

Mooredale Youth Orchestras Policies and Procedures 2026-27 Season

Bijan Sepanji, Junior Conductor

bijan@mooredaleconcerts.com

Deborah Pady, Intermediate Conductor

debbie@mooredaleconcerts.com

Larry Beckwith, Senior Conductor

larry@mooredaleconcerts.com

Christina Cavanagh, Managing Director

marketing@mooredaleconcerts.com

Mooredale House

146 Crescent Road

Toronto ON M4W 1V2

Phone: 647-988-2102 (Christina)

Website link: www.mooredaleconcerts.com/youth-orchestras/

Table of Contents

1. How to Join/Promotions
2. School Music Programs/Private Study
3. Artistic Standards
4. Facilities Use/Parent Expectations
5. Health Protocols
- 6. Attendance Policy – highlighted to reinforce importance**
7. During Rehearsals and Performances
8. Concert Day/Attire
9. Weather Emergency Cancellation/Schedule Changes
10. Player Tuition/Registration/Bursary/Refunds

This handbook outlines the operation of our three youth orchestras and our expectations of participants. Each member receives a one-page guideline on rehearsal etiquette. By receipt of these two documents, participants agree to abide by them.

1. How to Join/Promotions

Participation in one of our three youth orchestras is by invitation only, following an audition with your prospective conductor. Once a player joins the orchestra, they do not need to re-audition in future years. An audition day is held each season (September 12, 2026, this season), however new players are welcome to join during the year if there is space available, and sufficient time during the term to become proficient with the playing repertoire.

The musical progress of all players will be evaluated on a continuing basis throughout the season. This will be done by way of observation during rehearsals, sectionals, seating rotations, and concert performances. **Promotions will be at the discretion of the**

conductor and will be discussed with individual orchestra members and their parents at the end of a term or season. The majority of promotions occur at the end of the Spring concert.

2. School Music Programs/Private Study

All members of the youth orchestra are encouraged to participate in their school music programs, if and when they are available. Mooredale Youth Orchestras goal is to enhance and support school initiatives, not replace them.

All members of the youth orchestra are strongly encouraged to study privately. If help is needed, the youth orchestra can offer suggestions for choosing a private teacher. Suggestions are not necessarily endorsements.

3. Artistic Standards

Mooredale Youth Orchestras is dedicated to providing a non-competitive, friendly musical environment from which string players may learn and thrive in an orchestral setting. We act as a supplement to private musical training with a focus on ensemble performance. Your conductor will advise respective youth orchestra players of musical deficiencies that require improvement, particularly when it is perceived that improvement is possible. If improvement is not possible within a reasonable time frame, withdrawal from the orchestra may be suggested.

Our conductors promote work in a relaxed atmosphere and expect all players to take a serious attitude towards the challenges of the music parts they are given. Our expectations are as follows:

Preparation – To work on parts outside of rehearsal, including sharing them with your private teacher to learn and master its difficulties. Listen and watch recordings of the work on the Internet to gain a well-rounded picture of the music being played. Arrive to weekly rehearsals prepared with corrections to individual performance.

Attentiveness – Be attentive in rehearsals. In addition to listening and responding to instructions, listen to other parts to see how your part fits. Be sensitive to the direction from the podium/conductor. Listen and watch to match articulations, bowings, and style.

Repertoire – Music will predominantly be selected from standard classical orchestral works, including arrangements. We will also include 20th/21st century compositions. Choice of repertoire will be based on works that provide sufficient challenge to proficient players within each orchestra level.

Seating Changes – We want each player to benefit fully from their experience with the Mooredale Youth Orchestras. An important part of this education as a musician is the practice of playing different parts (ie: violin I, II, or III). We will also use seating changes and rotations to expand each player's abilities, providing an opportunity to learn and experience orchestral performance from multiple perspectives.

4. Facilities Use/Parent Expectations

Youth orchestra players and their parents will respect the rules, premises, and the property of Mooredale House or any other facility where rehearsals, concerts, or other activities take place. We encourage drop-off/pick-up or waiting in your vehicles in the parking lot as options. There is limited seating available in the Main House on the second floor.

Washrooms are available for parents/guardians to access in both the Main House (Junior orchestra) and Mooredale Coach House (Intermediate/Senior orchestra).

We are now a NUT-FREE facility. Please do not bring any food/snacks containing peanuts or any tree nuts.

Please ensure that all your children are well supervised when you are at Mooredale's premises. Children are to remain on the ground (1st) floor while on breaks, or outside in the playground under parental supervision.

For those who are driving, please BACK into the parking spots. This is a Mooredale House regulation and safety precaution to protect children that may wander into the lot. Pets are not allowed inside the facilities or inside the fenced playground.

5. Health Protocols

Protocols are in place by Mooredale House (Rosedale-Moore Park Association) where we rehearse. Please note that health and safety protocols may be modified throughout the season and in future years, as public health circumstances dictate.

We welcome masking during rehearsals/performances while indoors for your personal comfort and ease. Masking will not be mandatory unless advised otherwise.

6. Attendance Policy

- All members are expected to attend all scheduled orchestra rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.
- Please advise your conductor in advance of an unavoidable expected absence or sudden illness. Also advise if a player will be arriving late or leaving early.
- **The full 2026-27 season schedule is posted on the youth orchestras page of the Mooredale Concerts website www.mooredaleconcerts.com/youth-orchestras/.** It is a parent's responsibility to be familiar with the schedule and important dates.
- Notices of last-minute changes/updates or cancellations will be sent out by email.
- **Excessive absences** will result in reassignment of parts or re-seating in the section, or, under extreme circumstances, the recommendation that **a student does not perform** in a term concert.

