

Houston Symphonic Band Policies

How We Operate

We appreciate your dedication to HSB and want you to participate!

Since the band has pretty much recovered from the pandemic's impact, it is time to remind everyone of our band policies.

Attendance

Regular attendance is important. It's difficult to have productive rehearsals when you are absent, and we just don't sound the same without you. We will be tracking attendance for performance eligibility and in case a facility requests this information for security reasons.

- *For any given concert cycle, you may have 2 absences.*
 - We encourage you not to miss the last two regular rehearsals before a concert.
 - If you anticipate a conflict, discuss it with Fred and your Section Leader ahead of time.
 - Please come to rehearsals even if you can't make a concert. We want you to continue playing. You'll just skip the dress rehearsal.
- *Dress Rehearsals are mandatory.* Please talk with Fred if you can't make a dress rehearsal.
- *Section Leaders will take roll about 10 minutes after rehearsal begins.*
- *Use the Band App to Join or Decline a rehearsal date each week.* This helps the setup crew better prepare for rehearsal. It also helps us know who to contact in case a rehearsal is unexpectedly canceled.

We realize that 'life happens', so talk with your Section Leader and Fred if you are having difficulty attending.

Dues

You must be an Active Member for us to be compliant with legal music access and rehearsal facility security.

- *Dues are due at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters.* You may choose either an Annual or Semi-Annual payment plan.
 - Annual payment of \$100 is due at the beginning of August.
 - Semi-Annual payment of \$50 is due at the beginning of August and January.
- *Payment is made under the Members - Dues area of the Band website.*
 - Or you can give Nancy a check.
 - Nancy will be contacting anyone who is behind on payment.
- *As always, feel free to talk with Nancy and Fred about any concerns.*
 - We do make exceptions for students and personal issues.

So, get your dues handled and let's have fun!

Music

You must be current with your dues to have a personal copy of the music.

- *Section Leaders and band members cannot give you copies of the music.*
 - If you forget your music, temporarily read off a neighbor's part.
 - If guests come to 'try out the band', they may read off a neighbor's part.
- Download music under the Members - Music area of the Band website.

Remain friends with your neighbor - pay your dues and get your own music!

Band Shirt

Everyone needs an official Band Shirt. We prefer that you have an official Band Polo with our logo on it!

The black Band Polos have been very popular as our official dress. Concert dress is usually ALL BLACK - black Band Polo, black pants, black socks, and black shoes.

- Please go to the Members - Attire area of the Band website and place an order. We use the same shirts every year, and it costs less than \$40.
 - Contact Jennifer Siler to see what limited sizes are in inventory.
 - Let Fred know if you have any concerns about purchasing a shirt.
- Occasionally, we may wear more formal outfits, such as suits/tuxedos or black dresses/skirts.

Band App / Communication

Everyone who has a smart-phone needs to get the Band App. This is our quickest and most effective means of communication. We prefer to use the app over email distribution lists, since it is easier to maintain and is the best method for urgent messages, such as rehearsal cancellations or location changes.

- *Just get the app folks and turn off notifications if you want.*
- We do our best to be timely on emails, but sometimes it isn't.
 - For now, we will continue to send out email communications.
 - We cannot guarantee that an email blast can be sent in time for unexpected changes. So, if you show up at the wrong location or for a cancelled rehearsal - well...

Inviting Guest Players

In general, we welcome new members. Please talk to Fred about anyone you feel would be good for the band.

- *With our current roster, not every section needs more members.*
 - However, there are some sections that are in need.
- *Guests will be invited to 'try the band' by Fred.*
 - This gives the guest a chance to see if they are a good fit.
 - The Section Leader and section members can also evaluate their skills.

Wanna Help Out?

We can always use more volunteers to help with all aspects of band operations. Let Fred or Nancy know that you are interested!

Who's Who

Helpful band contacts.

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|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Dues | Nancy Angerstein | nancy@houstonsymphonicband.com |
| Member Access & Communication | Gretchen Hopper | gretchen@houstonsymphonicband.com |
| Music | Kelly Frankum Gretchen Hopper | |
| Marketing & Programs | Glenn Hieshima Laura McNeil | |
| Band Shirts | Jennifer Siler | |
| Anything About the Band | Fred Angerstein | angersteinalfred@gmail.com mobile 713-320-87 |