



WALENSTEIN
MUSICAL ORGANIZATION

YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WALENSTEIN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A program of the
Walenstein Musical Organization 2009 Music Season.

PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK

P.O. Box 530518
Miami, FL 33153
General Phone: 786-380-4533
Fax: 305-356-4312
General Email: walensteinmusic@hotmail.com

Rules and Policies -

Words of Welcome from the Founder

On behalf of the Walenstein Musical Organization, I would like to welcome you, and offer my warmest congratulations to you on your acceptance into the Walenstein Youth Symphony Orchestra's family of musicians! I hope that this season will be a wonderful musical experience for you, as I anticipate that you will learn a lot, work hard, and have an exceptional and memorable music season full of new skills, knowledge and fun.

The fact that you are of minor age and your parents are solely responsible to insure that you follow and respect strictly the rules of WYSO, I would like for both, parents and you to take a few minutes to read them over thoroughly and be familiar with them. I also want the parents to know that newsletters and other communications are distributed at rehearsals. Therefore, be sure after each rehearsal to ask your child if information was handed out. You can also check our website (www.walensteinmusic.org) for any announcements. If you have a change in address, email, or phone number, please email the new information at: walensteinmusic@hotmail.com and submit the change.

Once again, I would like to thank you for choosing the Walenstein Youth Symphony Orchestra for the musical education of your child.

With best wishes for a wonderful season,

Romel Joseph
Executive Director and Founder
Walenstein Musical Organization
www.walensteinmusic.org
786-380-4533

Youth Orchestra Committee:

The governance of the Walenstein Youth Symphony Orchestra is provided by an administrative committee created for this purpose. WYSO's Committee is responsible for overseeing the general operation of Walenstein Early Bird Orchestra, Walenstein Philharmonia, and the Walenstein Youth Symphony Orchestra, establishing, as required policies and procedures, which assure the continued success of all three orchestras.

Annual Fee -

Walenstein Early Bird Orchestra (beginning level)	\$225
Walenstein Philharmonia (intermediate level)	\$250
Walenstein Youth Symphony Orchestra (advance level).	\$275

Dress Code -

Walenstein Youth Symphony Orchestra requires specific professional-style concert attire. The purpose to any dress code is to appear uniform in dress from the audience's perspective, so not to distract the audience from the music.

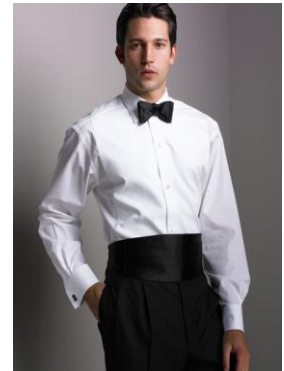
LADIES DRESS CODE



- Full **FLOOR-LENGTH black skirts** (only cellists may wear a full cut palazzo-style pants). Side or front slits are inappropriate
- Plain, **WHITE (not Ivory or Cream) BUTTONED-UP LONG SLEEVE BLOUSE (no T-shirts)** with moderate neck line (no glitter, lace, sequins, or decoration of any sort). **Must be tucked in.**
- **Black hose** or tights with **FULLY CLOSED formal DRESS shoes** with a maximum of 3" heel (no open or peep-toed shoes or sandals).

GENTLEMEN DRESS CODE

- **Black DRESS pants** (no khakis, black jeans or other casual black pants) with a **BLACK DRESS BELT**.
- Plain, **WHITE LONG-SLEEVE SHIRT** must be tucked in (no colors) with a **BLACK BOW TIE** and a **BLACK CUMBERBUN**. **NO VESTS, SUSPENDERS, OR JACKETS!**
- **Black DRESS shoes** (no sandals, flip-flops, sneakers or other casual shoes).



TO BOTH PARTIES

- Tasteful jewelry to complement the outfit a plus! Noisy, flashy, and excessive jewelry are discouraged.
- Please make sure your hair is of a color found naturally in humans (not pink, purple, blue, etc.) and out of your face.
- Do not use of perfumes, colognes, aftershaves, hairsprays or other heavily scented products in order that neighboring musicians may play in comfort, and without allergic reactions.
- No alarm/beeper watches, cell phones, or pagers on stage during the performance.

Private Lessons -

Private lessons are required for all members for several reasons. Private study is the indication of a serious musician who is aspiring to improve him/herself through excellence in the musical discipline. Few WYSO members will be able to reach true level of performance without benefit of private study. In addition, all students can become even more advanced and mature if guided by an experienced and competent private teacher. Students owe themselves, and the music world of the future, the opportunity to discover their full potential through the careful guidance of a skilled private teacher. Therefore, in order to participate in the program, all students will take individual lessons with either a teacher from Walenstein Symphony Orchestra, or a teacher approved by The Walenstein Musical Organization. Also, if you wish to change your private teacher for any reason, such decision must be approved by a WYSO manager and another teacher who will be assign to you if the reasons which you provided are justifiable.

