



## **Akron Youth Symphony School Participation Policy**

The Akron Youth Symphony (AYS) requires all musicians enrolled in schools with music programs to participate in their school instrumental or vocal music programs.

This is an important statement of support for school music programs, which serve a broad range of students with varying levels of ability. We expect our Akron Youth Symphony musicians to participate in, and be leaders of, those school programs. Your participation is an important part of the success of those programs.

In addition, we intend to support your development as a musician by requiring that you participate in an ensemble playing as often as possible. One rehearsal a week is insufficient for the development of excellent ensemble skills.

### **Why students need to participate in school programs:**

- AYS should serve as a supplement to, not a replacement for, music in the schools.
- School fine arts programs are being cut or reduced all across the country. When top students leave the programs, performance levels suffer, adding fuel to the fire that music programs should be cut. Strong participation from AYS musicians shows continued support for school programs.
- Without school music instruction, most of the professional musicians in this area (and around the country) would not be where they are today.
- We rely on directors to encourage students to audition and to recommend students to help fill vacancies in our sections.
- If we want the schools to support us, we need to support the schools.

**The School Ensemble Participation Form will be sent to accepted musicians, and must be completed and returned with the other AYS Forms.** AYS tuition fees are nonrefundable once all Commitment Forms have been submitted. We thank you for adhering to our School Participation Policy.