

TYO Seating Policy

To create the best possible learning environment and musical experience for each student, TYO Section Coaches, in collaboration with the ensemble directors, thoughtfully place developing musicians throughout all areas of string sections. Every seating position offers unique learning opportunities, and all students contribute meaningfully to our ensemble's success. Seating arrangements are designed to foster peer mentorship, balanced learning experiences, and continued musical growth for every member of our orchestra.

Section Assignment: Ensemble directors will determine the distribution between violins at the first rehearsal of each concert cycle. Directors work to create balanced sections where students can both learn from and support their peers, ensuring that every section benefits from a mix of experience levels and musical strengths.

String Seating Auditions: During selected sectionals of every concert cycle, **all string students** will participate in brief musical assessments using excerpts from their current concert repertoire. These assessments help directors understand each student's current development and learning needs. One week before the audition, the Executive Director will release the excerpts online for student preparation.

Ongoing Adjustments: Directors may adjust seating arrangements at any point during the concert cycle to:

- Optimize learning opportunities for individual students
- Support overall ensemble balance and success
- Respond to students' musical growth and development
- Address specific pedagogical goals

Evaluation Criteria: Seating decisions are based on observable factors, including:

- Musical preparation and practice consistency
- Technical development appropriate to the student's level
- Positive contribution to the rehearsal environment
- Demonstration of effort and musical growth
- Ability to support section and ensemble goals

Growth and Development: Directors are committed to providing feedback that helps students understand how they can continue developing as musicians. Students are encouraged to view every position as a valuable opportunity to develop various musical skills, including leadership and mentoring, as well as focused technique development and ensemble listening.

Communication: If you have questions or concerns about seating, please direct them **first** to your child's ensemble director, who can provide specific feedback on their musical development and learning goals. If you still have concerns after speaking with the ensemble director, please get in touch with the Director of Education.

Remember: Every chair in our orchestra is essential to creating beautiful music together. We celebrate each student's unique contributions and are committed to supporting their continued growth as musicians and ensemble members.