



Juneau Symphony Player Handbook

Introduction

The Juneau Symphony was formed in 1962 by music teacher Cliff Berge who wanted to make great music and share this gift with our community. The Symphony exists both for the musicians as well as our audience.

The mission of the Juneau Symphony is to give local musicians a platform to play, perform, and develop musically, to provide high quality, live symphonic music for the community, and to offer musical opportunities and support for youth.

Playing orchestral music at a high level takes hard work, discipline, and commitment. In order to make this a rewarding experience for everyone, players need to know what is expected of them and what they can expect in return from the symphony as an organization.

From the Music Director



Welcome, players, to the 2009-2010 Juneau Symphony Season.

This year promises to be a great season of music for the Juneau Symphony. Each of our four concerts will push us, but I am confident that we will turn out four great sets of performances, and we'll have a lot of fun doing it.

As an introduction to our newly revised player handbook/roster, I wanted to point out a few important things about this season:

1. Rehearsal and performance locations – Our rehearsal locations will continue to change from time to time. This is not capricious, though I know it can be a bit confusing at times. Because of scheduling conflicts at our various rehearsal spots, we are rarely able to do every rehearsal for a set in one location. I have been moving us away from the JDHS band room as much as possible. I know it is convenient in some ways, but we often have to move because of sports/music/drama conflicts,





and I feel that the sound in that room makes rehearsal very difficult and sometimes counterproductive. We are going to try to use the JACC again, and we will likely rehearse at DZ as well. We will try to minimize the moving of percussion equipment as much as possible.

In the fall, both of our performances will be in the new Thunder Mtn. Auditorium, so we are trying to get as much rehearsal time in the new performance space as possible. We will try to make sure you all know where rehearsals will be, well ahead of time.

2. Section leaders and rehearsal conductor – Todd will be leading the first three rehearsals for each set again this year. He will also be conducting several works throughout the year.

Section leaders will be doing recruiting, and they set up player assignments in consultation with me. If you are going to miss a rehearsal, we ask that you please let your section leader know so they can inform me or Todd.

3. Out-of-Town Players – Though the out-of-town player situation has not changed in years, there have been some questions about our policies relating to out-of-towners. This summer, the JSO convened an ad-hoc committee to draft up a policy statement (included in this handbook) to resolve these questions.

4. Player Relations Committee – If you have any concerns about our policies or specific issues that you wish to address, you may take them to the Player Relations Committee. You may also bring them to my attention, though I may refer you to the PRC if I feel that they should be addressed formally.

5. Spring/Family Concert – Scheduling for the season remains a real challenge, and we continue to be at the mercy of the school district. The only date we could get for our Spring Concert was April 3rd (the Saturday night before Easter). We realize that this could be hard on some of you who are involved in Holy Week activities, and we will try to work around your schedules. This also means that we cannot play a Sunday performance, so we're trying something new. We are going to do a Friday morning kids concert (as usual). Then, we will do our Fri-

day night rehearsal and a short Saturday mid-morning rehearsal. We will then play a short family concert on Saturday afternoon (around an hour) and our regular subscription concert on Saturday night. I know that this will mean a lot of playing for you in a short time, so I will try to adjust rehearsals to minimize the effort that weekend. I am excited to do the family concert, though, and I hope that we will reach a new audience.

A couple last random thoughts – we know that there have been communication issues in the past, and we are working very hard to get you as much information as possible. Val is very good at updating the website, so if you have a question about rehearsal times/locations/etc., you can always try the website first. Don't hesitate to call or email, also.

Each year has high points and challenges, but we have consistently grown as an orchestra over the last decade. We have lost from Juneau some of our long-time players, but we've had new folks join us, as well. It is my highest priority that we play wonderful concerts, but the process of getting to the performance is just as important to me as the concert. I will continue to strive to make our rehearsals informative, fun, interesting, and a lot of hard work. I know that Todd and our section leaders will also.

I look forward to the season, and I'll see you at the Symphony!

