



ETHOS

YOUTH ENSEMBLES

Parent/Student Handbook 2016-2017

**Ethos Philharmonic Orchestra
Ethos String Orchestra
Ethos String Camerata
Ethos Wind Symphony
Ethos Jazz Ensemble
Ethos Concert Choir
Ethos Preparatory Choir**

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Letter from the Executive Director

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2016-17 Season of the Ethos Youth Ensembles. The last season saw many positive changes for our organization – changing our name from the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra to the Ethos Youth Ensembles, the addition of the Wind Symphony and the Children’s Choirs, and expanding our season from two to six concerts (plus many additional performance opportunities). And as a result we doubled the number of students we served. We look forward to many new positive experiences for students this year!

This Handbook outlines procedures that will make this organization run smoothly. Please take time to read through this as a family and share all important information with the stakeholders who will help each student musician succeed. Also, please print and complete the Handbook Acknowledgement Form, Video/Photography Release Form and the Medical Form (the Medical Form must be notarized) from the website.

Of course, this wonderful music would not be possible without the generous financial support of many individuals, corporations, and foundations. If you know of an individual or business who would support Ethos with financial or in-kind donations, please contact me and we will reach out to them!

Finally, please thank your school-based music teachers! We are all indebted to their service and Ethos exists to supplement what they do for our community every day. Take what you learn here and become leaders in your school and church-based ensembles!

I look forward to seeing you throughout this year!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian T. Russell".

Brian T. Russell

Executive Director, Ethos Youth Ensembles

brussell@ethosmusic.net

History of the Ethos Youth Ensembles

The Ethos Youth Ensembles were founded in 1997 as the **Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra** with seventeen string musicians. The Orchestra rehearsed in a portable classroom at Middle Tennessee Christian School and performed two concerts. Under the expertise of MYO Founder and *Conductor Emerita* Susan Mullen, the organization quickly grew in number and quality, and in only one year expanded the MYO to include winds/percussion and established the Preparatory String Orchestra.

During the 2000-2001 season, both ensembles began rehearsing and performing at Middle Tennessee State University, beginning a long and fruitful relationship with the MTSU School of Music. The combined membership of both ensembles grew to nearly 100 students in grades 3 through 12.

In 2008, Sara Beth Geith was named the second Music Director of the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra. The Murfreesboro Youth Jazz Orchestra was founded in 2011, expanding the artistic footprint of the organization.

In 2014, Brian Russell was named the third Music Director of the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra. The Inaugural Ethos Music Festival was held in spring 2015, further expanding the organization's offerings to include a Wind Symphony. The organization changed its name to the **Ethos Youth Ensembles** in the fall of 2015, adding Children's Choirs to the list of ensembles.

Over the years, the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra/Ethos Youth Ensembles have commissioned new works, performed alongside the area's finest performing ensembles, and achieved high levels of artistic excellence in performance and programming. Over two thousand students have gone through the organization's ranks, establishing the Ethos Youth Ensembles as an important cultural and educational institution in Middle Tennessee.

The Ethos Youth Ensembles seeks to continue this trajectory by adding more students and ensembles of the highest caliber. We look forward to continuing the long tradition of excellence our organization enjoys.

What does “Ethos” mean?

Ethos is most well-known as one of Aristotle’s three types of appeals – ethos, pathos, and logos – that a writer/speaker may use as a means of persuasion. However, the ancient Greeks also used this word to refer to the power of music to influence its hearer’s emotions, behaviors, and even morals. According to a belief system they held called *The Doctrine of Affections*, they believed that music could restore balance and literally heal the body. In Aristotle’s philosophical work *Politics*, he argued that **music should be a part of every student’s education because of its power to influence the soul.**

ethos (n.): the effect of musical study on one’s guiding beliefs and character

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ethos Youth Ensemble is to promote the optimum musical development and education of young musicians through the study and performance of a diverse curriculum of challenging ensemble music. The Ethos Youth Ensembles aspire to increase community awareness of and participation in the musical experiences of the youth in our area.

