

RICHMOND SYMPHONY

YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

School Participation Policy

Every Youth Orchestra Program (YOP) musician must participate in band or orchestra class if instruction is offered on their instrument during the school day.

Why do students need to participate in school programs?

- YOP is meant to serve as a supplement, not a replacement, for music in schools.
- Many of our Richmond Symphony musicians were first introduced to their instrument at school. Richmond Symphony and YOP would not be possible without school music instruction.
- Fine arts programs are being cut or reduced across the country. When top students drop music class, school programs suffer.
- School music programs provide important opportunities for leadership for all YOP musicians.
- There is no substitute for the daily or almost daily rehearsal that comes with school music programs.

What if I am unable to participate in my school's music program?

- When students have scheduling conflicts at their school, rendering them unable to participate in their school band/orchestra, we defer to the school band/orchestra teacher to make the final decision as to whether or not the student is able to participate in the Youth Orchestra Program.
- If you are unable to participate in your school program for any reason, please discuss the conflict with your school band/orchestra teacher, who may grant exceptions for scheduling conflicts at their discretion. Then contact the YOP Manager/Assistant Director of Education, Jennifer Tobin, with any remaining questions.

If you feel your school program does not meet your expectations, take action! Go to your teacher and school administrators and advocate for improved scheduling and support for arts education at your school.

RICHMOND SYMPHONY

YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

2023-24 SCHOOL PARTICIPATION FORM

Completion of the registration process requires the signature of each musician's school orchestra or band instructor. Please return this form no later than **Tuesday, September 25, 2023**.

Student Name: _____ Instrument: _____

YOP Ensemble (circle one): RSYO YCO CS SS

School Name _____

Band/Orchestra Teacher Name (please print): _____

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra | Director's Signature: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concert/Symphonic Band | Director's Signature: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marching Band | Director's Signature: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jazz Ensemble | Director's Signature: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home schooled | Parent's Signature: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | |

If you are unable to participate in your school band/orchestra for any reason:

- I understand that the student listed above is unable to participate in their school band/orchestra program. **I support their participation in the Youth Orchestra Program.**
- The student listed above is unable to participate in their school band/orchestra program. **I do NOT give my consent for their participation in the Youth Orchestra Program.**

Director's Signature: _____

School band/orchestra directors may contact Jennifer Tobin directly with any questions:
jtobin@richmondsymphony.com.