



**2025 - 2026
Student Handbook**

**(Review, sign, and return the last two pages
no later than the first rehearsal.)**

Thank you!

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About the Boise Phil Youth Orchestras

Boise Phil Youth Orchestras exist to:

- Provide young musicians throughout the Treasure Valley with outstanding musical training and experiences through orchestra rehearsals and performances.
- Enhance and develop current and future arts participation.
- Enrich the cultural life of the Treasure Valley by providing excellent performances of orchestral music.

The Boise Phil Youth Orchestra includes four ensembles: Symphonic Orchestra, Concert Orchestra, Repertory Orchestra, and the String Orchestra.

- **Symphonic:** Open for students 9-12th grade (Woodwinds, Brass, String, Percussion)
- **Concert:** Open for students 8-12th grade (Woodwinds, Brass, String, Percussion)
- **Repertory:** Open to students 6-10th grade (Strings Only)
- **String:** Open to students 4-8th grade (Strings Only)

Family Member Volunteers

BPYO students and family members are encouraged to volunteer at rehearsals, concerts, and events throughout the season. This help is *critical* in making the experience better for all students.

Tuition Information

Tuition Rates

Symphonic and Concert Orchestras Tuition: \$350

- Tuition payment in full or payment plan arrangements are due by September 10, 2025

Repertory and String Orchestras Tuition: \$175

- Tuition payment in full or payment plan arrangements are due by January 9, 2026.

Payment Methods

To pay tuition by check, please make your check payable to **Boise Philharmonic** and include "**BPYO [child's name]**" in the memo line.

Payment may be sent to or dropped off at:

Boise Philharmonic Youth Orchestra
516 S 9th St.
Boise, ID 83702

To pay tuition by card please follow [THIS LINK](#)

Deadlines, Late Fees, & Payment Plans

The deadline for Tuition payment is the first rehearsal of the season. If tuition cannot be paid in full by that time, payment plans must be established by that date. A tuition late fee of \$10 per month will be assessed for outstanding tuition unless payment plan arrangements have been made.

If a student needs a payment plan, they must communicate the need to the Education Manager prior to the tuition payment deadline. Payment may be spread out in equal monthly installments throughout the BPYO season with all outstanding fees paid in full before the date of the final performance of the season.

Students who have not paid their tuition fees by the last concert of the season may be refused participation in the final concert. Seniors who have not paid their tuition fees prior to the Senior Side-by-Side may not participate in the side-by-side concert set.

Multi Child Discount

Families with more than one child in BPYO will receive 10% off tuition for each child. To receive your discount, please pay via check or call 208-344-7849 to pay with a credit card.

Financial Aid Information

Tuition aid can be requested for either partial or full tuition relief.

Students in need of a scholarship must request a scholarship before the tuition payment deadline. All scholarship requests shall be reviewed for approval/denial by the Executive Director. Students may receive a full or partial scholarship at the discretion of the Executive Director and any remaining fees may be paid in one lump sum or installments throughout the season.

To apply for Financial Aid, please contact the Education Manager directly.

School Music Eligibility Requirement

BPYO students who are enrolled in schools with instrumental programs must be involved in their school's instrumental program(s) in order to participate in BPYO. There are no exceptions.

Students on an alternative education path are required to submit a recommendation from their music teacher and have experience performing in an ensemble (preferably a public band/orchestra program or any group performing experience).

Private study and lessons are encouraged, but not required. The Education Manager and BPYO music director will be in touch with your school program directors and private teachers to ensure all students are eligible for participation.

Rehearsals

Location

Regular rehearsals are held at Esther Simplot Performing Arts Academy (ESPAA) on the Second Floor of the Boise Phil Building. 516 S 9th St. Boise, ID 83702 (corner of 9th and Myrtle).