Ensembles

The Ethos Philharmonic Orchestra. Grades 9-12. November through May. The Philharmonic performs masterpieces of standard orchestral literature and features winners of the Ethos Concerto/Aria Competition each Spring. Students will have the opportunity to work with acclaimed Master Teachers and Artists-in-Residence in ensemble rehearsals and masterclasses. An annual Side-By-Side Concert is performed with local symphony orchestras. Dr. Brian Russell, conductor.

The Ethos Philharmonic Strings. Grades 9-12. August through November. The String Orchestra includes all string players from the Ethos

Philharmonic and specializes in music for string ensemble from the Baroque to the present. Dr. Brian Russell, conductor.

The Ethos Wind Symphony. Grades 9-12. November through May. The Wind Symphony performs literature for symphonic band and wind ensemble with an emphasis in contemporary works by living composers. Students will have the opportunity to work with acclaimed Master Teachers and Artists-in-Residence in ensemble rehearsals and masterclasses. An annual Side-by-Side Concert is performed with local wind ensembles. Dr. Brian Russell, conductor.

The Ethos String Orchestra. Grades 6-8. August through May. The Youth Orchestra is a string orchestra of middle school and high school students that performs arrangements of standard literature. Students will have the opportunity to work with acclaimed Master Teachers and Artists-in-Residence in ensemble rehearsals and masterclasses. An annual Side-by-Side Concert is performed with the Ethos Philharmonic Strings. Nikki Wilson, conductor.

The Ethos Camerata. Grades 3-6. August through May. Camerata is a string orchestra of elementary and middle school students that performs arrangements of standard literature. Students will have the opportunity to work with acclaimed Master Teachers and Artists-in-Residence in ensemble rehearsals and masterclasses. They will on occasion perform with the Ethos String Orchestra. Nikki Wilson, conductor.

The Ethos Jazz Ensemble. Grades 9-12. August through May. The Jazz Band is an ensemble specializing in traditional jazz literature for big band and focusing on jazz techniques and improvisation. Students will have the opportunity to work with acclaimed Master Teachers and Artists-in-Residence in ensemble rehearsals and masterclasses. Corderyl Martin, conductor.

The Ethos Concert Choir. Grades 4-6. September through May. The Concert Choir is a treble ensemble for talented students. One of the primary goals is achieving musical literacy and singing with a well-supported, free tone. Students will have the opportunity to work with an

acclaimed Master Teacher in ensemble rehearsals. Dr. Jennifer Vannatta-Hall, conductor.

The Ethos Preparatory Choir. Grades 2-4. September through May. The Preparatory Choir is an intermediate treble ensemble for talented students. One of the primary goals will be achieving musical literacy and singing with a well-supported, free tone. Students will have the opportunity to work with an acclaimed Master Teacher in ensemble rehearsals. Amy Swanson, conductor.

New Member Auditions

Auditions for new members of the **Jazz Band** will be held on Monday evening, August 29. All string students (grades 2-12) will audition either on Tuesday, August 23, or Thursday, August 25 and will be placed in the correct ensemble based on those auditions. Everyone must follow the audition requirements on the Ethos website. New members do not have to submit a separate seating placement audition.

Prospective members of the **Ethos Concert & Preparatory Choirs** do not need to audition this year. Simply complete the Student information form online and come to the first rehearsal.

Auditions for the **Ethos Wind Symphony** (winds, percussion, and any new string players) will be held the week of November 12-13. New members do not have to submit a separate seating placement audition.

Audition requirements and sign-ups for all ensembles are found on the Ethos website.

A New Member audition for all ensembles will be held each Spring for the following season.

Seating Auditions/Vocal Screening

Seating auditions are required for all new and returning members of the Ethos instrumental ensembles to set chair and part placement. Fall auditions for new members also serve as seating auditions. New member auditions follow the same requirements as New Member auditions.

Every choral student, new and returning must complete a vocal screening each fall to participate in the Ethos choral ensembles. This involves singing “Happy Birthday” or another familiar tune, plus some echo games to determine listening and vocal abilities. This vocal screening occurs during the first few rehearsals with one of the Ethos conductors.

Instrumental Students must submit a \$25.00 audition fee at the time of Seating Auditions. If a student auditions and is not accepted, this fee is non-refundable. If a student is accepted into an Ethos Ensemble, this fee will be applied toward the student’s yearly tuition.

