

**Rappahannock Youth Orchestras, Inc.  
D/b/a, Rappahannock Youth Symphony (RYS)**

P.O. Box 41252,  
Fredericksburg, VA 22404

Phone: 540.898.7102

[info@rysymphony.org](mailto:info@rysymphony.org)

[www.rysymphony.org](http://www.rysymphony.org)

**Professional Staff**

Ms. Megan Bevill, Executive Director  
Mrs. Veronica Johnson, Conductor, Symphony Orchestra  
Mr. Brandon Bangle, Conductor, Repertory Orchestra  
Mrs. Ioana Weathers, Conductor, Primo Orchestra

**RYS Executive Board**

Mr. Thomas Holland, President  
Mrs. Rosemary Hendley, Vice President  
Mrs. Julie McAdam, Treasurer  
Mrs. Vicky Hepperle, Secretary

**Board Members/Committees**

Mr. Steve Marple, Property Manager  
Tere Halliburton, Grant Writing  
Fundraising  
Historian  
Set-up/Breakdown

**Special Committees**

Michelle Hoffman, Chair, Painted Violin Project  
Vicki Ashby, Chair, Symphony and Tea  
Family Night Dinner

# Rappahannock Youth Symphony

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# Rappahannock Youth Symphony

## **Mission Statement**

The primary purpose of the Rappahannock Youth Symphony is to provide young dedicated musicians the opportunity to develop advanced ensemble and performance skills that will enable them to grow to their fullest potential as musicians and performers. The RYS is dedicated to nurturing young talent and enriching the community through the performance of music.

## **History**

The Rappahannock Youth Orchestra was founded in 1996 by Mrs. Deborah Tripp as a 501(c) 3 organization, with the idea in mind to offer an additional challenge to the more advanced player. The orchestras were founded as a supplement to the school programs and served to raise the standard of playing in public, private, and home schools. Since 1996 the RYO/RYS has given opportunities to young people from the ages of 10-18 (in the Greater Fredericksburg Area) to excel in the performance of community concerts. The young people become members who enjoy both the educational and social benefits that RYS extends to them. These members especially enjoy meeting other young people with similar interests and talents.

## **Professional Staff**

### **Megan Bevill, Executive Director**

Megan Bevill is a native of Columbia, MD and has recently completed her studies in violin performance on scholarship at the University of Mary Washington, where she graduated magna cum laude. There she studied under Edwin Johonnott, former violinist of the National Symphony Orchestra, and Johanna Beaver, principal violist of the Charlottesville and University Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Bevill was also an active member of Phi Beta Kappa and Mu Phi Epsilon.

She is currently serving her fifth year as Concertmaster of the University of Mary Washington Community Symphony Orchestra and is also the founder and first violinist of L'Esprit String Quartet. The Quartet has been together for six years and frequently performs in venues both on

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campus and in the local Fredericksburg region. In addition, Megan has performed with the Stafford Regional Choral Society, the Columbia Orchestra, the Oratorio Society of Charlottesville-Albemarle, and University of Virginia Singers.

Ms. Bevill brings her 17 years experience in concert/chamber music and teaching to the area, where she is available for private instruction in both violin and viola with students at the adult and youth levels. She specializes in classical training.

## **Veronica Johnson, Conductor, Symphony Orchestra**

After graduating from W. G. Enloe High School (Raleigh, North Carolina) in 1985, Mrs. Johnson studied violin at the University of Miami (Coral Gables) with Dr. Marla Meutschler (Paul Rolland protégé) and Dr. Earl Sanders at North Carolina Central University (NCCU). After graduating summa cum laude from NCCU, she began teaching orchestra in Wake County Schools on the elementary, middle and high schools in Raleigh, North Carolina. Mrs. Johnson moved to Richmond in 1994 and began teaching in Henrico County, where she currently works at Byrd Middle School and Godwin High School.

