

Top 10 Questions asked about BCO:

1. What is it? BCO, or Bentonville Community Orchestra, is a performance group made up of string players of all ages who rehearse and perform orchestral music of various playing levels.
2. Where does BCO meet? Palmer String Studio 3404 Macy Rd, Bentonville
3. How often are rehearsals? Once a week rehearsal. This first session will meet Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 pm. There will be two full 3 month sessions a year, Session 1: January-March and Session 2: September-November. Summer strings camp will be in June, All region camp in September and a Holiday mini camp in December.
4. How much does it cost to be a member: it is \$40/month for the membership fee.
5. What does the membership fee go towards? salaries of the 2 directors, supplies for the group (music, etc), accompanists (if necessary) and fees for performance venues.
6. How do I audition? Auditions will be held before each session. Email: groups@palmerstringstudio.com for a time, music and other information. Our first audition day is January 4, 2025.
7. How long is the commitment? Enrollment into a session comes with the expectation that the member intends to complete the session including the performance.
8. Does the musician have to enroll in every session? No. Students do not have to return for each session.
9. Why should string players join BCO? Joining a performance group offers numerous benefits for musicians, including:

Musical Skill Development: Musicians can improve their playing abilities, learn new techniques, and gain a deeper understanding of music theory.

Teamwork and Collaboration: Playing in an orchestra fosters teamwork as musicians learn to listen to one another, synchronize their playing, and work together towards a common goal.

Discipline and Commitment: Regular practice and participation in rehearsals teach discipline, time management, and commitment—skills that are valuable both in and out of music.

Social Connections: Musicians can make new friends who share similar interests, creating a sense of community and belonging.

Performance Experience: Opportunities to perform in concerts help build confidence and value as a musician.

Cultural Appreciation: Exposure to a variety of musical genres and pieces helps musicians develop an appreciation for diverse cultures and and historical contexts.

Mental Health Benefits: Playing music can reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance overall well-being.

Fun and Enjoyment: And, lastly, being a member of an orchestra is a fun and rewarding experience that brings joy and satisfaction through making music together!

10. More questions? Email: groups@palmerstringstudio.com with questions or to sign up for our next session.