Parking Information

All BPYO students and/or parents are eligible for complimentary parking during rehearsals in ESPAA owned parking lots. To receive complimentary parking, students and/or parents must register their vehicle no later than September 1, 2025 (Symphonic & Concert) or January 1, 2026 (Repertory & String). When registering your vehicle you will be asked to agree to all parking policies which were emailed to you with this Handbook. Parking spaces are limited and are available on a **first-come, first-served basis and are not guaranteed.**

Parking in fire lanes or stopping on 9th street for drop off and pick up is prohibited. Students should be dropped off in one of the three parking areas.

The link to register for parking will be emailed to you prior to retreat (Symphonic & Concert) or prior to the December winter break (Repertory & Strings)

Rehearsal Times

- **Symphonic Orchestra:** Mondays 4:15 – 6:30pm
- **Concert Orchestra:** Tuesdays 4:15 – 6:15pm
 - Rehearsal for those who have marching band rehearsal on Tuesday evenings will be on Mondays 6:45 - 7:45pm through the week of the District III Marching Band Competition (DII is October 26⁵, 2025).
- **Repertory Orchestra:** Thursdays 5:30 - 7:00pm
- **String Orchestra:** Thursdays 4:15 -5:15pm

Note: Dress rehearsals and performances may occur on different dates/times. Please refer to Important Dates and other notices for updates.

Rehearsal/Event Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather, the Boise Phil will operate under the following guidelines:

- If the Boise School District cancels school due to inclement weather, BPYO activities are cancelled for the day.
- If the Boise School District delays their academic start time, BPYO activities may resume after the BSD determined start time.
- If inclement weather develops during the day and prior to the start of scheduled BPYO activities, cancellation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Should BPYO events be cancelled, information will be sent out soon as possible via email and social media channels.

Rehearsal Expectations

- Students should be in their seat 5 minutes before the start of rehearsal, so tuning may begin on time.
- Students should always have a pencil to note music with changes and instructions from the Music Director. Full attention will be given to the Music Director during the entire rehearsal.
- Cell phones and all electronic devices must be turned off and put away inside cases, backpacks or bags so as to not cause distraction. (Not on stands, not in pockets.) *Should these be a distraction, they will be confiscated until rehearsal is finished.*
- Students are expected to practice and learn their parts before coming to rehearsal. Rehearsals are the time to listen and learn other parts, not your own.
- Instrument should be properly maintained and all necessary tools should be with students for rehearsals and performances. (Mutes, valve oil, a selection of good reeds, spare strings, etc.)

Attendance

Participating in the Boise Phil Youth Orchestra program is a **full year commitment**. **ALL** concerts and dress rehearsals are mandatory.

- Students are responsible for knowing the dates and times of all scheduled events.
- Missing **two rehearsals** (excused or unexcused) per concert cycle may result in suspension or dismissal from the BPYO for the remainder of the academic year.
- Two tardies equal one unexcused absence. Tardy = not seated by 4:15 PM.
- Acceptable reasons for excused absences are fever, vomiting, any COVID related symptoms, or a death in the family.
 - If you are sick - STAY HOME.
- Competitions and/or college auditions are an acceptable reason for absence with prior communication.
- Known rehearsal conflicts must be communicated at least **2 weeks before** the conflicting date to the Music Director (bpyo@boisephil.org) and the Education Manager (education@boisephil.org).
- If a rehearsal must be missed due to illness or emergency, please notify the Music Director and the Education Manager **as soon as possible**. Notification can be via email or by calling the Boise Phil office at 208-344-7849
- Missing **dress rehearsal** without prior approval will result in suspension from that concert and possibly dismissal from BPYO for the remainder of the season.
- BPYO rehearsals **cannot** be missed due to sports practice or events. *Your rehearsal time is for BPYO.*

*In the event a school concert is scheduled to occur on the same day and time as BPYO rehearsal, students may be excused from BPYO with prior notice. Students who must miss rehearsal for a school concert are strongly encouraged to attend the first hour of rehearsal if possible. The only exception will be Marching Band with prior communication of the conflicts. **Missing BPYO rehearsals or concerts for general non-music program (sports, debate, etc.) events will be unexcused.***

Concert Attire

BPYO students should wear all black attire for concerts.