In Henrico County, she coordinated the Strings Discovery Program designed to introduce stringed instruments to rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Mrs. Johnson's orchestras are known for outstanding performances throughout the county. Recently, her high school orchestras performed at the Virginia Music Educators' State Convention in Norfolk, VA. The orchestras have also received superior ratings in national competitions in Chicago, New York, Toronto, and Boston. Locally, Mrs. Johnson's middle and high school orchestras consistently receive superior and excellent ratings in District Orchestra Festivals. Mrs. Johnson's students have received numerous individual awards and recognition for their performances.

Mrs. Johnson has also participated in several conducting workshops with such names as Dr. William Jones of Iowa State University, Dr. Anthony Maiello of George Mason University, and Dr. Marvin Rabin. She has served as guest conductor and clinician for the Virginia's Central Regional Orchestra Event, North Central Regional Orchestra Event,

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Southeastern Regional Orchestra Event, JMU's Spring String Thing, Chesterfield County Schools All-County Orchestra, Richmond City Schools All-City Orchestra for three years, Newport News City Schools All-City Orchestra, Fauquier County Schools, Norfolk City Schools, and Spotsylvania County Schools All County Orchestra. She serves as the orchestra director for the Sinfonia Orchestra at Shenandoah Performing Arts Camp at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA. Mrs. Johnson has served as guest clinician and conductor for the Pitt County All County Fifth Grade Orchestra in North Carolina for three years. Mrs. Johnson also served three years as conductor for Richmond Symphony's Youth Concert Orchestra, an intermediate full orchestra. Mrs. Johnson has judged several district orchestra festivals in North Carolina and throughout Virginia.

Other affiliations include membership and past president of the Virginia Chapter of the American String Teachers' Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Music Educators' National Conference, and active membership at Saint Paul's Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia.

Mrs. Johnson is lovingly supported by the love of her life Tony Johnson, and her two gems, Camille and Phillip.

## **Brandon Bangle, Conductor, Repertory Orchestra**

Brandon Bangle attended Christopher Newport University, where he earned both his Bachelor's of Music in Instrumental Music Education and Master of Arts in Teaching. He performed in the University's Symphony Orchestra, Choir, and String Quartet. Mr. Bangle arranged music for the String Quartet and the Saxophone Quartet, which performed these works at a recital. He is also a member of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity.

Mr. Bangle is currently the Orchestra Director at Ni River Middle School in Spotsylvania County. His orchestras have received high marks at District Festival and won first place in the May 2009 Music Festival Showcase. He also teaches private violin and viola lessons in the greater Fredericksburg area. Mr. Bangle has performed with the York River Symphony Orchestra and the Rappahannock Pops. This is his second year with the Rappahannock Youth Symphony.

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## **Ioana Weathers, Conductor, Primo Orchestra**

Ioana Paula Boca Weathers is a native of Romania and graduated from the Conservatory in Bucharest with a major in Violin Pedagogy and a minor in Conducting. While in Europe she has been a guest conductor at music festivals in Germany, Holland, France and Italy and was invited to participate in the National Young Conductors Festival in Craiova, Romania where she won first place two years in a row.

Mrs. Weathers moved to Los Angeles, California in 1997 where she performed in orchestras for theater productions such as “Fiddler On the Roof” and “Oklahoma!”. In 1999 Mrs. Weathers became a member of the “International Who’s Who in Professional Management.”

Since moving to Virginia nearly ten years ago, Mrs. Weathers has taught strings at Godwin Middle School in Prince William County where her orchestras have received “superior” ratings at County Festivals and at the Hershey Park Music Festival. She helped establish the Prince William County Youth Orchestra and had previously conducted with RYS. Mrs. Weathers has served as a guest conductor for Stafford’s All County, a judge for the All County Festival in Stafford County and an invited adviser reviewing the strings curriculum for Prince William County.

Last year Mrs. Weathers completed her Masters in Conducting from the University of Music in Bucharest. She presently teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade strings in Prince William County and performs with quartets in the area. She is a member of the Music Educators’ National Conference and loves to keep up with all new strings teaching techniques. In the July edition of “Making Music” magazine, Mrs. Weathers’ strings techniques were highlighted by Eve Carr.

