

THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA

YOUTH ORCHESTRA

JAMES FEDDECK - PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR & MUSICAL ADVISOR

School Participation Policy

COYO's policy requires every COYO musician to participate in his/her school music program. This is an important statement of support for school music programs which serve a broad range of students with varying levels of ability. We expect our Youth Orchestra musicians to participate in and be leaders of those school programs.

If you feel the school program is inadequate, take action! Go to the school, to the teacher, to the administration, and advocate for the improvement of the school's music program. The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra and the Cleveland Orchestra staff are happy to provide resources for your advocacy efforts and help you in other ways.

Why students need to participate in school programs:

- The purpose of COYO is to serve as a supplement to, not a replacement for, music in schools.
- If we want the schools to support COYO, we need to support the schools.
 - Schools can prevent students from auditioning. Not only do we ask directors to encourage students to audition, we frequently ask help of the school directors if we are trying to find students for specific instruments to fill out the orchestra.
 - Schools can prevent giving us places to perform in the community.
- There is no substitute for the daily or almost daily rehearsal that comes with school music programs.
- School fine arts programs are being cut or reduced all across the country. When top students leave the programs, performance levels suffer, adding fuel to the fire that music programs should be cut.
- Without school music instruction, most of the professional musicians in this area (and around the country) would not be where they are today.

What we will do to continue to improve the relationship with schools:

- Provide a schedule for the upcoming season, requesting consideration be given to students for missing school events on those days.
- Absences will be accepted for school ensemble events. We will request that the school give us a schedule of their rehearsals/performance as soon as possible.
- A complimentary ticket voucher will be provided to music teachers to each of COYO's Severance Music Center concerts.

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School Ensemble Participation Form

COYO Member's Name: _____

I intend to participate in the following school ensemble(s) during the 2026-27 school year:

☐ Orchestra Director's Signature: _____

☐ Marching Band Director's Signature: _____

☐ Concert/Symphonic Band Director's Signature: _____

☐ Choir Director's Signature: _____

☐ Jazz Ensemble Director's Signature: _____

☐ CIM Young Artists Program/Academy

☐ Home schooled

Other: please specify: _____

NOTE: Unless approved by your school, pit orchestra for the school musical cannot be the only ensemble in which you participate

If you are unable to participate in your school music program for any reason, please discuss the conflict with the COYO Manager. The COYO Manager will need to confirm the conflict with the school for you to remain in COYO.

Please turn form in by Sunday, August 16, 2026.