Kyle





Responsibilities of Players



1. Players are expected to attend all rehearsals. When absences are unavoidable, players should inform their section leader.
2. Players should be seated, warmed up and tuned by the time rehearsals are scheduled to begin.
3. Players are expected to practice between rehearsals and participate in sectional rehearsals as necessary.
4. Players are expected to dress appropriately for performances. Concert dress for men is a black tux (jacket required) or black pants and suit jacket with white shirt, black bow tie, black shoes & socks. For women it is an all black longish dress or black skirt/pants and black top, and black shoes. The conductor will announce any changes to concert dress at rehearsal.
5. While the Symphony does not assess dues, we hope that musicians will contribute financially to the symphony to the extent they are able. Asking of your time and talent seems more than enough, but like any other non-profit organization, the financial support of our members is appreciated.

Responsibilities of Section Leaders

Section leaders are assigned to sections in the orchestra as follows:

Winds (fl, ob, cl, bsn):	Kathryn Kurtz
Brass (Fr. hrn, trpt, tbn, tuba):	Bill Paulick
Percussion (excl. piano):	Rich Ritter
Violins/Violas:	Lisa Ibias
Cellos:	Jared Carlson
Basses:	John Staub





As leaders within the symphony, section leaders have additional responsibilities:

1. Section Leaders are asked to commit to an entire season, playing all concerts and rehearsals (except for excused absences).
2. Section Leaders determine who plays on which part, based on the player's abilities and input from the Music Director.
3. Section Leaders are responsible for convening and leading separate sectional rehearsals as needed to work on difficult technical passages, intonation, fingerings, and bowings.
4. String section leaders, in conjunction with the concertmaster, work out bowings prior to rehearsals, distribute them among their section, make changes as needed during rehearsals and make sure all section members are informed.

Responsibilities of the Music Director

1. The Music Director alone is responsible for all artistic decisions of the symphony, including programming.
2. The Music Director will determine the selection of principals and work with players and section leaders on seating assignments.

The Player Relations Committee

The Player Relations Committee addresses player-related issues and serves as liaison between players and the Music Director and Symphony Board. They welcome your comments and any concerns you may have. The 2009-2010 committee members are:

Kristin Garot, violin

Bill Paulick, horn

Jack Hodges, trombone

Liz Agnew, oboe

Mary Borthwick, percussion

Rich Ritter, percussion

Juneau Symphony Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the Symphony office?

522 W. 10th Street, downtown. We are in the basement of the Jensen Yorba Lott Architecture building near the corner of 10th and B streets. Our door is a few steps down from the street.

Can I get information about rehearsals, concerts and musician relevant stuff online?

Yes! Our website is www.juneausymphony.org and has lots of useful information. At the top of every page is a link just for you called "Musicians Page". The website is a constant work in progress and we'd be happy to hear your feedback.

When/Where is the next rehearsal?

The full rehearsal schedule for the year is posted on the Musicians Page of the website. In theory it will not change, but life happens. If there are any rehearsal changes you will be informed via email. Currently the rehearsal locations for the winter, spring and summer concerts are not complete because the Community Schools scheduler is very busy. The locations will be updated online as soon as possible.

Can I pick up the music yet?

Valerie sends out an email to all musicians when the music is ready. You can also look up the music status any time on the Musicians Page of the website. Underneath the rehearsal schedule is a list of the pieces we're playing and when they're expected to arrive at the office.

I can't make the next rehearsal. Who should I tell?

Your section leader.

What is the Symphony Showcase?

The Showcases are a chance for JSO musicians to perform chamber music of their choice at a smaller venue than JDHS. All JSO musicians are welcome to play, either solo or in an ensemble.

When does the board meet? Can I attend?

The next board meeting is posted on the homepage of the Symphony website on the left side of the page where it lists "Coming Events". Symphony members are welcome to attend and present ideas. If you'd like to present you should inform Valerie or the Board President.

What is concert dress?

