

# **Bucks County Symphony Orchestra**

## **School Participation Policy**

*[adopted February 19, 2019]*

### **Premise**

The Bucks County Symphony Orchestra is committed to supporting music education in our local schools. One of the primary purposes stated in the organization's bylaws is maintaining a symphony orchestra as a means of "promoting music education programs in local schools."

In agreement with the League of American Orchestras' "Statement of Common Cause: Orchestras Support In-School Music Education" and the National Association of Music Education's "Public Schools and Community Music Group Relationships," the BCSO recognizes the value of music education for all students and strives for mutually beneficial partnerships with local school districts.

The BCSO conducts outreach programs to local school districts that include concert collaborations with student musicians, classroom visits by guest artists, annual scholarship awards to exemplary high school students, and a youth concerto competition for aspiring young artists.

### **Policy Guidelines**

The BCSO requires that a student enrolled in elementary or secondary school shall be a member in good standing in his/her school's instrumental music program, where such a program is offered, in order to be a member of the BCSO.

Membership in the BCSO should be viewed as a supplement to, not an alternative for, school-based music education for students attending schools where instrumental ensembles are offered.

The BCSO reserves the right to contact schools to verify a student's participation in a school-based instrumental music program.

Students playing in the BCSO prior to adoption of this Policy are exempt from its provisions.

### **Exceptions**

Exceptions to the policy may be made in extraordinary circumstances, but only with the signed approval of the school ensemble's music director. The BCSO reserves the right to examine exceptional cases individually and, subject to the discretion of the Board of Directors, may allow exemptions from the School Participation Policy.

### **Policy Revisions**

This School Participation Policy is subject to change at any time, with or without notice to school districts, individual schools, or students enrolled in elementary or secondary schools. A current version of the Policy is available on the BCSO's website: [BucksCountySymphony.org](http://BucksCountySymphony.org).