- Black button down shirt or blouse (with three-quarter length or longer sleeves)
- Black dress pants or skirt (full length)
- Black dress socks or hosiery, matched and clean
- Black full length dress
- Black dress shoes with black soles

Please avoid the following:

- Flashy or glittery jewelry
- Perfume or cologne as some people are allergic to scents

If you need assistance in acquiring concert attire, please contact the Education Manager.

25 - 26 Season Important Dates

September 1, 2025

- Vehicle registration deadline for Symphonic and Concert students

September 8 & 9, 2025

- Tuition payment deadline for Symphonic and Concert students

November 15, 2025 (Boise - Borah High School)

- Fall Concert (Schedule to be announced)

January 1, 2026

- Vehicle registration deadline for Repertory and Strings students

January 5, 2026 (BPYO senior Side by side)

- Senior Side-by-Side Rehearsals Begin

January 8, 2026

- Tuition payment deadline for Strings students

February 28, 2026 (Nampa - Brandt Center)

- Winter Concert (Schedule to be announced)

April 25, 2026 (Boise - Borah High School)

- Spring Concert (Schedule to be announced)

Anti-Harassment Policy

The Boise Phil is committed to maintaining an environment that is free of discrimination and harassment. This applies to the youth orchestra members, coaches, parents, and staff. The Boise Phil will not tolerate harassment of **any kind**. This includes harassment occurring among any persons in the Boise Phil including: student to student, adult to student, student to adult, or adult to adult.

The following behaviors are grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal from the Youth Orchestra.

- Bullying, intimidation, and harassment.
- Racism.
- Unwelcome sexual advances.
- Requests for sexual acts or favors.
- Insulting or degrading remarks or conduct directed against other orchestra members, staff, or parent volunteers.
- Retaliation against students for complaining about such behaviors
- Any other unwelcome statements or actions based on but not limited to race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation that are sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to unreasonably interfere with an individual's work performance, or create an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

This policy applies to all conduct by any Youth Orchestra members, staff, parent volunteers, and personnel associated with the Boise Phil Youth Orchestra. We consider a violation of this policy a serious offense.

Students should feel confident that their reports and complaints will be investigated promptly. Reports of sexual harassment or abuse should be made to the Youth Orchestra Music Director, Boise Phil staff, or any trusted adult.

State and federal laws make any adult a mandated reporter in cases of the sexual abuse of minors. Adults aware of any conduct in this vein should make reports to the police directly.

We are eagerly working to provide a safe and healthy environment where your children can have meaningful music experiences.

Media Release Form

I, _____ [Parent/Guardian], hereby grant to the Boise Philharmonic Association and their assignees the right to record the image and/or voice and use the musical recordings and/or written work of my child, _____ [Student Name], on videotape, on film, on photographs, in digital media and in any other form of electronic or print medium and to edit such recording at their discretion.

I understand that my child's full name, address and biographical information will not be made public. I further grant the Boise Philharmonic Association, their and their assignees the right to use, and to allow others to use, my child's image and/or voice on the internet, in brochures, and in any other medium and hereby consent to such use.

I hereby release the Boise Philharmonic Association and their assignees and any using my child's image and/or voice, artwork, and/or written work pursuant to this media release form any and all claims, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses which I or my child now have or may hereafter have by reason of any use thereof.

Please check one:

I consent.

I do NOT consent.

Parent Printed Name

Parent Signature

Date

Please sign and return to the Education Manager by the end of the first rehearsal.

Handbook Agreement

By signing this form, I consent for _____'s [student name] participation in the Boise Philharmonic Youth Orchestra for the 2025-2026 season. My child and I acknowledge receipt of this handbook and I have fully read and understand its contents.

We agree to the policies and requirements set forth within and we're excited to be a part of BPYO for the 2025-2026 season!

_____	_____	_____
Student name	Student Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Name	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date

Please sign and return to the Education Manager by the end of the first rehearsal.