

Cypress Symphonic Band Membership Policy

The purpose of the Cypress Symphonic Band is twofold:

- To provide amateur musicians with lifelong learning opportunities and the pleasure of playing to improve musicianship and performance skill.
- To educate and enrich the community by providing cultural awareness through symphonic band repertoire.

Membership shall be open to anyone who plays a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument, regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, or sexual orientation. There will only be one class of member. No member shall hold more than one membership in the Corporation. Except as expressly provided in or authorized by the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws of this Corporation, or provisions of law, all memberships shall have the same rights, privileges, restrictions, and conditions. These shall be the right to vote in the annual meeting of members, as well as obtaining nominations and election to the Board of Directors or any committee thereof.

To be considered a member, one must attend three (3) rehearsals and provide contact information. Membership will be conferred automatically after the third rehearsal.

To remain a member in good standing, one must:

- Attend rehearsals regularly.
- Commit to perform in all scheduled concerts, or have an excused absence.
- Pay annual dues in full, if dues are set by the Board of Directors. Dues may be prorated at the discretion of the board of directors.
- High school age members should have written consent from parents and their school band director.

Member Responsibilities

Joining Band

Anyone wishing to join the Cypress Symphonic Band must first contact the membership chairperson (membership@cypresssymphonicband.org) via email. As certain sections of the band may be at ideal capacity, a potential member may be placed on a waiting list until a space becomes available.

A musician who is considering joining the band will be required to meet with a member of the Board of Directors, a section leader, and the music director who will ascertain by discussion an impression of the potential member's skill level and preference for voice within the section. At their first three rehearsals, the musician will be asked to sit next to the section leader so that the section leader may listen to determine the musician's strengths and weaknesses and to decide placement

within the section. Digital links to sheet music will be provided. The band maintains a folder for guests to use for the first visit, but it may not be taken home.

Practice

Regular practice is encouraged and expected. As musicians, we never progress to a level where we no longer benefit from practice. To maintain the quality and skill level of the Cypress Symphonic Band, every member must make a commitment to continue to practice.

Practice is to be done outside of rehearsal. It is disrespectful to other members of the band to only practice during the time allocated each week for rehearsal.

It is expected that members will attain proficiency with all music for scheduled performances. This will require practice outside of rehearsal and may also include section rehearsals. During practice, members should work on difficult or troublesome passages within the music in order to prepare for rehearsal. Members should play smart – know when to play and when not to play in order to avoid obvious mistakes that may affect the quality of a performance.

Rehearsal

Rehearsal time is not practice time. The purpose of a rehearsal is to learn everyone else's part, not one's own.

The Cypress Symphonic Band rehearses weekly on Tuesday evenings beginning at 7:00. Rehearsal time for each concert is limited. Members are expected to arrive at rehearsal by 7:00 pm for announcements, general housekeeping, and section meetings. Members should be seated and have their instruments and music ready for the downbeat of a structured warm-up at 7:15. Each member should arrive with enough time allotted to set up and be seated by the 7:15 downbeat.

Regular practice is important in order for each rehearsal to be as productive and efficient as possible. Practice and familiarity with the music for a scheduled performance is part of being sufficiently prepared for each rehearsal.

A member's actions during rehearsal impact every member of the band. Talking or playing while the conductor is addressing the band is not only disruptive but also makes it difficult for other members to hear important information. Talking should be kept to an absolute minimum, and every member is expected to pay attention to the conductor's instructions. Cell phones should be set to silent, and any necessary phone calls should be taken outside the rehearsal space. Please refrain from sending text messages or video calls during rehearsal.

Equipment

Please take time before each rehearsal to determine what equipment you will need to bring with you, such as reeds, mutes, swabs, etc – as well as your printed music and your own stand. Keep your instrument in good repair and change reeds often. There are several people in the band who are

qualified to evaluate your instrument for free. Please utilize them before your instrument becomes unplayable.

Sheet music is to be printed at home. Links to downloadable PDF files will be sent out via email. It is your responsibility to prepare your own folder. If you are unable to print your own music, please notify your section leader prior to rehearsal so that copies can be printed for you.

The folders in the solid color music boxes are for guests only. They do not go home with anyone and they are not to be used if you forget your music. The clear storage boxes may only be accessed by the librarian and assistants.

Concerts

The concert schedule is released in advance of the first rehearsal of the season. Please mark the dates in your calendar and plan vacations accordingly. Notify your section leader of any conflicts as soon as possible. If you know you cannot perform at a particular concert, you are welcome to continue to attend rehearsals. However, as a courtesy to the ensemble, please sit out the last two rehearsals before a concert.

Call time is generally an hour before the concert. You are expected to be in your seat and ready to play as a group, having done your individual warm up prior to call time.

The dress for all concerts is formal concert black, with the exception of the patriotic concert in the summer. Men should be in black – not grey or blue – tuxedos with white shirts, black bowties, black socks, and black shoes. A black suit is also acceptable when paired with an appropriate white shirt and black bowtie. Women should wear either all black (including black hose or socks and black closed-toe shoes) or a women's tuxedo. Avoid distracting accessories or jewelry.

For the patriotic concert, we wear our green band polo shirts with khaki pants and appropriate (closed-toe) shoes.

Women should also consider the appropriate level of modesty when deciding what to wear. Skirts should be at ankle length. Formal black tops should have $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves or longer. No short sleeves or sleeveless tops will be permitted for the concert black attire.

What we wear makes an impression, and we want to present ourselves as professionally as possible. The point of a dress code is to be uniform in appearance – we want the audience to focus on the music we make, not on our wardrobe. Expect a reminder from a board member if you forget to dress for a concert according to these guidelines. The board of directors reserves the right to dismiss you from a performance if your attire is inappropriate.

Methods of Communication

The band prefers to communicate with members and send out announcements and reminders through email. All members of the band will be required to fill out an annual information sheet with

current contact information at the start of each season. It is the responsibility of the member to notify the band secretary and section leader of any changes of address, email and telephone number.

Leaves of Absence

There comes a time when a band member may request a leave of absence to take care of medical or personal issues. Please notify your section leader and a member of the board of directors at least one month in advance, if possible, except in the case of an emergency. A member's specific chair placement is not guaranteed upon return from the leave of absence. If an extended leave of absence crosses three performances, the member's position in the band is not guaranteed.

Leaving the Band

If you are leaving the band permanently, contact your section leader well in advance and provide an intended last rehearsal date. Please make every effort possible to find another musician to replace you. Any band-owned music or equipment must be returned to the band prior to leaving.