



“Bringing Great Music To Hometown Audiences”

Player Information Book



The Ozark Festival Orchestra, Southwest Missouri's premier community orchestra, has been self-sustaining since 1980. Approximately 55 musicians from the Tri-State area, ranging in age from 15 to 80+, perform great works of classical, pop, and patriotic music at 4 concerts per year. Our musicians share the joy of making music together and are dedicated to providing quality, affordable symphonic performances for all residents of Monett, Southwest Missouri and beyond. Our orchestra is comprised of community members, physicians, retirees, students, teachers, and other professionals; some who have been performing with the OFO for over 40 years. Many members have performed with and taught at major national orchestras and universities. Additionally, we promote youth and local talent through our annual Young Artist Concerto Competition. We also continue to develop relationships with the local community by promoting local and youth talent, highlight artistry within our own membership, and enrich our community by bringing "Great Music to a Hometown Audience."

Ozark Festival Orchestra Player Information

Purpose

The purpose of our player information guide is to assure that every musician has an understanding of the OFO and will have a fulfilling and fun experience while making music. Mutual respect and cooperation is key to fulfill this purpose.

Membership

1. No formal playing auditions are required to join the OFO. However, all interested musicians maybe asked questions relating to their playing experience and asked to “sit in” on a few rehearsals before becoming a member. It is important members are comfortable with the skill level required.
2. A high school level playing ability and beyond is preferred but is at the discretion of the Music Director in certain situations. To participate comfortably and successfully, the musician must be able to read music and must understand the fundamentals of their instrument.
3. All members are asked to prepare and be able to play their part at rehearsals to the best of their ability.

4. Once a membership request has been accepted, a member remains a member as long as they are able and an effective member of the OFO.

5. Any member who is not going to be returning to the OFO is asked to let the Music Director know as soon as possible.

Limitations on Membership

1. Orchestral playing requires one person on a part in the brass and woodwind sections. The music director will make any/all decisions, with advisement from Principal players, regarding doubling if necessary, to maintain balance and optimize the effectiveness of our orchestra.

2. Persons interested in playing, if there are no vacancies, can be placed on a waiting list.

3. At this time there are no limitations in our string section. The more the merrier!

Responsibilities of Members

1. All members shall make every effort to attend all rehearsals/performances. This is for the benefit of rehearsal effectiveness and consideration of our ensemble, as all members are vital to our success. You matter!

2. Members shall cooperate with the Principal Player of their section and promote a positive environment for all who participate.

3. Members are expected to come to rehearsals having prepared their music and numbered the measures so we may focus on coordination, interpretation and ensemble balance and blend.

4. Members are asked to follow the dress code for concerts. (View Dress Code)

5. Members are required to turn in all music after each concert.

6. Members should address any concerns to the Music Director. To keep rehearsals effective and ensure we retain a comfortable environment for all, it is important that concerning matters be addressed appropriately and in a timely manner. If the concerns are not handled by the Music Director, the OFO Board President should be consulted.

Attendance

1. Members are expected to make every reasonable effort to attend all rehearsals (Every Tuesday 7-9 pm, Six weeks prior to the concert) and dress rehearsals/concerts. A complete

rehearsal and concert schedule will be provided at the beginning of each concert season.

2. The dress rehearsal, Saturday before the concert, is imperative/mandatory. Please speak to the Music Director if there is a conflict.

3. Members are asked to notify the conductor/principal player when missing a rehearsal so replacements can be made if necessary.

4. The music director will keep attendance records.

5. A member may withdraw from any concert without jeopardizing future eligibility. Early notification of a decision not to play a concert is appreciated. Contact the Conductor.

Rehearsal Cancellation Due to Weather

1. If the Monett School District cancels school due to inclement weather, we will not hold rehearsal that evening.

2. To notify all members, an email will be sent to all musicians, as well as a posting on our FaceBook page and our website.

Dress Code for Concerts

1. Women and Men will wear all black unless specified.
2. All shirts should have sleeves, preferred long, but mid-arm is fine. No sleeveless shirts or spaghetti straps please.
3. Pants/Skirts should be floor length. No jeans. No shorts/skirts above the knee.
4. We have an OFO Polo shirt which can be purchased at the beginning of the season. These may be worn on selected performances. (Members aren't required to buy one-a plain black polo is acceptable.)

Mileage

1. All members who come more than 30 miles one way will be eligible for mileage reimbursement.
2. All members will be asked to fill out a mileage form and must submit that to the treasurer at the dress rehearsal before each concert. This form cannot be emailed. Reimbursement checks are given on concert day.
3. The formula for mileage is \$.50 per mile, subtracting 60 miles from the round-trip mileage, for each rehearsal/

concert you attend. There is a cap of \$300 for mileage expenses per concert series.

4. Those who wish take less than what is due by donating it back to the OFO can request a receipt from the treasurer showing their donation. This generosity is greatly appreciated.

Fill-In Musicians

1. Fill-in musicians are acquired ONLY if parts can't be covered by our members or for sections of our orchestra that need more support. They are at the discretion of the Music Director.

2. Fill-In Musicians are paid \$50 per service, for up to 3 services, and not eligible for mileage reimbursement for any service they are paid. Any service they attend beyond the 3 paid services, they will be eligible for mileage reimbursement. (Attending more than 3 services is preferred and encouraged!)

3. Fill-In String Leadership: the OFO has a rich history in maintaining strong leadership in the string sections, with the goal of having a primary player in each section at all rehearsals. Those players will be chosen by the Music

Director, with compensation to be set by the board if necessary.

4. If membership increases and there is not a need for a Fill-In player, they will be notified before the concert series begins.

Fundraising

1. Donations/sponsors are necessary for the continuation of OFO. Any member who wishes to help with this should contact the OFO Board President for more information.

2. Members are asked to participate in the last concert of the year, which is the annual Pie Supper/Silent Auction, by donating/baking pies and/or providing items for the silent auction.

Voluntary Support

1. The time and talent of our musicians is greatly appreciated. Members are also encouraged to provide non-musical support if possible. Examples include:

- help set-up and remove chairs/stands before/after rehearsal/concert
- help set-up percussion equipment

- help distribute flyers/posters
- promote concerts on social media, with friends and family
- donate pies/silent auction items at the last concert which is also a fundraising event.
- taking photos at rehearsals, concerts, receptions and sending to the music director for our website/social media pages.

Governance

The OFO is governed by the Board of Directors and our By-Laws. We are a 501 (c) nonprofit organization.

Contact Information:

Website: www.ozarkfestivalorchestra.org

Email: ozarkfestivalorchestra@gmail.com

Facebook: ozarkfestivalorchestra