Personal Conduct/Rehearsal Procedures

Each member of an Ethos Ensemble will approach each rehearsal, concert, and event with a level of respect and professionalism deserving of the Art we produce. This means students will:

1. Treat conductors, administrators, guests, and all adults with respect.
2. Treat your peers as you would wish to be treated.
3. Be in their seats and ready to begin rehearsal at least ten (10) minutes prior to the start of each rehearsal.
4. Avoid chewing gum or eating food in rehearsal.
5. Turn OFF and put away electronic devices during rehearsal. (No texting, audio or video recording is to take place).
6. Be prepared with his/her folder and a pencil at rehearsals.

First Offense to these guidelines:

Warning by the Conductor

Second Offense:

Parent contact by Conductor

Third Offense:

Removal from the Ensemble

Students removed from the Ensemble for disciplinary reasons are not entitled to a tuition refund.

Students shall be provided a learning environment free from sexual, racial, ethnic, disability, and religious discrimination, bullying and harassment. The bullying of other students or persons, regardless of the method or medium use (including social or other electronic media, within our outside of Ethos events) is strictly prohibited. Students violating these policies will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including removal from Ethos.

Attendance Policy

All Ethos students must attend and remain for the duration of each rehearsal, dress rehearsal, and performance. Two or more absences during a concert cycle (all rehearsals, including special and dress rehearsals, through each concert) may result in the student's not participating the concert. Arriving late or leaving early will count as 1/2 of an absence. Two (2) tardies will be counted as one absence.

The Ethos Youth Ensembles exist to supplement the school-based ensemble and curriculum. As such, students should never miss a required rehearsal or concert for his/her school-based ensemble for an Ethos rehearsal. Absences caused by student-based ensembles will always be excused, but if they exceed two absences per concert rotation then the student should contact the conductor for an individual consultation regarding the student's eligibility to perform in that concert.

Students removed from a concert rotation due to excessive absenteeism are not entitled to a tuition refund.

Students/Parents must email conductors as soon as a conflict arises. Knowing about absences in advance enables the conductor to structure the rehearsal for those attending.

Dress Rehearsals

Dress rehearsals are mandatory! This is the last full ensemble rehearsal before the performance. The dress rehearsal usually takes place in the concert hall. Musicians who miss a dress rehearsal, for any reason, may be excluded from playing the concert. The conductor will make the final decision as to whether a musician will or will not play the concert. Unlike

its name, you need NOT be dressed in performance clothes for dress rehearsals, unless otherwise directed by your Conductor.

Concerts/Tickets

Concerts are held at various locations and dates across the area. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students (college students and minors).

Tickets will be available online or at the door.

The 2016-17 Concert Season will include:

Sun, 11/13 • 3pm	String Orchestra and Jazz Band	Stewarts Creek HS
Mon, 12/5 • 6:30pm	String Orchestra, Children’s Choirs, MTSU Hinton Hall Youth Orchestra, Camerata	
Sun, 2/26 • 3pm	Jazz Band, Wind Symphony, Philharmonic	Stewarts Creek HS
Sat, 4/29 • 3pm	ALL ENSEMBLES	FUMC Murfreesboro

Inclement Weather Policy/Holidays

All Ethos Youth Ensembles follow Rutherford County Schools’ cancellations for inclement weather. However, exceptions will be made for various reasons. Thus, **Ethos Ensembles will not meet when RCS is closed for weather UNLESS you hear differently from an Ethos Conductor or Administrator.** The primary means of notification when a rehearsal is cancelled will be Remind alerts (see below), so it is recommended that all students and parents/guardians sign up for this free service.

The Ethos Youth Ensembles do not always observe the same holiday calendar as some school systems. Please take note of the calendar on the Ethos Website.

Communications

Communication is a two-way street. To contact your conductor:

- Email (see the contact list on the Ethos website)
- Call Ethos at 615.668.7840

Conductors/Staff may contact students/parents via:

- Email addresses you submit on the online registration form
- Phone numbers you submit on the online registration form
- Social Media
 - Facebook.com/EthosYouthEnsembles
 - Coming soon to Twitter and Instagram!
- Text messages via Remind.com
Remind is a free service whereby students and parents can ‘enroll’ in a text messaging group for each Ethos Ensemble. Conductors can send text blasts to the entire group confidentially; nobody sees your cell number or the conductors’ numbers. All students and every parent/guardian is encouraged to sign up for Remind text alerts to ensure you get last-minute cancellations, etc. Instructions on how to sign up for Remind alerts will be available at the first rehearsal and on the Ethos website.
- The Ethos website will be the central hub of information for the Ethos Youth Ensembles.