Regular concert dress for women is a black dress, or black top and black skirt or pants, and black shoes. Dress for men is a white shirt, black tuxedo or black slacks and jacket, black bowtie and black shoes and socks.

Can I get a cd of the performance?

Musicians can purchase copies of the performance recordings the week prior to each concert. A volunteer will be at rehearsal taking CD orders. CDs usually cost \$15. The CDs will be available at the Symphony office a few weeks after the concerts. Valerie will contact you when they're ready.

I bought a cd a long time ago and never received it. Can I have it now?

Yes. There's a large backlog of unpicked up CDs at the office. Just call and see if we still have yours.

Boy that percussion equipment sure looks heavy. Do you need help moving it?

Yes! The percussion equipment (and sometimes the harp) need to be moved the Tuesday before each concert and on Sundays after the concert and Valerie could definitely use your help. It takes two people about half an hour to move the instruments.

Do musicians need to pay to play in the Symphony?

No, there is no fee to play, but you might consider that it takes a lot of money to provide music, rehearsal space, performance space, a conductor, percussion instruments and administrative support for each concert. All donations are welcome.

I haven't gotten a Symphony email in a while. Am I still on the list?

Probably. If you've changed your email recently you might want to check with Valerie to see what email address she has on file. You should be receiving infrequent emails that are relevant to all musicians. If you are not playing the upcoming concert you will not receive emails related to that concert. Valerie creates a smaller list of musicians playing in each concert and sends things like rehearsal announcements to them.

Juneau Symphony Frequently Asked Questions Continued...

I came to the office and no one was there. What gives?

Valerie's general office hours are 10am-5pm Monday-Friday, but the day is filled with errands that need to be run. Valerie leaves the office to do things like pick up the mail, eat lunch, move tympani around, etc... If you plan to stop by, it's wise to call ahead and let Valerie know so she can make sure to be there for you. If your schedule does not allow you to come to the Symphony office between 10 and 5, call anyway and we'll work something out.

Who are the "out of town players" and why are they here?

The following statement was drafted by committee in the summer of 2009:

"The Juneau Symphony aspires to challenge its players to improve technically and as an ensemble, and to give the audience an enjoyable concert experience. As a group of musicians, we want to play well, and we want to have fun.

Playing in the Symphony

Q: Who decides who plays?

A: The conductor, in consultation with the section leaders and principals.

Q: Why didn't I get called for this concert?

A: Many factors determine who will play in a particular concert, first and foremost, the demands of the music. The scoring dictates how many players we need, and the difficulty of the music informs which players we need.

Q: Wouldn't you rather use a local player?

A: Yes, but it is not always possible. The conductor always tries to use a local player if we have one who is available and capable of playing the part as it needs to be played. We bring in out of town players only as needed. In the wind, brass, and percussion sections, where everyone is a soloist, this sometimes means using an out of town player instead of a local player. The string sections, by contrast, have multiple players on a part. This allows us to accommodate larger numbers of local players having a wider variation in technical skills. Nonetheless, we almost always have a shortage of local string play-

ers, and bringing in out of town players helps tremendously in developing a fuller string sound.

Q: Does the Juneau Symphony pay people to play?

A: No. However, in addition to paying for plane tickets, the symphony provides a fixed "travel expense offset" of \$250 to all out of town players to assist with the costs they may incur traveling to Juneau to play in the Juneau Symphony. For players who do not attend the Thursday rehearsal the travel expense offset will be \$200. Those costs vary from player to player and may include everything from airport parking to coffee and sustenance in Juneau to loss of income, but are generally believed to exceed the amount of the travel expense offset. The Board believes that many of the out-of-town players would not choose to participate without the travel expense offset. The travel expense offset is not intended to offset costs that all musicians incur to play (instrument, lessons, reeds, etc.).

Q: What about local players?

