

# Young Musicians and Parent Handbook

2019 - 2020

## Napa Valley Youth Symphony/Sinfonia 2019-2020 Season at a glance

**Sunday, August 18** Fall auditions for new members/reauditions • NVYS, Sinfonia

**Sunday, August 25** Registration and Family BBQ at Kennedy Park, 4pm

Friday-Sunday, September 6-8 Season Retreat at Camp Cazadero • NVYS, Sinfonia

Sunday, September 15 Rehearsals Begin • NVYS, Sinfonia Parent Meeting • NVYS, Sinfonia

Sunday, October 20 Concerto Competition Auditions • Interested NVYS students

Saturday, November 9 Sinfonia/NYCE Fall Concert at Jarvis Conservatory • Sinfonia, NYCE

Sunday, November 17 NVYS & Sinfonia Fall Concert (Location TBD)

**December 22, 29, January 1** No rehearsal (Winter Break)

Sunday, January 12 Rehearsal and New Year Family Potluck • NVYS, Sinfonia

Sunday, February 9 NVYS/Sinfonia Winter Concert at Lincoln Theater • NVYS, Sinfonia

**Sunday, March 15** Bring-a-Friend Rehearsal, Audition Workshop, Bring a friend • NVYS, Sinfonia

**Sunday, April 12** No Rehearsals (Easter)

Thurs & Fri, April 23 & 24 Red Gala Evening Rehearsals • NVYS

Saturday, April 25, Red Gala at Lincoln Theater • NVYS, Sinfonia

Sunday, May 3 New student auditions

Saturday, May 16 Returning student auditions • NVYS, Sinfonia

**Sunday, May 17** Returning student auditions • NVYS, Sinfonia

May 23 BottleRock • NVYS, Bridge

June 15 - 19 2020 Tour Rehearsals

June 22 – 29 Beethoven 250 Anniversary Tour

This schedule may change at any time and is superseded by any communication by letter or email from the staff of NVYS or by our online calendar: http://www.nvyso.org/info/schedule

### Welcome!

Welcome to the Napa Valley Youth Symphony. This handbook has been prepared as a guide to define Napa Valley Youth Symphony policies and procedures. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at (707) 877-NVYS or email us at orchestra@nvyso.org. The list of dates included in this handbook are subject to change and is superseded by any subsequent correspondence throughout the season.

### Mission Statement

Napa Valley Youth Symphony is an award-winning youth orchestra, providing the highest level of musical training to young musicians from diverse backgrounds, offering them the opportunity to enrich their community by performing seasonal, full-length concerts. In addition to its youth orchestra program, Napa Valley Youth Symphony also trains entry-level student musicians through string and wind ensembles and provides one-of-a-kind musical experience through tours and special events.

### Napa Valley Youth Symphony Organization

The Napa Valley Youth Symphony is a California Nonprofit Corporation 501(c)(3). The Napa Valley Youth Symphony was founded as an opportunity for young people to rehearse and perform classical music in Napa County. It is supported, in part, by various organizations in the valley including civic organizations and businesses. In addition to nominal musician tuition, the organization also depends upon support from generous individuals, foundations and businesses to meet its annual operating budget.

President of the Board of Directors Bill Haubold

Executive Director Shelley Surh

Artistic Director and Conductor Tristan Arnold

Orchestra Manager Meeghan Pavelin

> Napa Valley Youth Symphony PO Box 6594 Napa, CA 94581

www.nvyso.org, orchestra@nvyso.org

### Rehearsal Information

All rehearsals are held at Napa Christian Campus of Education (2201 Pine Street) unless otherwise noted. All students should be ready to play at least five minutes before the start of rehearsal. Depending on your instrument and warm-up routine, this may require arriving at rehearsal 15 to 30 minutes before the downbeat. In addition to their instruments, students are responsible for bringing their music and a pencil to each rehearsal. Any planned absences should be reported to the ensemble manager at least one week in advance via the online absence request form.