Attire

Ethos Philharmonic, Philharmonic String Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Ethos String Orchestra, and Ethos String Camerata:

Ladies: Formal Black Dress with sleeves (more information TBA)
 Black/Nude Hosiery
 Black closed-toe dress shoes
 OR
 Black Pants and Black Blouse
 Black closed-toe dress shoes

Men: Full Black tuxedo or Black Suit (pants and coat)

Wing-Tip Tuxedo Shirt
Black Bow Tie
Black Cumberbund optional
Black dress socks
Black dress shoes

Ethos Jazz Band:

Concert Black:
Black Dress Shirt/Blouse
Black Dress Pants
Black Dress Socks/Hosiery
Black Dress Shoes
Black Sportcoats optional but encouraged

Ethos Children's Choirs:

White Oxford Dress Shirt (button-down collar)
Black Dress Pants/shirt
Black Dress Socks/Hosiery
Black Dress Shoes

Tuition

Tuition rates for the ensembles are as follows:

Ethos Philharmonic Strings	\$300
Ethos Jazz Ensemble	\$300
Ethos String Orchestra	\$200
Ethos Camerata	\$195
Ethos Children's Choirs	\$300
Ethos Philharmonic Winds/Percussion	\$125
Ethos Wind Symphony	\$200

Tuition is non-refundable.

A \$25 Audition Screening Fee is required of all instrumental members (see "Seating Audition/Vocal Screening"). A \$25.00 Initial deposit is required

before the first rehearsal before a student is allowed to participate. Following this, the full tuition can be paid or distributed over two payments according to the following schedule:

Ensemble	Audition/Placement Fee (\$25)	First Rehearsal Deposit (\$25)	½ Balance	Remainder
Philharmonic Strings	8/23or25/16	8/29/16	10/17/16	2/13/17
String Orch/Camerata	8/23or25/16	9/2/16	10/20/16	2/16/17
Children’s Choirs	N/A	9/8/16	10/20/16	2/16/17
Jazz Ensemble	8/29/16	9/12/16	10/17/16	2/13/17
Phil Winds/Perc	11/12or13/16	11/12/16	2/13/17	3/6/16

Payments are not to be given to conductors. Please pay online or mail in:

Ethos Youth Ensembles
 PO Box 332255
 Murfreesboro, TN 37133

Families with multiple students in one or both orchestras are eligible for sibling discounts. The discounts are as follows:

- 1st student: Full Tuition
- 2nd student: 20% discount
- 3 or more students: 40% discount

The payment schedule outlined above is applicable. It is the parents' responsibility to inform the Executive Director via email that students are siblings.

Failure to pay tuition according to the schedule above will result in a student's removal from the concert. Tuition is non-refundable.

Fundraising

Student tuition accounts for 45% of Ethos' annual operating budget. Therefore it is necessary that each family commits to fundraising.

The Ethos Youth Ensembles will offer two student fundraisers throughout the year, one in September/October and another in January. Each student is encouraged to participate in each student fundraiser. Half of the profit from each item sold will go directly to the Ethos operating budget. The other half will be credited toward a student's outstanding tuition. If you do not wish to participate in a fundraiser, donations are accepted! In addition, special event fundraisers will be held throughout the year with all of the proceeds going to the Ethos Youth Ensembles. More details will come later on how you can best help Ethos in these events.

Kroger Community Rewards

Do you shop at Kroger? The Kroger Community Rewards Program is an easy way you can help support the Ethos Youth Ensembles! Simply visit www.kroger.com/communityrewards and register your Kroger Plus Card for the Ethos Youth Ensembles (at the time of this handbook's printing, the organization is still listed under "Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra." Both names will support us.). Then, whenever you shop and use your Kroger Plus Card, a percentage of your purchases will come back to Ethos!

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile is a program where Amazon.com donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to charitable organizations. You get the

same prices and selection, but Ethos will get a donation back from your online purchases! Simply visit smile.amazon.com and register for the Ethos Youth Ensembles. Then, when you go to purchase items, go to smile.amazon.com and shop!