Her husband Anthony Weathers and her two kids Emilia and Ronnie are the greatest gifts in life for Mrs. Weathers.

## **Statement of Non-Discrimination**

Rappahannock Youth Symphony accepts musicians of any race, religion, color, sex, national origin, or handicap, based solely on their musical ability and age without regard for their ability to pay membership fees, which may be waived.

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Membership on the RYS Board of Directors and employment as RYS Staff is open to qualified individuals without discrimination as to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, or handicaps.

## **Non-Profit Designation**

Rappahannock Youth Orchestras, Inc., dba, Rappahannock Youth Symphony or RYS, is a 501(c)3 non-profit tax exempt organization. All donations are tax deductible.

## **Membership Policies**

### **Participation**

Participation in the RYS is based upon passing an audition as is offered in Fall and Spring or at other times deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors and Executive Director. It is suggested and encouraged that students who do pass the audition process and elect to participate in RYS, participate in their school instrumental program.

### **Registration**

All members are required to submit a new registration form each season. During the spring, previous members will receive registration forms for the upcoming season. They should be completed and returned by the date requested. This will offer members and their parents a way to avoid the lines during last minute registrations. All new members are required to submit a registration form and signed performance agreement at the mandatory parent meeting held in September. Please make sure that all information is as complete as possible, with emergency contact phone numbers that can be used for reaching you in the event of a cancellation or change in the schedule. The form includes medical release statement. Please advise us of any changes of email address, home address, or phone number(s).

### **Communication**

**Weekly newsletters**- will be put into your student's folder located in the entrance of rehearsal space. It includes upcoming events, updated

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calendar items, reminders, news worthy articles, notes from conductors, and general information. Be sure to check this folder weekly for this newsletter and any other pertinent information.

**Email-** This is our primary source of corresponding with you. Please be sure to communicate with us any changes to your email address.

**Website-** Log on to [www.rysymphony.org](http://www.rysymphony.org) for any other information and weather related updates.

## **Auditions and Auditions Fee**

Auditions for new members and for members aspiring to play in a higher-level orchestra will be held in the fall. Auditions are open to any young musician who plays an orchestral instrument. The audition fee for new members is \$10. This audition fee will be applied to the membership fee if the student is offered a chair in the RYS. The audition fee is non-refundable.

## **Audition Requirements are as follows:**

### **Primo Orchestra** (Beginner & Intermediate Strings Only)

*The Primo Orchestra is a beginning/intermediate level string orchestra open to all students through a simple audition.*

Violin, Viola, Cello & Bass

- G Major, D Major, C Major Scales (1 octave)
- Prepared Piece

### **Repertory Orchestra** (Advanced Intermediate Strings Only)

*The Repertory Orchestra is an intermediate level string ensemble that is designed to improve skills through a chamber music experience. This group offers students a unique experience to develop leadership skills necessary to move to advanced levels.*

Violin, Viola, Cello & Bass

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- Bb, F, C, D, G Major Scales  
(2 octaves, some in third position)
- Prepared Piece & Sight Reading

## **Symphonic Orchestra** (Advanced Full Orchestra)

*The Symphony Orchestra is an advanced full orchestra for the area's best musicians. This ensemble is the only youth orchestra in Virginia conducted by a university level director.*

### Advanced Level

Requires Scales, 2 prepared pieces of contrasting styles (fast, slow) and sight reading

- Violin -A Major, G Melodic Minor
- Viola – D Major, C Melodic Minor
- Cello – D Major, C Melodic Minor
- Bass – F Major, G Melodic Minor (2 Octaves)
- All scales are to be 3 octaves.
- Bowing for all is to be 2 slurred, 2 separate, ascending.
- Four slurred, descending
- Woodwinds and Brass – All major scales and chromatic scale ~ tongued ascending, slurred descending, mm= 120 per eighth note
- Percussion: Bring snare, mallets/sticks, know all rudiments.
- Symphony Orchestra seating auditions will be September 21

All requirements are subject to change.

## **Seating Auditions**

Seating auditions are held in the fall at the discretion of the conductor for all levels. Reseating after the first concert will be at the discretion of each conductor.