The above is highlighted as it is critical that there be a solid commitment to the entire 30-week season, and that this activity does not compete with other activities.

7. During Rehearsals and Performances

Your Music

All players will be provided with a black three-ring binder to hold their music. It is the player responsibility to bring their music binder to every rehearsal/performance and to take the binder home to practice.

If the binder is lost or music is left behind, please contact your conductor to be sent a pdf copy to facilitate continued practice. Players must bring their individual music to each rehearsal, even if they regularly use their stand partner's music in performance.

Rehearsals

- Be at rehearsals a minimum of 10 minutes ahead of time, warmed up, and ready to go before the first tuning.
- Be sure you have your music and a **No. 2 pencil with eraser** (we will provide a pencil if yours is forgotten).
- Be prepared to focus on the conductor and the music, without leaving your seats till break time.
- There will be a 10-15 minute break generally after the first hour of rehearsal.
Junior/Intermediate players: Please feel free to bring food/beverages to consume during the break.
Senior players: Due to the longer rehearsal session/lack of ready access to purchase items, juice/cookies will be supplied to you for your break.
All: Please remember to put all garbage into the correct containers
- We expect players to be respectful and courteous with their colleagues, conductors, and sectional coaches.
- Please assist with rehearsal set-up or breakdown of chairs and stands, when required. This is greatly appreciated.

Personal Belongings

Please try not to leave personal belongings or items of value unattended, particularly in public areas or at concerts. Mooredale Youth Orchestras is not responsible for stolen or lost articles.

If you discover that an article has been left behind after rehearsal, please contact Joanna at Mooredale House at 416-922-3714 x103 to report it/find out if the article has been turned in. Lost and found items are kept for 2 weeks only, and then donated to charity.

Please contact Christina at 647-988-2102 if something has been left behind after a performance.

8. Concert Day/Attire

There are three performances during the year, at the end of each term: Fall, Winter, Spring. This year the dates are: **November 29, March 7, and June 13** at St. Patrick Secondary School, 49 Felstead Avenue, Toronto. Location map is found on the youth orchestra's web page. Free parking is available as is a waiting area/cafeteria for all players and parents.

Performances take place at 3:00pm and usually end by 4:30pm.

An on-stage dress rehearsal is held for each orchestra. Please ensure that you arrive at least 10 minutes ahead of the start time and are on-stage ready for tuning. On-stage rehearsal times are as follows:

Senior: 12:30-1:30pm

Intermediate: 1:30-2:00pm

Junior: 2:00-2:30pm

Doors open: 2:30pm for 3:00pm performance

Parents/relatives/friends are welcome to wait in the cafeteria during on-stage rehearsals.

The order of performance is:

- 1) Junior
- 2) Intermediate
- Intermission
- 3) Senior

- Dress for the performance is:
Junior and Intermediate – white top, black bottom
Senior – all black
Please follow appropriate performance attire (e.g. dress pants and shoes, blouses and button shirts, no yoga pants, jeans or running shoes).
- Performers bring their music binders
- Parents are provided with 1 free ticket for each of the three performances with their registration payment.
- Tickets are available at the door only: \$30 adult, \$25 student/senior (cash/cards– Visa or MC/cheque)
- All attendees receive a playbill with the full programme listed and all the players names on the reverse side
- There will be cookies, juices, water, coffee available for sale in the large waiting area beside the performance theatre
- The waiting area is supervised, can be used to drop off coats, cases, and to relax and enjoy snacks, food brought in
- All performers are expected to watch the remainder of the concert that they are not performing in; it is an important part of your children's music education
- We film the concerts professionally, and you may sign up for an MP4 (\$18), which will be emailed a week after the concert – YouTube private plus downloadable link
- **Food, filming, use of recording devices is NOT permitted in the performance hall**

9. Weather Emergency Cancellations/Schedule Changes

In the event of weather or local facility emergency, which necessitates a change in venue or cancellation, we will notify you by email, and possibly by telephone.

PLEASE check public transit schedules in advance for rehearsal days. Announcements of planned shutdowns or diversions are issued on Fridays for the weekend.

Please refer to the schedules to know in advance the rehearsal days. While we rehearse most Saturdays, they are not consecutive. Conductors will also advise during the previous rehearsal of the next date(s).

10. Player Tuition/Registration/Bursary/Refunds

Each player must be registered annually – either in person, by mail/email or through our on-line form. Annual tuitions for 2026-27 are Junior \$475, Intermediate \$525, and Senior \$550. Tuition includes 1 free ticket to each of the performances - additional tickets may be purchased at the door: \$30 adults, \$25 senior/students.

Upon registration, each player also has a one-year limited membership to the Rosedale-Moore Park Association. Parents are welcome to *upgrade* to a family membership so all members may register for our programs, sports, pool club, and summer programs. Visit www.mooredale.com for current information.

Financial assistance in the form of a bursary is available upon request.

Refund: We will not provide refunds for any withdrawals after the Fall term is completed. If a player wishes to withdraw in the Fall term, we will refund the Winter/Spring tuition less a \$50 handling fee.