



BREMERTON  
**YOUTH  
SYMPHONY**

**Parent & Musician  
Handbook  
2015-16**

[bremertonsymphony.org](http://bremertonsymphony.org)  
(360) 373-1722

## Contact Information

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## About This Handbook

This handbook is provided to acquaint parents and student musicians with our policies and procedures. In addition to this handbook, BYS newsletters and other communications are distributed to rehearsals and via email. BYS holds musicians responsible for relaying information to their parents. Parents are encouraged to check with their musician(s) after each rehearsal session.

## Attendance & Punctuality

Regular attendance at all rehearsals/concerts is essential to the success of all BYS performance groups. Accordingly, students are expected to attend every rehearsal and concert. Each participant will be allowed two (2) absences during preparation for a concert. This includes rehearsals and sectionals. If a third absence occurs, participation is at the discretion of the music director. If a musician is unable to attend, please email the music director as soon as possible. We also have a convenient web form for absences, available online at [bremertonsymphony.org](http://bremertonsymphony.org). Musicians are expected to arrive at the rehearsal site and be tuned and warmed up before the rehearsal begins. Plan to arrive ten to fifteen minutes in advance of rehearsal. Musicians should also be in place and on time after scheduled breaks.

## Benefits of Membership

BYS musicians shall be given one complimentary ticket for each performance they participate in. Tickets will be available at Will Call under the musician's name.

## Concerts

Concerts for the 2015-16 season are as follows (Jazz Ensemble performance dates are TBD):

- 1) Season Premiere: Sunday, November 22, 2015 - 4PM  
at Bremerton High School
- 2) Brunch with Bach: Saturday, January 23, 2016 (time TBA)  
at Bremerton Harborside
- 3) Spring Concert: Sunday, March 13, 2016 - 4PM  
at Bremerton High School
- 4) Season Finale: Sunday, May 15, 2016 - 4PM  
at Admiral Theater

Tickets are \$5 each, general admission, available at the door, at [bremertonsymphony.org](http://bremertonsymphony.org), or by calling (360) 373-1722.

## Conduct

Students are expected to exhibit good behavior always. Parental courtesy is also expected. Parents may sit in during rehearsals, but please remain silent. Small children are welcomed at all performances, but parents are asked to prevent them from wandering and to remove crying/noisy children from the performance hall. Recording of performances using sound or video devices is strictly prohibited, due to the possible infringement of music copyrights. Cameras may be used in the performance hall, but the use of flash is prohibited during performances. Food and drink will not be allowed inside the auditorium.

## Attire

Students should dress appropriately for rehearsals. For concerts, girls must wear concert black: long-sleeved black tops with no ornamentation, long black skirts or dress pants, black tights or pantyhose, and black closed-toe dress shoes. No bare midriffs. No jewelry. For concerts, boys must wear concert black: long-sleeved black shirts (jackets optional), black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes. Black ties/bow ties are optional. No jewelry, hats, or other distractions. Anyone lacking proper concert dress may be asked not to play in the concert. A repeated lack of compliance with performance dress code may result in dismissal. If financial concerns are an issue, please talk to the music director.

## Elite Groups

BYS has three elite chamber ensembles that perform throughout the year at various community events and special concerts. The elite string group consists of 8 – 12 of the top string students. The elite brass group consists of 5 – 10 members of the top brass students. The elite woodwind group consists of 5 – 10 of the top wind students. These ensembles practice prior to regularly scheduled rehearsals. There is a \$100 fee for members selected to participate.

## Fees & Tuition

Musicians are charged fees to cover the cost of education only. Tuition costs for the 2015-16 season are \$250-\$450. Payment arrangements, monthly payment plans, and scholarships are available – please contact the BSA office.

## Lost or Stolen Instruments

Lost, stolen, or damaged instruments are not the responsibility of BYS. We strongly recommend that all participating families check with their insurance agency about instrument coverage.

## Music Accountability

Each student receives sheet music the first day of rehearsal, and the first rehearsal after each concert. The sheet music is loaned to the students and needs to be returned within two weeks after each performance. If the music is not returned, the student will be billed for replacement cost.

## Music Preparation

Musicians are expected to spend time at home practicing for rehearsals. Rehearsals are time for developing ensemble skills, not learning your own individual part. Continued private study is highly recommended for BYS musicians to increase the rate of musical advancement and enable higher level ensemble performance. Coming to rehearsals consistently unprepared may result in dismissal. Instruments are expected to be in the good working order at rehearsals. Musicians should bring their instrument, a pencil, and all BYS music to every rehearsal.

## Non-Discrimination Policy

BYS embraces students from all walks of life. Children of any race, ethnicity, religion, and financial circumstance are encouraged to participate.

## Participation in School Programs

BYS encourages all participating musicians to take advantage of the performing arts programs offered by public and private schools such as band, orchestra, drama, and choir. Although we recognize that scheduling issues may arise, BYS does ask students to make every effort to participate in these programs. If there is a conflict between BYS activity schedules and school activities, the school programs take precedence. A form is provided to the musicians to let their teachers know they participate in BYS. This should be turned in with their registration form.

## Privacy Policy

BYS/BSA does not share information with any entity without permission. All students are required to submit a release for recordings of music and photography, which may be used for publicity and fundraising purposes.

## Qualifications

Instruments that are accepted include violin, viola, cello, string bass, piccolo, flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba, and percussion. Musicians in the orchestra must be 20 years of age or younger at the start of the performance season. It is expected that musicians will have completed at least two (2) years of public or private instruction and have advanced to a level at which they can accept the responsibility and self-discipline required to play in an orchestra. All musicians are required to audition regardless of previous participation with the BYB. All instruments are welcome to audition for the Bremerton Youth Jazz Ensemble. Auditions take place in the fall and at the beginning of each concert cycle. For information on audition material, please visit the BYB website.

## Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held on Sunday evenings at Olympic College (except Jazz Ensemble). The Sinfonietta meets from 4:15–6:30PM. The Orchestra meets from 5:00-7:45PM. The Symphony meets from 5:30–8:45PM. The Chorale meets from 4:00-5:15PM on Sundays. The Jazz Ensemble meets from 10AM-12PM on Saturdays at Ted Brown in Silverdale. Students are expected to arrive prepared and on time. If a musician must miss a rehearsal, please notify the music director as soon as possible.

## Seating

Each member will be placed in a tier and seat based on ability. At any time, the music director may re-seat a musician if deemed necessary. Some artistic staff may recommend changes in the seating during the season. Although all playing levels are important, being concert master and section principal is a privilege and a significant responsibility. The example the principal player sets influences the performance and attitude of the section.

## Transportation

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to transport their musicians to rehearsals, performances, and fundraising events.

## About BSA

Bremerton Youth Symphony (BYS) is a program of Bremerton Symphony Association (BSA), a non-profit organization. Our mission is to provide youth of greater Kitsap County with musical experiences marked by educational excellence. BYB works in conjunction with the music programs offered throughout the greater Kitsap community public and private school systems and homeschool groups.

Play a central role in keeping music alive in our community - join our new Metronome Membership program today, with memberships starting at \$10 per month. Join at the level that's right for you!

Other ways to support include donations to the BYB scholarship fund, attending our annual gala and other special events, planned gifts, legacy gifts, and more. There's no amount too small or large.

Learn more and support today - visit us online at [bremertonsymphony.org](http://bremertonsymphony.org) any time, day or night, or call the BSA office at (360) 373-1722 (Tuesday-Friday, 10AM-4PM).



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