## **Section Leaders**

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Sections leaders hold a position of responsibility representing both the RYS and their peers. Proficiency, professionalism and dedication are essential to these positions.

## **Membership Fees**

The **non-refundable** fee(s) for participating in the RYS are:

\$280 per member

\$150 for ½ season members

\$150 per sibling of first member

**Membership must be paid in full on or before the first rehearsal, unless arrangements are made otherwise.**

All memberships must be current in order for the member to participate in upcoming events.

Please make checks payable to the Rappahannock Youth Symphony. Tuition may also be paid via credit card through PayPal located on our website. There is a 3% surcharge.

It is our policy that no child shall be discouraged from participating in RYS due to financial reasons. Full or partial tuition assistance is available for families in need. A letter to the Board should be presented describing financial need. Families receiving tuition assistance will be expected to contribute volunteer hours. The tuition assistance request must be completed by the first rehearsal.

The membership fee covers a wide range of expenses associated with the daily running operations of RYS. However, the membership fees only cover approximately one half of the expenses found in the RYS budget. The other one-half of the budget needs to be met by ticket sales, fund-raising, and sponsors.

## **Membership Attire Requirements**

**The RYS is a training organization for possible future careers as professionals, therefore proper dress is expected. Each level of orchestra requires certain attire.**

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Each concert requires specific attire which is noted on the calendar as **Formal**.

## ~ *Concert Attire* ~

### **Primo Orchestra**

- Boys: White long sleeved collared dress shirt  
Black neck tie (not a bow tie)  
Black dress pants, black dress shoes, **black socks**
- Girls: Long black dress pants or black palazzo pants  
White, short sleeved no-collar blouse/shell  
(No cream or beige color) (Can be ordered from Formal Fashions)  
**Black hosiery/socks**  
Black closed toe shoes (low or flat heel)

### **Repertory Orchestra**

- Boys: White long sleeved tuxedo shirt  
Black bow tie  
Black dress pants, black dress shoes, **black socks**
- Girls: White top, lined  
(Ordered from Formal Fashions)  
Black palazzo pants or long black skirt  
(can be ordered from Formal Fashions)  
**Black hosiery (required)**  
Black closed toe shoes (low or flat heel)

### **Symphonic Orchestra**

- Boys: Black tuxedo (may be ordered from Formal Fashions or purchased locally)  
White tuxedo shirt  
Black Bow Tie  
Black dress shoes and **black socks**
- Girls: Long black gown/dress (Formal Fashions)

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## **Black hosiery (required)**

Black closed toe shoes (low or flat heel)

Quiet jewelry

Hair pulled away from face

***Please note: Hair, headwear, and jewelry shall not be a distraction, and absolutely no sandals, flip-flops, tennis shoes, black jeans or leather clothing. Failure to comply could result in not being able to play at the concert.***

Parents are welcome to bring their “gently used” attire to sell or donate to other parents at the first rehearsal.

## **Scholarships and Awards**

Two \$500 RYS Scholarships are offered annually to students who meet the criteria set forth below. The Scholarship / Awards Committee will meet following the deadline for submission and winners will be announced at the final concert in April 2009.

To apply for an RYS Scholarship the applicant must be a RYS member in good standing and a graduating Senior. The member should have plans to attend a college in the fall of the following year, and he/she must write a 750- 1000 word essay to be submitted to Scholarship Review Committee and postmarked no later than April 1. Attendance and tardy record as well as attitude and contribution to RYS will be considered. The topic for the essay this season will be announced in the Winter RYS newsletter.

RYS also gives a year RYS tuition to a member in good standing. The member must write a 100-200 word essay, to be submitted to the Scholarship Review Committee and postmarked no later than April 1. The topic of the essay this season will be announced in the Winter RYS newsletter.

Recipients are chosen based on musicianship, dedication to the RYS, and the required essay. The RYS scholarship committee will review the criteria and make recommendations to the RYS Board for selection. The winners will be announced at the final concert in the Spring.

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## **Concerts, Tickets and Promotion**

RYS holds three major events during the season.

