

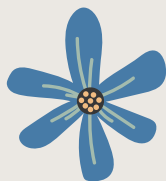


NAPA VALLEY YOUTH SYMPHONY

PRESENTS



2025
Spring
Benefit
Concerto



FRIDAY

April 4, 2025

The Jarvis Conservatory

1711 Main Street, Napa, CA 94559



PROCEEDS FROM THIS CONCERT WILL BENEFIT
THE NVYS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND & MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS



PROGRAM



6:45 PM DOORS OPEN

PRE-CONCERT WINE POURING
SPONSORED BY EVIDENCE WINES 

GARDEN RECITAL NYCE

Divertimento in F Major, 1st Movement Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Brandenburg Concerto #3 Johan Sebastian Bach

7:30 PM CONCERT SINFONIA

Farondole, L'Arlesienne Suite No.2 Georges Bizet
Nocturne, A Midsummer Night's Dream Felix Mendelssohn, Arr. Richard Meyer
Symphony No 8. Movement 1 Franz Schubert, Arr. Richard Meyer
March of the Dwarfs Edvard Grieg, Arr. Michael Story

RECOGNITION OF THE CLASS OF 2025 **INTERMISSION**

YOUTH SYMPHONY

Leichte Kavallerie (Light Cavalry Overture) Franz Von Suppé
Symphonie Espagnole, Movement #1 Édouardo Lalo
Carmen Suites Georges Bizet and Ernest Guiraud
Slavonic Dances, Opus 46, Symphony #8 Antonín Dvořák

8:45 PM WINE & DESSERT RECEPTION



FROM THE STANDS



A MESSAGE FROM SILVIA

On behalf of the NVYS Board of Directors, staff, musicians, and our families, we extend our deepest gratitude for joining us this evening to celebrate the harmonious joy that our young musicians have prepared across each of our ensembles for your enjoyment. Over the past 22 weeks, these dedicated musicians have come together, learning to play in sync and supporting one another every step of the way. Their commitment to their craft has been bolstered by our exceptional sectional coaches, who have provided over 200 hours of musical development, ensuring each musician's growth in their mastery of their instrument.

As we gather to honor our graduating seniors and express our heartfelt thanks for their leadership, we also look ahead with great excitement to the bright future of young musicians who will continue to fill our community with the beauty of live music. We are thrilled to welcome our new Music Director and Conductor, Dr. Alexander Kahn, and his family to NVYS. The music we create here is what unites us—it is the thread that weaves this vibrant community together, lifting up every member of the NVYS family.

This season, we are incredibly grateful for everyone who rolled up their sleeves to ensure that our music education program and performances provided our students with an opportunity to thrive. We could not have done this without the unwavering support of our entire community—our musicians, their families, our longtime donors, and funding partners such as Notes for Education and Amplifi Napa Valley. We also want to thank our community supporters like the Jarvis Family, the Jarvis Conservatory, the Boys and Girls Club, the team at Napa Christian Campus, our sectional coaches, and our longtime leaders, Debbie Walden and Yasushi Ogura. Your incredible support for our kids has made all the difference.

We invite you to join us this summer and in the upcoming season to witness our musicians continue to soar. Thank you for helping make this journey possible!



INTRODUCING



DR. ALEXANDER KAHN,
NVYS MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

Alexander Kahn is Professor of Music and Director of Orchestral Activities at Sonoma State University. At Sonoma State he directs the Sonoma State Symphony Orchestra and teaches courses in conducting, music history, musicianship, and general education. Alexander has worked with a variety of orchestras across the United States and throughout Europe. Currently he serves as Assistant and Cover Conductor for the Santa Rosa Symphony and

Music Director of the Vintner's Chamber Orchestra, a professional chamber orchestra that performs at wineries throughout Sonoma and Napa counties. Recent guest conducting engagements have included work with the Encore Coda and Cazadero Performing Arts Camps as well as middle school and high school honor orchestras throughout California. As a champion for orchestral music education in the public schools, he serves on the Advisory Board for the California Orchestra Director's Association (CODA). Alexander earned a PhD in Music History from UC Berkeley and remains active as a scholar. His book on the intersection of mindfulness and the Alexander Technique, *Caring for the Whole Musician*, co-authored with Larry Hensel, was published by Routledge Press in May 2023.



WELCOME MESSAGE



DR. ALEXANDER KAHN, PH.D.

NVYS MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

Dear friends of the Napa Valley Youth Symphony,

I am so delighted to join the NVYS team as the organization's new Music Director and Conductor!