	Director	Rehearsal Time	Manager
NVYS	Tristan Arnold	4:30 - 7:15	Meeghan Pavelin
NYCE	Yasushi Ogura	3:00 - 4:00	Veronika Martinez
Bridge	Yasushi Ogura	6:30 - 7:15	Meeghan Pavelin
Sinf.	Robin May and Debbie Walden	4:30 - 6:30	Meeghan Pavelin

### Tuition

The tuition fee for the 2019-2020 season for NVYS \$700. Sinfonia tuition is \$600. We offer two payment options: 1) One payment of tuition in full, or 2) two payments in August and January. You can pay by check or credit card. Tuition or tuition scholarship application must be submitted no later than the Season BBQ. Failure to pay tuition or submit tuition assistance application form by the first rehearsal may result in removal from the ensemble.

### **Tuition Assistance Scholarships**

No family should consider financial concerns an impediment to participation. A limited number of partial tuition assistance scholarships are available for qualifying musicians. The administration of the NVYS determines eligibility requirements for assistance and the board of directors' awards grants in September. Information and applications will be made available in your NVYS Welcome Packet and at the first parent meeting at our season retreat. **All applications are due at our Season BBQ.** All assistance is subject to available funds.

### Volunteering & Fundraising Commitment

In order to keep tuition as low as possible and maximize the accessibility of our programs we rely on parent and community volunteers. Volunteers help with critical tasks like setting up and cleaning up

rehearsal and performance spaces, monitoring musicians backstage and during rehearsal breaks and providing snacks for our musicians. One way we ask for parent help is as **rehearsal parent**. This individual is responsible for bringing snack for one ensemble and helps with clean up of the rehearsal spaces following rehearsal. We ask that each NVYS and Sinfonia family donate 10 adult hours over the course of the season at rehearsals, performances or special events. We also ask that each family commit to fundraising \$300 to support our educational programs in the form of sponsorships, program ad sales, matching donations or raffle ticket sales.

### **Auditions**

Membership in the Youth Symphony ensembles is by invitation only following competitive entrance auditions in the Spring (May). Participation for each season is not guaranteed for auditioners, even if they have participated in the past. Fall auditions are available for students who wish to re-audition based on Spring audition results, or for students new to the organization based on available spaces in the orchestra. **Returning students must audition in the Spring.** 

Additional auditions for vacancies may be held at any time until that vacancy is filled. Musicians accepted into the orchestra after the first rehearsal of the season will be required to sit in the back of their respective section. Seating placement auditions for string players in NVYS are held twice during the season. Changes to seating during the season may be made at anytime by the Music Director due to attendance or performance concerns. Seating placement auditions for Sinfonia are held at the beginning of the season and may shift at the discretion of the Directors throughout the season.

### **Information for Musicians**

### Conduct:

All the musicians, parents and staff are required to sign a Code of Conduct at the beginning of each season. Napa Valley Youth Symphony is dedicated to promoting and maintaining the highest artistic and personal standards for all musicians. Punctuality, enthusiasm and focus during sectionals and rehearsals will lead to progress and an improved musical experience for musicians and audience alike. Inappropriate behavior may result in a seating change or in suspension or removal from the ensemble without refund.

### Attendance:

A guiding philosophy of the NVYS is that professional responsibility is critical to musical excellence. Absences from rehearsals are detrimental to the orchestra's progress and counterproductive to the musician's personal growth. All members are expected to attend all scheduled full orchestra rehearsals

and performances. However, we understand that absences may be unavoidable and have developed the following policy:

