**FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions**

What ages can participate?

* Any student who is age 13-21 may participate. Younger students are eligible based on teacher recommendation and instructor discretion. For students who are not quite ready for youth orchestra we have our [String Sinfonietta](http://www.fayettevillesymphony.org/after-school-string-program/) program which may be a better fit.

What instruments are involved?

* Any student who plays one or more of these instruments may participate: Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion.

Does it matter what school I attend?

* Nope! FSYO is open to any and all students who are interested whether you attend public or private school, or are home-schooled.

Do I need to live in Fayetteville to participate?

* No. FSYO is open to any student who lives in the greater southeastern North Carolina area. This includes, but is not limited to, Cumberland, Ft. Bragg, Moore, Hoke, Scotland, Robeson, Sampson, Bladen, Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, Duplin, Onslow, Wayne, Johnston, and Harnett counties.

Is an audition required?

* A seating audition is required at the beginning of the year in order to accurately place you in an ensemble, however you will not be turned away from participating in the program. All participants will be placed in two ensembles. If a seating audition is not completed, you will be placed in the back of your section.

If I participate in FSYO, will I be able to play in all the ensembles?

* Concert Band is limited to Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion participants only, and String Orchestra is limited to Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass participants only, but you will be placed in at least one of these ensembles depending on your instrument. Orchestra placement is by audition ; all students will be placed in one of our orchestra ensembles.

I'm a saxophone player and I know there isn't a lot of music available for saxophone in Full Orchestra - will I still be eligible to participate in Orchestra, or just Concert Band?

* You will be able to participate in Orchestra so long as you have completed a seating audition. We will be selecting repertoire so that you will be able to participate in orchestra.

Do I need to be a member of my school band or orchestra in order to participate?

* It is highly encouraged that students who participate in FSYO participate in their school music program as well. If your school does not offer a music program, then this requirement is waived.

I'm in my school's marching band, and we have a lot of practices during the fall which might make it hard for me to participate in FSYO. Can I still participate in FSYO if I have to miss a few rehearsals due to marching band conflicts? Or should I wait until the spring?

* Though we understand the marching band season is a big school commitment during the fall, we still expect musicians wanting to participate in FSYO to attend what they can in the fall if they are in their school's marching band. We prefer not to have students join mid-year. FSYO rehearsals are scheduled on Sundays in order to avoid most marching band conflicts and many other school commitments. We are willing to work with each student individually, on a case-by-case basis, to figure out the best solution so that they can continue to participate in both. Should a musician have concerns regarding this matter, please have them discuss with the FSYO Director at their earliest convenience.

When and where are the rehearsals ?

* Rehearsals will be held on Sundays at Fayetteville Academy (3200 Cliffdale Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28303). Concert Band rehearses from 4pm-4:50pm, String Orchestra rehearses from 4pm-4:50pm, and Orchestra rehearsals are from 5pm-6pm.

How many concerts does the youth orchestra perform in a season?

* At least three concerts a season: a winter concert in December and a spring concert in May, as well as a side-by-side concert with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra.

Where do I park for rehearsals?

* You should park in the Fayetteville Academy parking lot directly off Morganton Rd.

What is the attendance policy?

* Attendance to all rehearsals and concerts is required. Absences are only excused in the event of an illness, family emergency, school conflict, or for religious reasons. However, please note that missing too many rehearsals in a given semester could cause your continued participation in the program to be under review. Participation in a music program is very much like a sport in that it's a team game and we need all players present as much as possible. Should you miss more than 3 rehearsals in any given semester, whether excused or unexcused, your status in the program may be under review at the Director's discretion.

How much does FSYO cost?

* Tuition for the 2019-2020 school year is $250. There is a 10% early bird discount until July 1, 2019.

When is the application fee and tuition paid?

* Tuition is due no later than October 1st. Installment plans are available if you prefer to pay the remaining tuition in 2 installments.

Is financial aid available?

* Yes. Please indicate on the application form if you would like to be considered for Financial Aid and send your most recent year's tax return to

Deborah Teasley, President/CEO, at [dteasley@fayettevillesymphony.org](dteasley%40fayettevillesymphony.org) . Financial aid is limited and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

What happens if I don't pay the tuition on time?

* Failure to pay tuition by the appropriate deadlines will result in you being dismissed from the program until tuition is paid.

Can I pay the tuition in installments?

* Yes, we offer a non-negotiable installment plan at the beginning of the year. The plan allows you to pay tuition in 2 installments.