



Long Island Youth Orchestra

Scott J. Dunn Music Director and Conductor

Player Responsibilities

Be On Time. On time means in your chair, ready to play, 10-15 minutes before the downbeat. If you prefer to arrive earlier to warm up, or warm up elsewhere before rehearsal, you should be mentally and physically ready to play on time, every time.

Prepare. It is each player's responsibility to learn his/her own part. This includes: notes, rhythms, articulations, bowings, transpositions, etc., as well as *all musical terms written in your part*. (There are some terrific musical dictionaries online, or you can purchase a small Italian, German and French dictionary) Everything you see printed in front of you is your job to learn. Please do not come to rehearsals to learn your part.

Listening. A huge part of your preparation, in addition to your personal practice session, should be devoted to listening, especially at your age. Listen to the piece you are preparing, both while looking at your part, and also without your part. Listen to several recordings of different orchestras and different conductors. You will not only learn your part better, but gain a conceptual understanding of the style in which the music should be played. Listen, as well, to great players on your instrument. Model your sound after their sounds. All great artists began by copying other great artists. Listening to great music, not just what we are preparing for a concert, should become part of your lifestyle, forever.

Working Rehearsals. Rehearsals should be disciplined, focused and efficient. The purpose of a rehearsal is not to learn your part, but to learn everybody else's part by listening. Make sure you have a **pencil**. There will, of course, be times when you are not playing. Stay involved in the rehearsal process, even when it does not directly involve you. Often, material and concepts being addressed will apply to you later. Many of you are aspiring musicians. If that is the case, purchase or print out full scores for the pieces we are playing and follow along when you are not playing. This experience is invaluable. Please avoid socializing and distracting players around you, or worse, distracting me from working. Making friends and building relationships through music is an *enormous* part of what we do, and why you're here. But there is an appropriate time and place – before and after rehearsals, and during the break.

Cell Phones (texting). Cell phone communication during rehearsals is not allowed. *Don't do it.* Not only does it prevent you from playing/concentrating/counting, it gives your conductor the impression that you do not care. If a critically important call or text is received during rehearsal, and you must take the call or return the text, please excuse yourself from rehearsal and tend to your personal business. Even better, turn your cell phone off during rehearsal.

Ensemble. The success of the orchestra is every member's responsibility. We will be successful if we are individually and collectively prepared, focused, positive, happy, diligent, dedicated and passionate. Our group should feel like a "family", and you should take it upon yourself to be an important member of the LIYO "family". Morale is critical for success. The orchestra, even with the greatest players, won't necessarily become great. We must be great individual players and committed orchestral musicians.

You have my word that I will prepare these scores to the best of my ability. I will learn them inside and out, and bring my best technique, musicianship and personality to the podium every day. The music demands it, and you deserve it.

- Scott J. Dunn Music Direct and Conductor