- 1. No more than two excused absences are allowed during any one concert preparation period. In order for an absence or tardy to be excused, the student must complete an online absence request at least one week prior to the absence date (excused events include school events). Our Orchestra Manager will process these requests and they must have the Artistic Director's approval in order to be qualified as an excused absence. Emergency absences (e.g. illness or family emergency) can be reported any time up until the beginning of the event. Any excused absences beyond two are grounds for removal from the upcoming concert.
- 2. Any musician with greater than two *unexcused absences* during the season may be removed from the ensemble at the discretion of the artistic director. **An unexcused absence is any** non-emergency absence (family vacation, studying for tests) or any absence that is reported less than one week in advance or not at all.
- 3. A musician who misses a dress rehearsal or soundcheck may forfeit participation in that concert unless arrangements have been made with the conductor ahead of time. The dress rehearsal is the last full rehearsal before a performance and the soundcheck is the time on stage on the day of the performance.
- 4. Arrival after the start of the rehearsal is equal to one tardy for the purpose of our attendance policy, and two unexcused tardies constitutes one absence. Four tardies over the season will jeopardize the musician's seat in the orchestra.

### Tardiness:

Arriving late to a rehearsal is disruptive to the entire orchestra. Musicians should arrive no later than 5 minutes prior to rehearsal and must leave appropriate time to get themselves and their instrument ready for rehearsal. Excessive tardiness may result in removal from the NVYS without refund of tuition.

### Music:

Musicians will be held responsible for having their music at each rehearsal. Lost music may be replaced at the musician's expense.

### **Preparation:**

Musicians are expected to attend all rehearsals fully prepared. This means practicing your part and learning the notes at home. You should know how the piece sounds and how your part fits in. This will make each rehearsal enjoyable and productive for all. Musicians should bring a pencil to all rehearsals. On some occasions, musicians may be asked to bring portable wire music stands.

**Mentor program:** In the 2019-2020 season NVYS will be launching a new mentorship program. Five to seven NVYS mentors will participate in Sinfonia rehearsals once per month and perform with Sinfonia in all Sinfonia performances. Mentors will be a supportive and experienced peer for their Sinfonia colleagues and develop their own skills of diagnosing and correcting musical performance issues. Interested students should apply at <a href="mailto:bit.ly/nvysmentor">bit.ly/nvysmentor</a>.

### **Private Lessons:**

NVYS musicians are required to take regular private lessons on their NVYS instrument. Sinfonia students are strongly encouraged to work with a private teacher, which is the most effective way to improve instrumental technique. Admission into the NVYS is by audition and can be extremely competitive. NVYS can recommend a private teacher and also offers lesson scholarships based on need.

### **School Music Programs:**

Each orchestra member is expected to participate in his/her school's music program, and we may ask for proof of participation. Because NVYS is an advanced ensemble that meets only once a week, students who aren't getting sufficient development of fundamentals through their school music programs will not progress as quickly. If for any reason participation in the school program is not possible, please arrange an appointment with the Youth Symphony staff to discuss the situation. Written notice from your school principal and music instructor excusing your participation may be required.

### **After Rehearsals and Concerts:**

Parents should make a point to be prompt in picking up their musicians. No musician should be left to wait for a ride. Please help us assure the safety of your son/daughter and be respectful of our staff by arriving on time to pick up your child. If parent tardiness becomes a problem, it may affect the student's participation in the orchestra.

### **Cell Phones and Other Electronic Items:**

Turn off all cell phones and other electronic items (iPad, iPods, etc.) during rehearsals and performances. Cell phones and other electronic items that are being used during rehearsal will be confiscated and may need to be picked up by a parent.

### **Concert Dress:**

**NVYS:** Either Black dress pants, white dress shirt, black bow tie and black jacket OR black dress pants with long-sleeved black blouse. All students should wear black dress shoes.

Sinfonia: Black dress pants, white dress shirt, black shoes

Please no bare midriffs, hats, perfume or cologne for rehearsals or concerts. No perfume or cologne should be worn during rehearsals or concerts

**NVYS Only:** For more casual concerts and on tour (such as BottleRock), NVYS polos will be worn with jeans.

### **Questions?**

If you have questions about anything (music, tuition, concert details, etc.) simply email: orchestra@nvyso.org

Your question will be directed to the appropriate person!



# I read the complete information in the 2019-2020 handbook, including the updated attendance and audition policy.

Parent Name:	
Musician Name:	