

Kennebec Valley Youth Symphony Orchestras code of conduct contract

In KVYSO, you will learn to play beautifully at a high level some of the greatest music of all time! Outlined below are the expectations for all KVYS and KVYO musicians.

Rehearsals: Please try to arrive at least 15 minutes early to rehearsals to allow adequate time to set up your stand, chair, music, and prepare your instrument before the rehearsal begins. Conductors strive to begin the rehearsal on time and late or rushed students can hold up the whole ensemble. You need to bring a pencil and your music to every rehearsal. Even if your music is not being used during rehearsal, you need to write the rehearsal markings into your part for individual practice.

Ensemble behavior: Our orchestras operate as musical teams. The actions of any individual can either help or hinder the entire ensemble in both rehearsals and performances. Self-discipline is essential. Please be respectful to your conductor and peers during rehearsals and during breaks. Talking or playing your instrument beyond the conductor's cutoff or while your conductor is speaking will not be tolerated. It is important for all students to listen to what the conductor is saying during the rehearsal, even if your section is not being addressed at the time. What is said to other sections may pertain to you as well. Do not use cell phones during rehearsals! Please put them into silent mode and leave them in your case while rehearsing or performing.

Attendance: A list of rehearsals and performances is attached. Please put these on your calendar immediately. Rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Just as any sports team, an orchestra only works if the players are present. While we strive for 100% attendance, we realize there are some instances that cannot be helped. The only missed absences that will be excused are those that involve illness or family emergency. Any other absences will need to be discussed with the executive director and orchestra manager directly through email. Your absence affects the progress of the ensemble as a whole and your director needs to be able to plan accordingly. If you miss more than 2 rehearsals in one semester, you may be asked to sit out for performances. Missing 3 or more rehearsals in a semester may result in you being removed from the ensemble. Missing a dress rehearsal or a performance may also result in you being removed from the ensemble. If you must miss a rehearsal, please let the orchestra manager know as soon as possible. Your orchestra manager is Lori Scheck, email at info@kvyso.org or phone 207-313-2775. (texting is okay)

Practice & Preparation: You should plan to practice your orchestra music repertoire daily. Daily practice is necessary in order to grow and improve. You need to demonstrate consistent improvement on your parts throughout each semester. The conductor will provide many strategies and resources for you to improve if you are struggling with your music. You need to take advantage of them. If satisfactory progress is not being made, it holds back the entire ensemble. The conductor may choose to remove you from a performance or the ensemble if the problem persists.

Private Lessons: KVYSO students are encouraged to take private lessons. You belong to an advanced ensemble and the performance requirements can be demanding. Musicians in this ensemble will need the regular guidance of a good private instructor to help them attain the skills needed to perform at this level. If you need assistance finding a private teacher for your instrument, please speak with Betsy or Lori and they will help you. If you already have a private teacher, please provide your teacher's name and contact information here:

Private Teacher: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Communication: Communication is key to having a successful rehearsal and performance season! You need to provide a good email address to the staff and expect to communicate through email regularly. Your director will email you regularly with reminders for events, practice goals for the week, and many other topics. You will be responsible for any information that has been emailed to you. This means you should check your email daily and respond within one day to any requests.

Public School Ensembles: As a KVYSO musician, you are expected to continue to play with your school ensembles. This is important for your school. You are serving as mentors for your peers and thus provide an important public service.

I acknowledge that I have read all information in the KVYSO Student Contract and will adhere to these expectations or I may be removed from the ensemble.

Please initial all topics and sign:

___ Rehearsals

___ Ensemble Behavior

___ Attendance

___ Practice and Preparation

___ Private Lessons

___ Communication

___ Public School Ensembles

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____