



Stockport Youth Orchestra
The Dialstone Centre, Lisburne Lane, Stockport SK2 7LL
Telephone: 0161 474 2207 Fax: 0161 474 2218
Web: <http://www.syo.org.uk>

SYO Rehearsal Policy

Please read this carefully.

The following points outline what is expected of you as a member of the Stockport Youth Orchestras. Good rehearsal technique is hard to learn and takes time to develop, but is essential for any orchestra to work to its best capacity.

Our expectations of you:

1. Please arrive 15 minutes before your rehearsal is due to begin. You are responsible for having your music, a stand and a chair. You must be seated and ready to tune (i.e. warmed up) 5 minutes before the rehearsal begins.
2. Learn your own part **at home**. Rehearsals are not time for personal practice. Music should be taken home for practice as often as possible, but if a player is unable to attend the next rehearsal, then the music must be sent back for that rehearsal. If this is not done then the person sharing a desk will have nothing to play! Much of the music we play is hired for that concert. Please treat all music with great respect and return it in good order. Music lost or damaged must be replaced at the expense of the person responsible for the loss or damage. Find recordings of the works you are learning (itunes or spotify are very good for this), and get to know the whole piece – this will help you to make sense of your own part.
3. Listen to the rehearsal / your colleagues at all times – even when you are not playing. Please feel free to ask questions, but do not chat during rehearsals. All mobile phones and other electronic devices must be switched off. Chatting, texting and eating should be kept for the break when you will also be able to visit the Tuck Shop. We expect you to show respect for the Musical Directors, tutors and your fellow players. This includes your verbal behaviour and communication via SMS or on-line.
4. Be perceptive – Try to work out what needs improving musically, and how it might be fixed. Listen and learn which other instruments are playing the same parts as you.
5. Be one step ahead. Have quick reactions, and **be ready to play at all times**.
6. Mark your part. The conductor's score, and the section principals' parts will have vital markings (bowings, articulation etc.) that you must copy into your own part in 2B pencil. This information is essential.



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registration number 1006205



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7. You will be expected to attend regularly. Absences will be noted and you are expected to notify the Musical Director if you cannot attend a rehearsal. It is vital that you do not miss any concerts (or the last rehearsal before them!). This point is very important if we are to maintain our high standard - we cannot successfully perform public concerts if players are missing.

You are required to attend at least 75% of rehearsals leading to each concert in order to be able to take part in them. The MD makes choices of repertoire to fit the profile of the orchestra and therefore poor attendance can damage the overall sound.

Whilst most of these points seem very obvious, they require every single member of an orchestra to make a firm commitment to their application. Work as a team and help each other to rehearse efficiently.

These guidelines exist to help you learn how to act in an orchestra. If you have any questions, please ask any of the tutors or conductors for advice.

Players who cannot learn to rehearse effectively may experience the following:

1. You will be asked to leave a rehearsal if being disruptive. Following this, your parents will be notified, and your position in the orchestra will be under review until the next concert.
2. You may not be allowed to perform in concerts.
3. You may be asked to leave the orchestra without refund of fees.

Concert dress

Players are required to wear the following smart dress for all public concerts:

Girls: smart, plain black **full-length** skirt or trousers (not jeans/leggings), white school-type shirt with long or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves, black shoes (not trainers), black socks or tights.

Boys: smart black trousers (not jeans), white shirt, black bow tie, black shoes (not boots or trainers), and black socks.

Shirts must be tucked into skirts and trousers unless specifically designed to be worn outside these items.

Supervision on Concert Days

Please note that you will **not** be supervised by SYO staff outside of your rehearsal times on concert days.



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Nobody is allowed to remain backstage during a concert. Players should be in the concert hall listening to each other when not playing themselves. The Musical Director and staff on duty on concert evenings have the right to instruct you to move out of the changing rooms into the concert hall at any time.

Clearing up after concerts

Every orchestra member is expected to help to clear up after the concert:

- Return music and folders to the appropriate box.

- All music stands to be folded and returned to the box.

- Assist in returning all music and other equipment to the van.

- Please leave the changing rooms TIDY. Put all litter in bags provided.

Reviewed (07.03.14) and Approved by the Trustees of the Stockport Youth Orchestra on 13.06.14

Due for review on or before 13.06.17



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