/ankles.

## **Parent/Guardian Participation**

Parent/guardian interest and active involvement of the child's support system enhances complete development of a student's musical ability. The AYO asks parents/guardians to:

1. Encourage students to practice at home and listen to the music they are preparing.
2. Drop off and pick up students on time. (10-15 minutes early is a good idea so they have time to get to their seats and get their instruments ready.)
3. Attend all concerts and support our AYO musicians.

## **Concert Dress**

**There are three options for AYO Concert Dress:**

1. Black dress shirt, black slacks, black socks, black dress shoes
2. Long black dress or long black skirt/pants with black blouse (elbow length or longer), black shoes
3. AYO t-shirt, jeans (no holes, rips, etc.), tennis shoes

## Fall Events

**Rehearsals:** Sundays beginning September 19th through November 14th - **2:30PM-5:00PM** at Williams Performing Arts Center on the ACU Campus - Fry Hall

**Dress Rehearsal:** Monday, November 15th, **5:00PM-6:00PM** at Wylie HS Performing Arts Center

**Performance:** Monday, November 15th, 7:00PM at Wylie HS Performing Arts Center  
(Dinner will be provided for the AYO musicians)

## Spring Events

**Rehearsals:** Sundays beginning January 23rd through April 10th - **2:30PM-5:00PM** at Williams Performing Arts Center on the ACU Campus - Fry Hall

**Dress Rehearsal:** Monday, April 11th, **5:00PM-6:00PM** at Wylie HS Performing Arts Center

**Performance: Monday, April 11th, 7:00PM Wylie HS Performing Arts Center**  
(Dinner will be provided for the AYO musicians prior to the performance.)

## End of Year Party - TBD

We will end the year with a fun event to celebrate a great year of music making!!!

---

### AYO 2021-2022 Season Schedule:

**Auditions: Winds, Brass, Percussion - Sunday, August 29th - 2:30PM-???**

**Auditions: Strings - Sunday, September 12 - 2:30PM-???** & **Monday, September 13th 5:00pm-???**

<b><u>Fall Rehearsals: Sundays - 2:30PM-5:00PM</u></b>	<b><u>Spring Rehearsals: Sundays - 2:30PM-5:00PM</u></b>
September 19	January 23
September 26	January 30
October 3	February 6
October 10	February 13
October 17	February 27
October 24	March 6
October 31	March 20
November 7	March 27
November 14	April 3
	April 10

**Performance: Monday, November 15 - Wylie HS**  
**Pre-concert Rehearsal - 5:00PM-6:00PM**  
(Dinner provided)  
**CONCERT - 7:00PM**

**Performance: Monday, April 11th - Cooper HS**  
**Pre-Concert Rehearsal - 5:00PM-6:00PM**  
(Dinner Provided)  
**CONCERT - 7:00PM**