



Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra

Heinz Hall

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PYSO ATTENDANCE POLICY 2021-2022 SEASON

A guiding philosophy of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra is that professional responsibility is critical to musical excellence. Absences may negatively impact the orchestra's progress as well as be counterproductive to your own personal growth. However, we understand that absences may be unavoidable and have developed the following attendance policy.

Students are permitted a total of 5 absences per season, not to exceed more than 3 in any one rehearsal cycle leading up to a major concert.

- All members are expected to attend all scheduled orchestra rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.
- Reasons for absences will be treated on a case-by-case basis.
- Conflicts with religious holidays and/or mandatory school activities will not be counted as an absence if we are made aware of conflicts in advance.
- [Absence Forms](#) are located on the "[For Members](#)" page of the website and need to be filled out and submitted **online** no less than two weeks before the scheduled activity. The PYSO Staff evaluates absence requests/notifications on an individual basis.
- The [PYSO Calendar](#) located under the "What's Happening" tab on PYSO's website includes the 2021-22 season schedule and has the most up-to-date information for programs and activities.
- Weekly reminders will be posted by Friday at noon on the For Members' page of the PYSO website. Reminders and last-minute changes or cancellations will be sent out via *text message (remind.com)* as well as emailed to students and parents.
- Outside gigs (paid or non-paid) are not legitimate reasons to miss rehearsal, nor attending concerts or games that are not required school activity.
- In the case of sudden illness or emergency, please notify the PYSO office [via telephone](#) (412-392-4872); leave a message on v-mail if no one is in the office.
- Excessive absences and/or missing a dress rehearsal may result in reassignment of parts, re-seating in the section, loss of principal status, not being permitted to play a concert, or in extreme circumstances, being asked to leave the orchestra.
- Continued "forgetfulness" on the part of members to notify PYSO office Staff of their absence(s) can result in reassignment of parts, re-seating in the section, loss of principal status, not being permitted to play a concert, or in extreme circumstances, being asked to leave the orchestra.
- Missing a dress rehearsal or concert is grounds for dismissal.

TARDINESS & LEAVING EARLY:

Late arrival to a rehearsal is not acceptable. It is unprofessional, irresponsible, and extremely disrespectful to your colleagues. Significant tardiness or leaving early, or regular such occurrences, may count as an absence or partial absence.

SUBSTITUTES for Woodwind, Brass & Percussion Players:

If you will be absent from a rehearsal, please ASK your section mates to cover your part in your absence. Get their contact information at the first rehearsal so you can set this up BEFORE the rehearsal date you will be absent.