

EDMONTON YOUTH ORCHESTRA POLICIES, PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

MEMBER DRESS CODE POLICY (Revised September 13, 2021; April 11, 2022)

PRINCIPLES:

Edmonton Youth Orchestra Dress Code Policies

1. All members must dress for the occasion in a professional and respectful manner.
2. Each member may choose to dress according to the gender with which they identify.
3. Members and parents may direct any questions regarding the dress code policy to the General Manager in a timely manner, in advance of performance dates.
4. The Music Director and General Manager have the right to address concerns related to attire that does not fall within the parameters of this policy's descriptions.
5. The Board manages this Policy with input from the Music Director and General Manager.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Edmonton Youth Orchestra fosters a musical community that honours historic and current performance standards.

The goal of the dress code is to present to the audience a unified and professional appearance, keeping the audience's focus on the ensemble as a whole and most importantly, the music.

*Fiona Simon, a violinist with the NYPO since 1985, says clothes should be "comfortable but still dressy enough to give a sense of occasion" and "It's important that we look like we care. That is sending a message. We put so much into preparation of our programs that, yes, we need to look good as well".**

SCOPE:

- All performances are formal dress code unless specifically noted as casual.
- Specific direction will be given for casual performances.
- Although no formal dress code policy has been established for rehearsals, members are expected to wear attire that will not hinder playing or distract attention.

PROCEDURE:

Musicians shall dress for performances in accordance with the official dress code as below. Deviations from the following wardrobe options can be discussed with the General Manager.

DRESS CODE FOR PERFORMANCES:

Black tuxedo or black suit, white shirt, black bow tie

OR

Ankle-length black skirt or ankle-length black dress pants and black top with long or three-quarter-length sleeves

OR

Ankle-length black dress with long or three-quarter-length sleeves

Black or neutral stockings/black socks, black dress shoes

In addition:

No bare midriffs, open shoulders, transparent fabric, or deep necklines

No high slits in skirts or dresses, defined as above the knee

No capri pants, leggings, black jeans, cropped pants, or skinny leg pants

Avoid sequined or brightly accented attire and accessories

Hair must be pulled away from face

No chewing gum

Cologne or perfume is not to be worn to rehearsals or performances

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If it is determined that a member has worn attire outside the policy, the Music Director and/or the General Manager has the right to take immediate and necessary action to resolve the identified issue.

Resolution may involve the following:

- Verbal Warning
- Written Warning
- Substitute Attire
- Performance Withdrawal

If a Dress Code concern cannot be resolved between the member and the Music Director and/or General Manager, the matter will be referred to the Board for their review. This step is to be taken only as a last resort.

POLICY REVIEW DATE: September 14th, 2019

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 14th, 2019

REVISION HISTORY: Revised January 11, 2020 (Change of “black closed-toe shoes” under Ladies to “black dress shoes”.)

Revised September 13, 2021 (Black stockings/socks changed to black or neutral stockings / black socks)

Revised April 11, 2022 (Removal of “Gentlemen” and “Ladies”; statement added regarding concert dress, unity and professionalism of the orchestra)

CONNECTION TO BOARD POLICIES: EYO Policies will be reviewed annually by the Board.

*Cooper, Michael, “Women of the Philharmonic Can Play it All...”, *The New York Times*, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/14/arts/music/new-york-philharmonic-women-dress-code.html>