I began working with the NVYS all the way back in 2017, when I stepped in to run a rehearsal for Tristan Arnold. Since then I have had the pleasure of working with the group on multiple occasions, as a substitute conductor, judge for

concerto competitions, and consultant on a variety of issues. During all of these encounters I was so impressed by the dedication, friendliness, and positivity of both the administrative and artistic team and of the students themselves. It's such a pleasure to join the team and experience this dedication, friendliness, and positivity on a regular basis! For the past few months I have really enjoyed my beautiful drives through the vineyards on Sunday afternoon from Sonoma County to Napa County and the great music-making that these students are able to produce week after week.

I hope you enjoy this evening's performance, my debut concert with the group, which features some of the great chestnuts of orchestral literature: a rousing overture by Franz von Suppe, selections from Bizet's opera Carmen, Lalo's Symphonie espagnole (featuring our concerto competition winner Madeline Chiu), Dvorak's Slavonic Dance No. 8. Much more to come in the future!



2025 CONCERTO WINNER



MADELINE CHIU

Madeline has been a violinist since the age of 4! She has participated in every NVYS Program and Ensemble from Sinfonia to Bridge to Youth Symphony and NYCE (Napa Youth Chamber Ensemble)! While in elementary school, she dreamed of becoming our Concertmaster - a goal well-earned two years ago through lots of practice, dedication, and under the tutelage of Yasushi Ogura. It has been an honor to have Madeline represent NVYS as a musician, ambassador and soon-to-be alumna.

PROGRAM NOTE ABOUT MY MUSIC SELECTION TONIGHT

Despite its title, *Symphonie Espagnole* is not actually a symphony. Encompassing five movements—*Allegro non troppo*, *Scherzando*, *Intermezzo*, *Andante*, and *Rondo*—the so-called “Symphonie” does not follow the typical four-movement symphony structure. However, the *Symphonie Espagnole* also notably lacks any cadenza, the hallmark of typical classical concertos. So, one might ask, what is it? The piece is generally considered a violin concerto, though an unusual one. Originally written in 1875 for famed nineteenth-century Spanish violinist Pablo Sarasate, Edouard Lalo (a French-born composer of Spanish descent) composed *Symphonie Espagnole* with many Spanish-style motifs in mind. The beginning first movement, the *Allegro non troppo*, immediately presents itself with drama and flair. The two main themes in the movement—one heavier theme in rhythmic patterns of two and three, and a secondary lighter theme—balance and contrast each other. Lalo’s *Symphonie Espagnole* gave way to a new wave of Spanish-inspired music, including Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Capriccio Espagnol* and Bizet’s *Carmen* (which is also featured on tonight’s program).

I love this piece. To me, all music is about story and character, and *Symphonie Espagnole* contains multitudes of both. The heaviness of the main theme is contrasted against the showy dexterity of quick sixteenth-note runs, both of which work together to create the signature flair and melodrama of Spanish-style music. Balancing these different moments is a challenge, but a fun one!



MUSICIANS



NAPA VALLEY YOUTH STRINGS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE (NYCE)

MADELINE CHIU
MILES CHIU
EVIE COLLINS
KARLE CORTEZ
JETT CRUZ
EDEN JAMES
ADELE KIM
ORLANDO PIPER

SINFONIA

VIOLINS

LEVI FISCHER
BIENVENIDO MAGBANUA
BENEDICT MARAPAO
MAXWELL PETRICK
MAX READ-MYERS
ANDRE TSAI
ALEXANDRA VEGA VALLEJO
JERRY ZHOU

CELLOS

ALEX BUI
OLIVIA D'ANTILIO
PAULA DIMAS-ARRIOLA
CAMILLE KIM
MARGOT LIEKEN
GEMMA PENSERINI
DANIELA RODRIGUEZ
ETHAN SHANAHAN

FLUTES

SACHIKO ABELLA
OLIVIA POPE

CLARINETS

RANIELLE MAGCAUAS
EVELYN RICH
LENA SCOTT

TRUMPETS

ROBERT BULMAN

TROMBONE

DOMINIC DIPIERO
CALVIN ROFKAHR



MUSICIANS



YOUTH SYMPHONY

VIOLINS

ANTONIO BAZÁN
OLIVIA BUI
MADELINE CHIU
MILES CHIU
KAYLEE CHUNG
EVIE COLLINS
JETT CRUZ
SOPHIA D'ANTILIO
ADELINE GLYNN
ANNETTE GLYNN
LANA KEIMACH
ADELE KIM
LACHLAN JOHNSON
HUNTER KNIGHT
KRISTI LEE
SECONDO MONTICELLI
FINNEGAN SHANAHAN
STELLA TIEDEMANN-FULLER
CHIN CHEN (BUNNY) WU

