

MOOREDALE YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

GUIDELINES FOR ORCHESTRAL ETIQUETTE

Attend every rehearsal Every player is critical! MYO participation should be seen as a primary activity with a 30-week commitment. Conductors/other players depend upon the contribution of every member of every section, and the music demands it as well. For this reason absence, except in sickness/emergencies, is not conducive in building an ensemble. If the commitment for 30 weeks cannot be made readily, please do not take the spot of someone on our waiting list.

Arrive on time Players must arrive at rehearsals/performances ahead of time to set-up, tune, and be ready to play at start time. For those who take public transit, CHECK the schedule the day before to ensure you may arrive in plenty of time. Plan to arrive 10-15 minutes **before** start time and avoid disruption of your colleagues.

Notify your conductor If absence (or lateness) is unavoidable, let your conductor know as far in advance as possible. Your conductor will contact you after an unexplained absence or two late arrivals to check on the commitment level to the ensemble. Players may be asked to leave depending on the circumstance.

Be prepared Players are expected to have prepared their parts **before** each rehearsal – 2 hours per week is a minimum. Home practice of the music allows conductors to use rehearsal time to make/shape music, not just to 'note bash'. Please also listen often to recordings of the repertoire.

Bring everything you need Along with your black binder with music, a pencil and eraser are required at every rehearsal. It's a good idea to carry rosin and a spare set of strings.

Understand placements Chair/desk selections are a key part of orchestral training. Each chair requires a strong, committed player, and presents different challenges as well as great opportunities to know/share music with several stand partners. Placements will rotate each term based upon artistic considerations and pedagogic concerns. Players who set good examples of attendance/preparation will be considered for leadership roles.

During rehearsals When the conductor stops the ensemble, *stop playing immediately* and when prepared to begin again, *quickly find your place*. Even when teaching is not focused on your section, keep your ears attuned to the conductor – what is being taught elsewhere will likely pertain to your section as well. **Good posture** is an essential habit for all musicians, both for health and for aesthetics. It also visually communicates your commitment to the music.

Enjoy the experience The major benefit of the MYO is being part of a really good orchestra, learning to play "big" works along with some lesser-known and interesting compositions. We want the MYO experience to be one where each player is able to pursue goals with focus, discipline, teamwork, and inspiration. And to feel the joy of a truly great performance! Many friendships made at MYO carry on for a lifetime.