



2023 -2024
Member
Handbook

Contact Information

Susan Rose, Director

Molly Amlung, Assistant Director

Susie Rockett, Director of Education & Outreach
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Mission Objectives

Mission: Strings is a string preparatory program for children in grades 3-7 who have a desire to learn to play an orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass).

The primary purpose of *Mission: Strings* is to offer a comprehensive music education with the emphasis on orchestral string instruments to as many children grades 3-7 in the Big Country who otherwise do not get the opportunity outside of private lessons to play a string instrument. Members of *Mission: Strings* will have the opportunity to continue their musical training through the excellent musical education and private instruction available in our Big Country Schools and pursue their symphonic training and performance opportunities through placement in the Abilene Youth Orchestra.

Mission: Strings strives to offer children of the Big Country a chance at gaining musical knowledge and exploring artistic expression through carefully conceived curriculum selected and instructed by gifted and experienced music educators. The organization does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status.

Attendance

Mission: Strings is a year long commitment and it is expected that members attend ALL lessons and showcases/performances. Consistency is paramount when learning a new skill and each week new and vital material will be introduced.

Students should be in their assigned seat at least five minutes before each lesson begins. If you know you will be absent, please fill out the ABSENCE FORM found in the members only portion of our website. In case of unexpected illness or emergency, the student should contact Susie Rockett at 325-677-6710/817-372-1830.

Please remember that *Mission: Strings* 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.

Tuition

Tuition for *Mission: Strings* is \$150 for the entire year. Tuition can be paid by semester (\$75 fall/spring) or in full either by check or with a credit card on our website.
<https://abileneyouthorchestra.org/ayo-members/>

Equipment Needs/Instrument Rentals

- Pencil
- Rosin: Violin, Viola, and cellos need regular rosin light or dark, Basses: Pop's rosin
- Soft Cloth — To clean rosin and fingerprints from instrument after each use
(can be part of an old clean t-shirt or washcloth)
- Shoulder Rest: Violins and Violas — “Kun” Brand Collapsible Shoulder rest
- Rock Stop: Cellos and Basses — “Slip-Stop” Brand rock stop
- Strings - If a student breaks a string, he or she needs to replace the string with one of the same brand and quality when needed. (Ask if you are unsure.)
- A folding music stand for practice at home. (optional)
- A metronome/tuner for practice at home. (downloadable for free on “smart” phones)

If you need help with ANY of these items in terms of finding them or paying for them, please let Susie Rockett know so she can locate or provide supplies for your student.

Purchase or Rental of Instruments and Equipment

N-Tune Music & Sound – 221 Grape St., Abilene, TX (677-2471)

George Robinson Violins, Inc. - 3602 Slide Road, No. B-11, Lubbock, TX 806-792-9752
<https://www.robinsonviolins.com>

Robertson & Sons Violin Shop, Incorporated - 3201 Carlisle Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM
87110 505-889-2999 or 1-800-A-VIOLIN

When it comes to string instruments, the shiny/pretty ones are not always the best sounding instruments. If you have a question about an instrument, please contact the *Mission: Strings* Director. There are advantages to knowing how well they handle repairs and trade-in value when you are ready for the next size or step up level. To ensure you are getting a quality instrument, the director has final say on whether an instrument is suitable for class and performance use. Please do not rent or purchase an instrument that is any other color than the original wood grain.

PLEASE DO NOT RENT or PURCHASE AN INSTRUMENT from any source not listed above without being advised by our Director.

Expectations

1. Make sure you arrive with your instrument, lesson book, and completed assignments to each lesson.
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. Listen quietly when instructions are given.
5. Do not tap feet or cross legs/ankles.
6. Make sure fingernails are clipped. (No artificial nails!)

Parent/Guardian Participation

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

1. Encourage students to complete practice missions at home each week and listen to any music they are assigned.
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 *Mission: Strings* musicians.

Showcase/Concert Dress - *Mission: Strings* shirt, black pants or jeans, black socks, black shoes

Fall Events

Rehearsals: Sundays beginning August 27th through November 12th - **2:30PM-3:30PM** at Williams Performing Arts Center on the ACU Campus - Room 215

Dress Rehearsal: Monday, November 13th 6:15pm at Boone Family Theater ACU

Performance: Monday, November 13th, 7:00PM at Boone Family Theater ACU

Spring Events

Rehearsals: Sundays beginning January 21st through April 7th - **2:30PM-3:30PM** at Williams Performing Arts Center on the ACU Campus - Room 215

Dress Rehearsal: Monday, April 8th, **6:15PM-6:45PM** Location TBD

Performance: Monday, April 8th, 7:00PM Location TBD

End of Year Party - TBD

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

Mission: Strings 2023-2024 Season Schedule:

<u>Fall Rehearsals: Sundays - 2:30PM-3:30PM</u>	<u>Spring Rehearsals: Sundays - 2:30PM-3:30PM</u>
August 27	January 21
September 10	January 28
September 17	February 4
September 24	February 11
October 1	February 18 - NO CLASS
October 8 - NO CLASS	February 25
October 15	March 4
October 22	March 11 - NO CLASS
October 29 - Costume Day!	March 18
November 5	March 25
November 12	April 1
	April 7

Performance:

Monday, November 13 - Boone Family Theater ACU

Pre-concert Rehearsal - 6:15PM-6:45PM

CONCERT - 7:00 PM

Performance:

Monday, April 8th - Location TBD

Pre-Concert Rehearsal - 6:15PM-6:45PM

CONCERT - 7:00 PM