TBR Charitable Giving Campaign

Any employee of the Tennessee Board of Regents can choose the Ethos Youth Ensembles (currently listed as the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra) as the recipient of the TBR Charitable Giving Campaign. This pre-tax donation will go directly to Ethos.

Individual and Business Program Ads

Individuals and Businesses can place ads in our programs. These are due by October 28 (with a later date for personal ads solicited by members of the Wind Symphony). Details are available on the website.

Scholarships/Financial Aid

Need-based financial assistance is offered to musicians in any Ethos Youth Ensemble who meet criteria established by the Finance Committee. The organization has budgeted funds available and our commitment is to provide financial aid to families in need. Partial and Full tuition scholarships can be awarded; no member of any Ethos Ensemble may receive financial assistance greater than the total of the annual tuition of his/her respective ensemble.

Application forms for Financial Aid Scholarships are available on the Ethos website and are due no later than the second ensemble rehearsal. The Finance Committee will keep all application information confidential and money will be awarded without regard to gender, race, religion, creed, or nationality.

Students on scholarship are still expected to participate in Fundraising Activities.

Registration Materials

Each student must have a parent/guardian complete the Student Registration Form on the Ethos Website prior to auditioning.

In addition, parents must complete the Handbook Acknowledgement Form, Video/Photography Release Form and the Medical Form. The Medical Form must be signed in front of a Notary Public. These three forms, available on the Ethos website, must be returned to the ensemble conductor by the third rehearsal of the season.

Calendar

A full calendar with information for all Ethos Youth Ensembles is kept on the Ethos website. Each family is responsible for information kept on that calendar.

Venues and Parking

Ethos Youth Ensembles rehearse and perform at various locations around the area. Please visit the “Venues and Parking” portion of the Ethos website to see where you should park and enter locations.

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is vital to the best possible musical experience for all who participate. Parent volunteers an important part of ensuring the Ethos Youth Ensembles’ success. Through their involvement, parents gain a better knowledge of the organization, provide an invaluable parental perspective and motivate the staff. If you are interested in becoming more involved, contact Brian Russell, Ethos Executive Director.

Instrument Insurance

Each student is responsible for providing the insurance required for his or her instrument. This is often covered under the family's homeowner's insurance policy. Check with your individual insurance agent to verify such coverage or that your instrument is properly insured. Ethos insurance policies does not cover individually-owned instruments.

Strings Alive!

The Ethos Youth Ensembles provide an instrument lending program for the purpose of assisting string players who may not be able to purchase their own instruments. These instruments are available at no cost to interested students who then assume responsibility for proper care and protection of the instrument assigned to them. Insurance coverage is provided by the Ethos Youth Ensembles. Instruments are assigned on recommendation of the conductor and based on the availability of specific instruments.

The following guidelines have been established for the Strings Alive! program:

- The student must take private lessons
- The student may use the loaned instrument for one season. This does not apply to students playing the string bass
- The student assumes responsibility for the care and routine maintenance of the instrument, including replacing strings and supplying rosin for bows.

Contact your conductor for specific information or visit the Ethos website.

Admissions Policy

Admission into the Ethos Youth Ensembles is by audition only. Membership is open to students in or below grade 12. Ethos exists to supplement the school-based and church-based ensembles, not replace them. We expect students to remain in their school bands and orchestras and school and church choirs. Instrumentalists must be a member in good

standing of their school-based musical ensemble when available. Vocal students must be a member in good standing of their school-based ensemble when available and, if feasible, an age-appropriate choral ensemble based in their religious institution. In the absence of these ensembles, students must be enrolled in ongoing private lessons in order to remain a member in good standing of the Ethos Ensembles. Membership is based on musical ability. Members are selected without regard to gender, race, religion, creed or nationality.

Staff

Dr. Brian Russell	Music Director/Executive Director Philharmonic Conductor Wind Symphony Conductor
Corderyl Martin	Jazz Band Director
Amy Swanson	Children's Choir Conductor
Nikki Wilson	String Camerata Conductor String Orchestra Conductor
Dr. Jennifer Vannatta-Hall	Children's Choir Conductor



www.EthosMusic.net