



Board of Directors / Orchestra Policies and Practices (2007/2008)

Membership Requirements. According to the orchestra by-laws, “Any musician who has been accepted by the conductor and who pays his or her dues each segment shall be a member.” In general, membership is open to all adult instrumentalists possessing the skills necessary to perform standard orchestral literature. Formal auditions are not required. Members are responsible for attending rehearsals and for practicing at home as required to perform the music. Members are responsible for the condition of their music and for returning it promptly at the conclusion of each concert.

Dues. Members pay \$18.00 dues per concert. Dues are to be paid to the membership oversight Board member, either by segment or for the entire season. Failure to pay dues by the third rehearsal of the following concert segment will result in the member being ineligible to play until dues are paid. Dues for regular playing members may not be waived. If paying dues constitutes a financial hardship, members may contact any Board member to apply for a Meir Bernstein fellowship for that segment’s dues.

Openings and Seating.

Strings: Open so long as there is room on stage, subject to conductor approval. First-stand players stay as is per conductor choice; further seating is by tenure, player/section leader/conductor choice.

Woodwinds, brass: Closed when the maximum number of parts is covered. Seating is by tenure, player/conductor agreement.

Percussion: Open so long as there is room and need. Section leader is by conductor choice; part assignment is by section leader and conductor choice.

Attendance. Consistent attendance at rehearsals is important both for individual players and for the ensemble as a whole. Members are expected to attend *all* rehearsals if possible. Please inform the section leader or conductor in advance of known absence.

Other Responsibilities and Opportunities.

Fund-raising. The orchestra is supported by membership dues, audience donations, and business/corporate donations and sponsorships. In the fall, the Board member responsible for fund-raising provides handouts and other materials to orchestra members so that they can make appropriate contacts and requests for funding. For instance, many businesses will make donations to organizations supported by their employees and patrons. Sponsors contributing \$25.00 or more per season are acknowledged in the concert programs.

Financial Aid. The Meir Bernstein Foundation makes fellowships available to help with orchestra-related expenses for members with special financial needs. Board members may be contacted for further information.