Scholarships/Financial Assistance -

Financial assistance is available to WYSO, mainly through corporate and private contributions and membership fees. All students are responsible for faithful attendance and improvement to all required activities. Excessive absences or other actions contrary to membership and/or scholarship guidelines may constitute sufficient grounds for withdrawal of the scholarship at any time during the season. The scholarship recipient will receive one warning concerning his unacceptable status. If corrective action is not apparent within the prescribed time, the scholarship will be withdrawn. Occasionally, a scholarship musician may be asked to perform for the music program; such as a fundraising activity. These students are strongly encouraged to do so.

Orchestra Structure -

WYSO is structured basically the same as the Walenstein Symphony Orchestra, where all instrument groups are represented. In the string sections, principal players are named. In some cases, co-principals are named. In the wind and brass sections principals are usually named for each instrument. Often a principal timpanist and percussionist are named.

Being named principal player of a section is a privilege and a responsibility. A principal player is generally the most advanced in a section. The example set by the principal player can greatly influence the performance and attitude of a section. A principal player should encourage his/her section to give the very best possible performance at all times. A principal player is expected to be well prepared for all rehearsals, to be ready to play any solos and to have excellent attendance.

Those orchestra members in second chairs in the string sections may be named assistants. A second chair player is expected to have the same qualifications as a

principal, but would only play solos or lead the section in the principal player's absence. A third chair player in the string sections needs to be very well prepared and have excellent attendance. He/she would move up to the first stand if the principal or second chair player were absent. For a particular composition or performance, the conductor may request a temporary seating change, which may be implemented through prior consultation with the principal player of the section.

If a vacancy occurs, it will be the policy of the administration to promote its own orchestra members consistent with this objective. Any musician may be considered to fill this vacancy. All vacancies will be filled by audition unless the conductor decides to promote, without an audition, a musician already in the orchestra.

The conductor has the right to re-audition any musician, giving 30 days notice and advising the musician of the requested repertoire. The conductor also has the right to re-seat any musician if he feels it to be necessary.

Attendance -

All students are expected to be at **ALL** rehearsals, lessons, master classes, workshops, concerts, and social activities. From time to time there are reasons for absences. You are allowed 6 absences and six lateness's for the entire year. It is the responsibility of each member to follow the attendance guidelines. Attendance at dress rehearsals and concerts is **MANDATORY** and are not to be considered part of the 6 absences.

If a member goes beyond 6 absences or lateness's, their seating may be changed; part assignments adjusted or the member may be dismissed from the group. It is each member's responsibility to be at rehearsals and to notify the manager if they have any schedule conflicts. Please take note of the following guidelines:

If there is a schedule conflict, the manager must be notified by the parent/guardian in writing, as soon as possible.

Regular attendance as well as musical ability is taken into consideration for seating auditions. After the fourth absence, there will be a phone call home warning that the student is approaching the fifth absence. At the fifth absence, a meeting will be set up with the conductor, manager, parents and student to discuss whether the student will be, re-seated, put on probation or dismissed from the group. The final decision is at the sole discretion of the conductor.

HOW TO REPORT AN ABSENCE:

Fill out an absence form on the website or call any member of the WYSO staff at (786)-380-4533, to report any known absence, or expected tardiness 24 hours before the rehearsal. Leave your name, orchestra, and reason for the absence on the voicemail. There is absolutely no excuse for not notifying the orchestra manager of an absence before a rehearsal.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, TEACHER, SCHOOL -

Please keep WYSO informed of any changes in address or phone numbers so we can keep our records current and you will not be in danger of missing an important mailing. Failure of the manager to contact a musician due to out-of-date or incorrect information shall not constitute a valid reason for a member missing a rehearsal or performance, whether regularly scheduled or not.

Schedule –

1. Inauguration of Walenstein Youth Symphony Orchestra

December 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11, 2009 - 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Concerts: Saturday, December 12th, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 13th, 2009, at 3:00 p.m.

Location: TBA

2. Walenstein Youth Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert

March 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12, 2010 - 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Concerts: Saturday, March 13th, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Location: TBA

3. First Annual Walenstein International children's day awareness concert:

June 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11, 2010 - 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Concerts: Saturday, June 12, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 13, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Location: TBA

Rehearsal time will include Master classes, sectionals, and full orchestral training. The concerts will include chamber music presentations, featured soloists, as well as full orchestral performances.