Winter Concert	December 6, 2009
Symphony and Tea	March 6, 2010
Spring Concert	May 2, 2010

Please look for updated performance locations and times throughout the year, as these are subject to change.

All attendees must purchase a ticket for the concerts; there is no exception for family members. The cost per ticket for the Winter and Spring Concerts is \$10 per person and \$5 for children 6-18 years of age. The cost per ticket for the Symphony and Tea is \$20 per person and \$10 for children 6-18 years of age and seniors (55 years & older). Children under six years of age may attend RYS events for free.

RYS performers do not need a ticket to attend events. We ask that each current RYS performer sell two (2) tickets per event. Please understand that these events help to support the RYS as it continues to grow each year.

In addition to ticket sales we ask that each member's family help publicize upcoming events. Event fliers will be distributed to members prior to each event. Please post these fliers at your place of work, the public library, grocery store and other high traffic areas. Students may also help by passing these fliers on to their orchestra/band teacher at school.

### **Music Teacher Passes**

The RYS offers a Music Teacher Pass to all area music teachers. This pass entitles any area music teacher and one guest, to attend any RYS event for FREE. Members please let your private instructors and school orchestra directors know that they are entitled to this pass and encourage your music teachers to take advantage of this offer to see and experience the talent of the RYS.

### **Fundraising**

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## Sponsorship Opportunities

**All donations are tax deductible.  
Gift levels are as follows:**

**Event Sponsor** **\$3,000**  
3 Season Events listed as “Presented By...” on all  
Materials/Promotions  
Full Page Cover Acknowledgment in All Season Programs  
4 Reserved Seats to All Events for the Season  
Sponsorship Plaque  
Prominent Logo on RYS Website with link to Sponsor’s Website

**Corporate Platinum Sponsor** **\$1,000**  
Full Page Acknowledgment in All Season Programs  
Sponsorship Plaque  
Prominent Logo on RYS Website with link to Sponsor’s Website

**Corporate Gold Sponsor** **\$500**  
Half Page Program Acknowledgment in All Season Programs  
Sponsorship Plaque  
Logo on RYS Website with link to Sponsor’s Website

**Corporate Silver Sponsor** **\$250**  
Quarter Page Program Acknowledgment in All Season Programs  
Sponsorship Plaque  
Logo on RYS Website with link to Sponsor’s Website

**Corporate Bronze Sponsor** **\$150**  
Acknowledgment in All Season Programs  
Logo on RYS Website with link to Sponsor’s Website

**Friends and Family Platinum Level** **\$1,000**  
8 Reserved Seats to All Events for the Season  
Acknowledgment in All Season Programs

**Friends and Family Gold Level** **\$500**  
6 Reserved Seats to All Events for the Season

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Acknowledgment in All Season Programs

**Friends and Family Silver Level                      \$250**

4 Reserved Seats to All Events for the Season  
Acknowledgment in All Season Programs

**Friends and Family Bronze Level                      \$150**

2 Reserved Seats to All Events for the Season  
Acknowledgment in All Season Programs

**Friends of the RYS    \$50**

Acknowledgment in All Season Programs

Any questions regarding a donation, sponsorship and advertising may be directed to Megan Bevill, Executive Director at [megan.bevill@gmail.com](mailto:megan.bevill@gmail.com)

*\*The required form for these opportunities will be in your communication folder and extras will be available upon request.*

## **Other Fundraising Opportunities/Programs**

If you are a federal employee or member of the military you may donate to RYS via the Combined Federal Campaign, Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign. This will enable federal and state employees the option to contribute a tax-deductible donation to the RYS via automatic payroll deduction. At the bottom of the form write in the name "Rappahannock Youth Orchestras, Inc." and the donation will be recorded.

## **Special Events**

Three Rappahannock Youth Symphony exclusive community fundraisers will be offered this year to meet the RYS budget expenses and further the mission of the RYS.

**The Violin Project** takes place during the RYS Winter Concert. Artists paint donated violins which are auctioned as a fundraiser for RYS programs.

