

2017–18 Season GTCYS Attendance Policy

All GTCYS members are expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts. Consistent attendance at rehearsals, dress rehearsals, retreats, and concerts is essential to GTCYS' educational and musical quality. **Remember, consistent rehearsal attendance benefits not only you, but also your orchestra**, since practicing at home is about learning your part, and rehearsals are about learning everyone else's part.

Students are allowed two absences per concert cycle:

- **2 ABSENCES** from the first rehearsal in September through the December concert
- **2 ABSENCES** from the first rehearsal in January through the February/March concert
- **2 ABSENCES** from the first rehearsal after the February/March concert to the May 6 Spring Festival Concert

Special circumstances:

- In the event that a school band or orchestra concert conflicts with a GTCYS activity, students should prioritize their school ensemble commitment and report the conflict to GTCYS as soon as they are aware. Students should still make every effort not to exceed two absences per concert cycle, including absences for school band or orchestra.
- In the event of injuries which prevent GTCYS musicians from playing their instruments, it is still beneficial to attend rehearsals to observe and learn even if they cannot play.

Dress Rehearsals and Concerts:

- **Dress rehearsals are mandatory:** Missing a dress rehearsal may result in not being permitted to perform in the concert.
- **Attendance at every concert is mandatory.** If you anticipate missing a concert, you must notify GTCYS as soon as you are aware of the conflict. Missing a concert may lead to suspension or dismissal from GTCYS without refund.

Retreats

- The fall and winter retreats are mandatory, and the retreat fee is non-refundable. Dates are listed on the orchestra schedules: see links below.

Sectionals

- Because of the individualized instruction provided, students should make every effort to be present on sectional nights. Dates are listed on the orchestra schedules: see links below.

Seating Auditions (Concertino, Camerata, Concert Orchestra, Philharmonic, and Symphony):

- Because seating auditions take place on designated rehearsal nights, attendance is especially important on those evenings. See the seating policy in your orchestra's handbook for details regarding missed seating auditions.

Orchestra Calendars for Reference

- [Philharmonia East Calendar](#)
- [Philharmonia West Calendar](#)
- [Sinfonia Calendar](#)
- [Concertino Calendar](#)
- [Camerata Calendar](#)
- [Concert Orchestra Calendar](#)
- [Philharmonic Calendar](#)
- [Symphony Calendar](#)

How to report an absence:

1. Fill out the online absence form as soon as you are aware of any absence. Absence forms are listed below and are also posted on the "Member Resources" section of GTCYS' orchestra webpages.
 - [Philharmonia East Absence Form](#)
 - [Philharmonia West Absence Form](#)
 - [Sinfonia Absence Form](#)
 - [Concertino Absence Form](#)
 - [Camerata Absence Form](#)
 - [Concert Orchestra Absence Form](#)
 - [Philharmonic Absence Form](#)
 - [Symphony Absence Form](#)
2. For a last-minute absence (family emergency, illness, etc.) call the attendance line at **651.602.6801** at least 30 minutes before your rehearsal begins, then fill out the online absence form as soon as possible.

Consequences:

- If you reach the absence limit for your concert period, you will receive a reminder from the GTCYS office informing you that you have reached the limit and are not allowed any more absences for that concert period.
- If you then exceed the excused absence limit, you will receive a notice from the GTCYS office informing you that you are now ineligible for GTCYS activities until the beginning of the next concert period. No refunds will be issued in this situation. In special circumstances, conductors may make exceptions to the attendance policy, and may require students who have exceeded their allowed absences to perform excerpts from the current concert repertoire to demonstrate their preparedness despite their absences. Please contact GTCYS Program Manager Miranda Bryan at miranda@gtcys.org with questions.

Promptness:

- All musicians must be in the room and seated at least 15 minutes before the beginning of each rehearsal. During that time, musicians should set up instruments and stands, warm up, tune, and should be ready for the conductor to take the podium by the listed rehearsal/event start time.
- Three tardies or early departures will count as one absence.

What if there is bad weather? Cancellations are very rare—please assume a GTCYS activity will continue unless you hear otherwise.

In the event of weather which might result in dangerous conditions, GTCYS will send an email to GTCYS families and post the notification on www.gtcys.org and GTCYS' Facebook page. Decisions regarding cancellations will be made by 3:00pm. It is parents' responsibility to check their email and GTCYS' website for an announcement.