



Membership Handbook

2022 — 2023



Welcome to the Youth Orchestra!

We are delighted to have you join us this season!

Mission Statement

The mission of the Rio Grande Youth Orchestra at UTRGV is to enrich, educate, and entertain diverse audiences of all ages in our communities through performances of orchestral music, offering a high caliber pre-college orchestra experience for student musicians while enhancing the vibrancy and vitality of the arts in the Rio Grande Valley.

The Rio Grande Youth Orchestra features talented student musicians from the Rio Grande Valley and communities nearby. Members perform a wide variety of standard and newly composed orchestral repertoire, including full scale symphonies, solo concertos, and works by living composers. Students will have the opportunity to meet regularly for sectionals with distinguished members of the UTRGV music faculty and other professional community musicians, including members of the Valley Symphony Orchestra.

Audition Information

There is no fee to participate in the Youth Orchestra auditions. The Rio Grande Youth Orchestra is open to students ages 12 to 21 for all strings, woodwinds (flute, oboe, clarinet and bassoon), brass (French horn, trumpet, trombone and tuba) and percussion instruments. Applicants should have several years of orchestra and/or band experience and perform individually at a high level. Members will be selected through annual auditions which will take place in August. Audition information can be obtained through the UTRGV School of Music website starting in early June.

Tuition Information

For students accepted into the Orchestra, tuition is \$150 for the entire year or 9 payments of \$20 a month. All tuition payments must be done online at <https://tinyurl.com/4n6vda7c> or by check or money order either in person at the UTRGV School of Music during business hours or sent by mail (make checks payable to UTRGV School of Music). For mail-in or in-person payments please download and complete the tuition form and submit it along with your check.

A limited number of partial scholarships will be available and they will be based on the student's ability to pay and the orchestra instrumentation requirements. If you are in need of financial assistance, download and complete the scholarship application form and present it or mail it to the UTRGV School of Music no later than September 30, 2022. The UTRGV School of Music address is 1204 West University Drive, Edinburg, TX 78539

To download the tuition and/or scholarship forms go to: www.utrgv.edu/music/community-outreach/youth-symphony/index.htm.

➔ **PLEASE NOTE:** there will be a late fee of \$20 if tuition payments are not submitted by September 30, 2022.

Youth Symphony T-shirts

Each Youth Symphony member will receive an orchestra t-shirt that is included in the tuition. Make sure to indicate your t-shirt size in the online registration form.

Rehearsal Schedule and Venues

All rehearsals will take place in the orchestra rehearsal hall in the UTRGV Performing Arts Center building A in Edinburg on Sundays from 2 pm to 4:30 pm beginning in early September, students are responsible for their own transportation to and from rehearsals. A rehearsal schedule may be downloaded at www.utrgv.edu/music/community-outreach/youth-symphony/index.htm.

Attendance and Participation Policy

An orchestra is a unique team that requires consistent attendance by every one of its members, absences have a direct and adverse impact on the quality of preparation and performance of the ensemble as a whole. Please check for any possible schedule conflicts well in advance and notify

Dr. Gamboa if an absence must occur. Abuse of the attendance policy is grounds for the member to be prevented from performing on a concert and even dismissed from the orchestra for the remainder of the season, without tuition refund. Please observe the following policies:

- Attendance at ALL rehearsals and concerts is mandatory.
- Unexpected illnesses or family obligations can happen at any time. However, multiple absences will likely result in ineligibility to perform in the upcoming concert, and repeated offenses may result in dismissal from the Youth Orchestra. Only two absences are allowed per semester.
- To report an absence, please email Dr. Gamboa at norman.gamboa@utrgv.edu as soon as possible.
- Arriving late or leaving early from rehearsals or performances can be just as detrimental to the orchestra's preparation as an absence. Being late after rehearsal break counts the same as being late at the beginning of rehearsal. Students must behave in a professional manner and respect the time of their peers and conductor.
- To be a part of the Youth Orchestra students must be members of their school's parent organization (school orchestra or band) in order to be eligible for membership (students from schools with no performing music ensembles and homeschool students exempted). Failure to adhere to this requirement will result in dismissal from the orchestra without tuition refund.
- Students in the Youth Orchestra must complete the UTRGV Liability Release Forms. These forms are available for download from the School of Music website and will also be on the online registration form and they must be handed to Dr. Gamboa during the first rehearsal in September. To access the forms please go to www.utrgv.edu/music/community-outreach/youth-symphony/index.htm.

About Performances

For each performance, students will have a dress rehearsal during the normal rehearsal time. We will then take an hour and a half long break in which students will be provided with pizza dinner and can change into their concert attire. Students are REQUIRED to be at both the dress rehearsal and concert. If a conflict is unavoidable, let Dr. Gamboa know immediately so he can plan accordingly.

The Youth Orchestra's concert attire is concert black (no jeans, t-shirts, tennis shoes, or extravagant accessories allowed). Men: black or white long sleeve dress shirt, black dress pants, black socks and black shoes; Women, black blouse and relaxed fit dress pants or below the knee length skirt and black shoes. Ladies, please wear blouses with at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves with a modest neckline.

Concert Admission and Venues

Youth Symphony concerts will take place at the UTRGV Performing Arts Center in Edinburg starting at 5 pm, concert admission is \$5.00 and it is open to the general public. Please refer to the rehearsal schedule for dates, times, and venues. Youth Orchestra members will receive two complimentary tickets for each performance; in addition, students will have free admission to all UTRGV Symphony Orchestra concerts. For this, Youth Symphony students will need to be at the box office 15 minutes prior to the performance and inform the attendant they are a Youth Orchestra member.

UTRGV Edinburg Campus