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**The Symphony and Tea-** Tea is served along with an amazing array of tea cookies and sandwiches, in an elegant setting, in the Spring of each year while you enjoy the music of our talented orchestra groups.

**The Family Dinner-** The RYS is planning a Family Dinner in October. Please see your newsletters for additional information about each of these events.

## **Rehearsal and Concert Policies**

### **Locations**

All rehearsals are held at:

Battlefield Middle School  
11120 Leavells Road  
Fredericksburg, VA, 22407

Please use the main entrance of the building.

REMEMBER THAT WE ARE GUESTS AT ALL REHEARSAL AND CONCERT VENUES!! We are grateful for the relationship we have with all of our rehearsal, audition, and concert venues. Every precaution will be taken to ensure that the utmost respect is given to each facility and their staff. Parents and siblings must remain in a designated auditorium during performances, and the cafeteria during rehearsals. Exploring other areas of these facilities will not be tolerated.

Food, beverages, and gum ARE NOT ALLOWED during rehearsals and/or concerts. Unless told otherwise, members are allowed to consume food and beverages only during designated break times in the cafeteria. All trash is to be thrown in the trash receptacles. Food, beverages, and gum brought to rehearsals or performances are not allowed in the performance/rehearsal area of any venue, at any time. Even though custodial assistance is provided, the final responsibility for keeping the building clean belongs to those who use it. Orchestra families are asked to foster a sense of good stewardship.

### **Arrival and Attendance Policy**

RYS Handbook 2009-10 Edition

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Being on time to rehearsals is essential. **All students must arrive 15 minutes before rehearsal time** to have adequate time to set up stands, chairs, music, instruments and begin tuning.

Rehearsal Times	Required Arrival
Symphony Orchestra: 6:30pm-8:30pm	6:15pm
Repertory Orchestra: 6:30pm-8:30pm	6:15pm
Primo Orchestra: 7:00pm-8:30pm	6:45pm

Upon arrival each member will need to check-in. If a member arrives after required arrival time, the member will be marked tardy. After checking in, all members must go *directly* to their assigned room and remain there while they prepare for rehearsal. Members should set up their stand and chair and practice in their seat until tuning begins. When this is done in an orderly, timely fashion, students will be relaxed and prepared for an excellent rehearsal experience.

The opportunity to participate in the Rappahannock Youth Symphony requires a dedicated commitment on the part of musicians and their families. Every effort should be made to reconcile other sports and school activities with RYS rehearsals and concerts. All orchestra members and their families are expected to abide by the following conditions of membership:

**Rehearsal Dismissal Policy:** Rehearsal will end promptly at 8:30 p.m. It is required that all students be picked up NO LATER THAN 8:45 p.m. **NO** member will be allowed to leave the rehearsal unless a parent or guardian is escorting them. In the case where a student drives themselves, they will be permitted to leave unescorted when rehearsal has ended.

**Attendance:** As this is a music education program with a strong emphasis on performance the standards are high. Attendance, prompt arrival time, and practice will be expected. Musicians are expected to be present at and ON TIME for all rehearsals and concerts and to remain for the **entire duration**. Attendance is always taken. Regular attendance is essential for worthwhile rehearsals and quality performances.

**Absences:** Absences are strongly discouraged. Members may not have more than TWO absences per concert cycle. Any reason for an absence

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must be communicated to the Executive Director via e-mail as soon as possible.

## **Acceptable Absences:**

- **Illness or family emergency**
- Parents/guardians please contact Executive Director by email, if illness or emergency is known before rehearsal begins.

## **• Religious holiday, school music performance, or college preparatory test**

Parents/guardians email notification of the event or test must be received by Executive Director no less than two (2) weeks in advance of rehearsal to be missed.

## **• Planned important family event**

Parents/guardians written notification must be received by Executive Director least two (2) weeks in advance of rehearsal to be missed.

**All other absences will be considered unexcused.**

**Consequences of absences:** After 2 absences per concert cycle, the Executive Director and the conductor may choose to re-evaluate the performer's participation in Rappahannock Youth Symphony. There will be no refunds of tuition.