All students should plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the rehearsal is scheduled to begin. Families are expected to make the necessary arrangements for their children to be picked up on time. The staff does not provide childcare before or after rehearsals. Please be respectful of their time.

Each player must be in her/his chair and ready to tune 5 minutes before rehearsal. The orchestra will tune when the concertmaster stands and sounds an "A". **THERE IS TO BE NO TALKING DURING TUNING and through the rehearsals unless authorized by the conductor.**

Each musician is expected to listen and watch the conductor carefully. All students must have a **SHARPENED** pencil with a good eraser at all rehearsals. All markings should be made clearly. Each musician **MUST** bring a music stand to all rehearsals and concerts.

MASTER CLASSES :

Master classes will take place during the first hour of rehearsals. It is in these sessions that students will have the opportunity to perform for their peers under the careful guidance of a professional instructor, who will offer suggestions for improvement to the performers.

SECTIONAL REHEARSALS:

Sectional rehearsals usually take place during the second hour of rehearsal. It is in these sessions special attention is given to technical matters for each instrument group. Please have your music prepared and bring a music stand and pencil to all sectional rehearsals.

CONCERTS -

ALL DRESS REHEARSALS & CONCERT PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY! On concert days there is generally a dress rehearsal before the concert. After the rehearsal, players **MUST** be in concert dress at least 15 minutes before concert time. Once the orchestra is seated on stage, the conductor will direct the entire orchestra to stand. The conductor will also signal when the orchestra should stand to acknowledge applause. **DO NOT** pack instruments or leave the stage until after the applause has ended and the Conductor has left the stage.

If a member does not play a particular piece, he/she should not be on stage unless directed to remain by the conductor. There will be time allowed for players to get on and off the stage between pieces. A member should be ready backstage with his/her instrument and music before the end of the piece he/she does not play. Following the concert, orchestra members are to turn in all music and collect all belongings.

Ticket Sales -

WYSO welcome any assistance students, parents and friends of the orchestra can provide in ticket sales. For each ticket sold, 20% commission will be returned to the seller. These ticket sales, along with the annual fees, help cover the rental costs of the performance hall as well as rehearsal renting space.

Orchestral Music -

A practice folder and a performance folder with music will be provided to each member. Only the practice folder can be taken home for practice purposes. The performance

folder will be distributed to each member at the beginning of rehearsals and performances and will be collected by the WYSO manager or designated volunteers at the end. Members are **NOT ALLOWED** to take the performance folders home.

Members are responsible for marking their music with all instructions from the conductor. **MARK ONLY WITH PENCIL. NO PENS OR COLORED MARKERS ARE PERMITTED.** Music should **NEVER** be marked in ink. The student will be charged a fine for lost or damaged music. The fines will be set at the replacement costs of the music and any late charges assessed to WYSO for rental music. Members are not allowed to audition for the next season unless all fines are paid.

If a student loses their practice folder/music, WYSO charges \$1.00 per page for lost music. Due to the excessive amount of time and effort it takes to prepare every single part, it is important that students have a sense of responsibility concerning their music.

It is the responsibility of each student to inform the manager if the student has not received the music by the second day of rehearsals. Members are expected to practice the youth orchestra music between rehearsals. If a member repeatedly attends rehearsals unprepared, the conductor may choose to either replace the member or to change his/her seating position.

Summary of Expectations -

Once a student is accepted into the Walenstein Youth Symphony Orchestra, he/she will be expected to:

- Attend all rehearsals and concerts following the attendance guidelines.
- Take private lessons on your instrument.
- Arrive on time for all rehearsals and concerts, observing proper concert dress code.
- Take care of orchestra sheet music, mark only in pencil and return all music in good condition.
- Practice the music as well as music from private lessons at home or wherever applicable.
- Learn and work to improve your playing as much as possible during the season.
- Participate in all scheduled events.
- Participate in all fundraising activities, which will benefit the orchestras.

Disciplinary Action/Dismissal -

Disciplinary action may be taken for any of the following:

- Any behavior which continuously disrupts rehearsal or performance.
- Excessive absences: more than 6.
- Persistent tardiness: more than 6.

- Willful violation of stated orchestra rules or policies.
- Uncooperative attitude or failure by the musician to conduct himself/herself in an orderly manner at any function of their orchestra.
- Inadequate performance.
- Any behavior which harms another member of WSYO.

Prior to dismissal, the player shall be advised on at least two occasions of dissatisfaction with either his or her personal conduct or musical performance. The musician has the right to request a review committee. In the case of causing physical harm to another member of the orchestra, a warning will not be issued before dismissal.

If you have any questions about any of the items listed above, please feel free to contact us.