

YPCO Handbook 2026-27

Young People's Chamber Orchestra

Rem Djemilev, Music Director

Ben Spilman, Assistant Conductor

Sofia Card-Lopez, Orchestra Manager



The following outlines the Orchestra's policies and expectations for its musicians and their parents.

Health Policy

Please fill out the required St. John's health forms as part of the registration process, including health insurance and COVID-related release forms. Please fill these out online in Active, or send a picture to the orchestra manager via manager@ypco.org, or hand them to the orchestra manager at a rehearsal!

Refund Policy

We do not offer refunds.

Rehearsal Attendance

Please let the orchestra manager know at the start of each season of any expected absences, we would also really appreciate it if unexpected absences could be communicated via manager@ypco.org as soon as possible.

Timeliness

Please arrive early so as to be ready to play right when rehearsals begin, we often have a lot of difficult repertoire to get through in a surprisingly small amount of time! Please pick up your child promptly at the end of each rehearsal. Parents are responsible for communicating pick up instructions to their children, i.e. where to wait, whether they may leave on their own, etc. As a courtesy, the parent or staff member on duty will wait a certain amount of time with musicians (but no longer than fifteen minutes) for late pick-ups. YPCO cannot be responsible for students after that time.

Preparation for Rehearsals

Please practice the orchestra parts and go over them with your private music teacher.

Please remember to bring:

Yourself! Your instrument and all its accessories, (that includes your bow, rock stop, shoulder rest, rosin, etc.) Your music, and music folder. (Optional) A pencil, for noting down the conductor's instruction in your music.

Behavior

Please be respectful and cooperate with instructions from the Music Director, Assistant Conductor, Orchestra Manager, coaches and parent volunteers at all times. This means no talking during rehearsal while music is being played, or while the conductors are talking.

For safety reasons, musicians are not to play or gather outside during rehearsals or concerts or during breaks. If we are in Hunter's Hall, they can go out on the balcony where we can see them, but not down the walkway that leads to the street. They also cannot wander about the church, but have to stay in the room, whether we are in the Sanctuary or Hunter's Hall. Please do not bring skates, skateboards, roller blades, electronic games, etc. to rehearsals and concerts. Bicycles are allowed, if used as transportation to and from rehearsals. Do not play with the balls in Hunter's Hall, they are the property of the school and other organizations, we also have very valuable instruments lying around during rehearsal and we need to be very careful.

Musicians are expected to wear concert dress to each performance, and behave appropriately before, during and after concerts.

Parents are responsible for communicating to, and enforcing these behavior expectations and safety regulations with their children.

Concert Dress

YPCO wears nice, white collared dress shirts with black pants or skirts and nice black shoes (NO SNEAKERS). Or all black, in which case you may wear a dress! Skirts should be knee length and comfortably worn while seated.

Contact Information and Communication

Our YPCO orchestra manager will send out weekly reminders regarding rehearsals, and special reminders for the concert during each season. Feel free to contact her at any time if you have any questions or concerns!

Young People's Chamber Orchestra P.O. Box 5113, Berkeley, CA
94705, manager@ypco.org

YPCO Fall 2026 (10 Rehearsals - 1 concert)

September 12, 2026

September 19, 2026

September 26, 2026

October 3, 2026

October 10, 2026

October 17, 2026

October 24, 2026

October 31, 2026 (costumes encouraged)

November 7, 2026 - no rehearsal (rehearsal canceled)

November 14, 2026 - DRESS

November 21, 2026 CONCERT

YPCO Winter/Spring 2027 (12 rehearsals - 2 concerts)

January 2, 2027

January 9, 2027

January 16, 2027 - no rehearsal (MLK Weekend)

January 23, 2027

January 30, 2027

February 6, 2027

February 13, 2027 - no rehearsal (President's Day)

February 20, 2027 - DRESS

February 27, 2027 CONCERT

March 6, 2027

March 13, 2027

March 20, 2027

March 27, 2027 - no rehearsal (Passover/Easter weekend)

April 3, 2027

April 10, 2027

April 17, 2027 - DRESS

April 24, 2027 CONCERT

Rehearsals are Saturdays 9:30-11:30am at St. John's, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, CA

All rehearsals are held in Hunter's Hall, unless otherwise listed.