## **Rehearsal and Concert Readiness**

**Members should arrive 1 hour prior to concerts, unless notified otherwise.**

All Members must attend each rehearsal and concert with the following:

1. Proper Attire (see calendar for appropriate attire)
2. Well-adjusted instrument
3. Folding Music Stand w/each section labeled (if required)

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4. Pencil
5. Music Folder

All items brought for rehearsal **must be labeled**. Any item left at a rehearsal will become the property of RYS if not claimed by the end of the season.

## **Rules of Conduct**

All RYS members are expected to demonstrate appropriate conduct and behavior that exhibits respect toward fellow participants, property, staff members and volunteers before, during and after all rehearsals and concerts. If inappropriate behavior and/or conduct are exhibited, the Board President or Executive Director will contact the student's parents or guardian to discuss the matter and recommend a course of action. If necessary and warranted, administrative staff reserves the right to dismiss any student from the RYS. Dismissal due to disciplinary action from conduct reflecting unfavorably on the orchestra, violation of the Attendance Policy, habitual lateness, or lack of adequate musical preparation and progress will result in forfeiture of tuition.

## **Facility Rules**

While being a visitor at a School owned property all rules and regulations in effect for the school system would apply during the use of the building.

## **Food & Drink**

No food, drink, candy or gum is allowed during rehearsals and or concerts. Bottled water is acceptable.

## **Chairs, Music Stands and Equipment**

Members may be asked to set-up and return chairs and music stands for any rehearsal or concert.

## **Talking**

Refrain from unnecessary talking so as not to interrupt the rehearsal time.

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## **Dress Code**

The dress code for rehearsals will follow that found in your school's Code of Conduct.

## **Inclement Weather**

Rehearsals or concerts may be postponed or canceled due to inclement weather. Cancellations will be posted on the website homepage and will be announced on the B101.5 radio station. Please note that if **Spotsylvania Schools** are cancelled there will be no rehearsal. Every family should make a personal decision based on their local area's road conditions. These absences will be excused and not be counted against the allotted absences.

## **Practice Time**

It is strongly suggested that there be 40-45 minutes (Primo Orchestra) and 60 minutes (Repertory Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra) per week of additional practice time, outside of the weekly rehearsal, dedicated to RYS concert selections. This practice should be in addition to other practice time.

## **Professional Concerts**

Observation of professional orchestras is helpful to the developing musician. We are very fortunate to have three excellent professional music organizations in our community. Members of RYS are encouraged to attend events held by the Rappahannock Pops, the University of Mary Washington Community Symphony Orchestra, The Spotswood Community Orchestra, and the Fredericksburg Festival of the Arts Series. For more information about these organizations please visit or call:

<a href="http://www.rappahannockpops.org">www.rappahannockpops.org</a>	540-785-5529
<a href="http://www.fredfest.org">www.fredfest.org</a>	540-374-5040
<a href="http://www.umw.edu/orchestra">www.umw.edu/orchestra</a>	540-654-1012
<a href="http://spotswoodcommunityorch.org/">http://spotswoodcommunityorch.org/</a>	540-898-0757

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## **Parent Volunteers/Chaperones**

RYS depends on the donation of time and other non-monetary support from parents. Each family is required to help in a variety of RYS activities, committees, events, promotions, and fund raising.

## **Reimbursements**

Parents who spend money on behalf of RYS may request reimbursement, either in advance of or after purchase. Eligibility for reimbursement must be confirmed by the Treasurer **prior to purchase**. The repayment request must be made to the Treasurer and accompanied by an RYS Reimbursement Form, which will *be made available upon request*. Receipts for these expenses must be provided to the Treasurer with the form. Examples of such expenses include copies, flowers, and supplies for refreshments, etc.

## **Photography**

Please be aware that from time to time photographs will be taken of RYS members, which may, at RYS's discretion, be used for publicity in print media and on the internet. Names of students will only be used after obtaining permission.

Please, no flash photography during performances.

## **Suggestions**

All suggestions are welcome and encouraged.