A: The Symphony recognizes that our local players also have expenses related to playing in the Juneau Symphony, from child care and transportation to lost income. We do not want these expenses to prevent our players from participating in the orchestra. On rare occasions, the Symphony has provided need-based financial assistance on a case by case basis. If you are a local player facing an expense that will otherwise prevent you from playing a particular concert, please contact the Player Relations Committee Chairperson, currently Kristen Garot, about applying for need-based assistance. The Symphony will not provide dollar-for-dollar reimbursement for expenses for local players or out of town players. However, it will consider providing a partial expense offset to a local player in exceptional circumstances."

I have more Symphony questions that haven't been answered yet.

When in doubt contact the office and ask Valerie. She might not have your answer on hand but she'll know who to ask. You can reach the office at 586-4676, info@juneausymphony.org, or val@juneausymphony.org.



Odds and Ends

Photos

Occasionally the Symphony takes photos of performers for the archives and for use in marketing materials. If you do not want your face to appear in marketing materials or on the website please tell the Executive Director.

Complimentary Tickets

All performers for any given concert will receive one comp ticket good for either the Saturday or Sunday performance. The tickets are distributed by a volunteer at the Thursday and Friday night rehearsals prior to concerts. Please do not ask the volunteer for extra comps. If you have been promised extra comp tickets for some reason, they will come from the Executive Director.

Anyone who houses a visiting out-of-town musician or conductor will receive two additional comp tickets from the Executive Director.

Music Distribution

The music folders are generally assembled and ready for distribution about 2 weeks before the first rehearsal. The Executive Director sends an email out to all musicians when the music is ready. Some music will arrive early and be available before the folders are assembled. Rental music never arrives early because the standard rental period is 6 weeks. If you would like to start practicing early, call the office and ask what music is in.

Music Return

All music must be returned immediately after the last performance of a concert. There will be a return box in the warm up room for music folders and parts. It is imperative that music be returned on time to avoid late fees for rental music. Please erase any extraneous pencil marks (including cuts) before you return your music. Bowings, fingerings and corrections are okay.

Juneau Symphony Infraction List

Talking during tuning	\$10
Talking during tuning, then asking "Did we tune yet?"	\$100
Practicing concerto during warm up	\$50
Playing Irish Jigs during warm up	Exile
Obtrusive Foot Tapping	Stubbed Toes
Audible Counting followed by screw up and expletive	\$100
Late entrance	\$10
Pretending to retune instrument after screw up	\$75
Pretending to check transposition/bowing after screw up	\$150
Asking where letter D is after 3 hour dress rehearsal	Buys lunch for Cond.
Playing off two measures after conductor stops	\$50
Playing "Shave and a Haircut" after conductor stops	Two Bits
Use of tacky glissando instead of chromatic (except Trombone)	Sliding Scale
Belching/farting/booger flicking (except Viola)	\$25
Noisy reed sucking/spit valve clearing	Public Caning
Disagreeing with Conductor	\$1
Excessive agreeing with Conductor	\$100
Telling section how Bernstein conducted passage	\$150
Name dropping to impress guest soloist	2 days solitary in Pit
Telling Lengthy Anecdotes About Famous Musician (First Hand)	\$50
Telling Lengthy Anecdotes About Famous Musician (Second Hand)	\$100
Pencil dropped on stand loudly	Broken index finger
Relating passage to TV/Movie theme	Current cable rate
Repeated use of Star Trek analogy	Deep Space Nine marathon
Overpowering perfume on stage	See Tuba Player for new fragrance
Leaving trail of drool from stage (Brass)	\$15
Leaving trail of drool from stage (Strings)	\$100
Leaving trail of drool from stage (Conductor)	Call 911
Sneaking rental music from previous concert into	5 hours library duty
Reading Harlequin Romance during tacet	Therapy
Unnecessarily Obvious Insertion of Earplugs	\$15
Suggesting <i>Riverdance</i> for Pops concert	Expulsion
Hoarding strawberries at reception	\$5.36
Repeated mention of upcoming Hawaii/Mexico trip	25,000 AlaskaAir miles
Forwarding "Funny" Email to Other Musicians	Lifetime supply of Spam