VIOLAS

INGRID BECKER
ERIZ MIZUNO
ORLANDO PIPER

CELLOS

KALEB BASCO
KARLE CORTEZ
JOSE CRESPO
AUDREY HARTWIG
EDEN JAMES
LUCA MARIANO
DAGON MIZUNO
ADELA REGALADO-ZACHLOD

BASS

STEPHEN SMITH

FLUTES

CAROLINE LAMONTE
GABRIEN MAGCAUAS
ELIZA WICKS

OBOE

CELESTE TRUONG

CLARINETS

YUCHEN (AMY) LIAO
JORDAN MASSEY
ANGELINE RODRIGUEZ

BASSOON

CAROLYN STAATS





MUSICIANS



YOUTH SYMPHONY

TRUMPETS

RYAN BUTLER
SOPHIA PIPER

HORNS

ROGER FLORES-CHACÓN
ALBERTO FLORES-CHACÓN
KIM RODRIGUEZ

TROMBONE

LIAM DALEY

PERCUSSION

AIDAN ANDERSON
COLIN THEUNISSEN
MICHELLE WASSAF

PIANO

ARYA ADHYE

GUEST MUSICIANS

VIOLA

ANDY TING

HORN

JASON WHITNEY

BASS

LEIF DERING

TRUMPET

MITCHELL THOMPSON

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

DIEGO BORGES

TROMBONE

MICAH KAKUNO
OSCAR BAUTISTA BERNABE

THIS EVENING'S GUEST MUSICIANS ARE MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRA AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY. WE APPRECIATE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE.



CLASS OF 2025



ANTONIO BAZÁN

I'm very happy to have been part of NVYS and to have been able to contribute to the ensemble. I spent 4 years in Sinfonia and these last 3 with NVYS. The move from Sinfonia to NVYS was very difficult but I feel that the rigor of that move challenged me to grow as a musician. I made many friends at NVYS and seeing them every Sunday motivated me to continue practicing. My favorite memories were performing at the San Francisco War Memorial to celebrate Brazil's Bicentennial and Carnegie Hall in New York. I have been offered admission to UCLA where I will be majoring in Atmospheric and

Oceanic Sciences/Mathematics. I am very excited to continue onto this next part of my academic journey and I would like to sincerely thank all the staff at NVYS for helping me along that journey. I am incredibly thankful to have been part of such a welcoming and excellent youth ensemble.



RYAN BUTLER

NVYS has been a huge part of my middle and high school journey and has given me unforgettable experiences, long-lasting friendships, and a chance to grow musically. I began my musical journey with Sinfonia in 7th grade, where I quickly fell in love with the music, environment, and mentors that I found there. Moving to bridge for my 8th-grade year we were plunged into COVID-19 which certainly complicated things, however, we managed to survive and my passion for music only grew. During my time in Sinfonia, I admired the skills, music, and community that the older Youth

Symphony members had and I was thrilled to get in. As a part of the Youth Symphony, I have been blessed with the opportunity to travel and perform all over the world. Some of my best memories in high school have come from the Symphony tour to Europe, as well as the most recent tour to perform in Carnegie Hall. These two trips allowed me to not only perform music I love in world-class venues, but also experience the world and cultures while bonding with my peers. NVYS has fueled my passion for music and I am planning on continuing music in some capacity in my future endeavors. I plan to minor in music at whatever university I attend, with hopes of studying psychology to become either a sports psychologist, music therapist, or doctor. The symphony has prepared me well and I have grown so much over my 6 years in the program as the principal trumpet player. As someone who has been heavily involved with music throughout my life, I implore everyone to remain curious, try new things, and pursue their passions. Stay in music and support your fellow musicians. The Napa Valley Youth Symphony has been one of the highlights of my high school career and I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to be a part of it.



CLASS OF 2025



MADELINE CHIU

I have been playing the violin for 14 years! I have been part of NVYS programs—Sinfonia, Bridge, NYCE (Napa Youth Chamber Ensemble), and of course NVYS—for nine years. In addition to the violin, I play the vibraphone in my school marching band's pitched percussion section, as well as a bit of piano and flute. I am also the Concertmaster of the Vintage High School orchestra and the Assistant Drum Major of the marching band! Outside of music, I am also a passionate climate advocate and work with Napa Schools for Climate Action to ensure our local, state, and national governments enact sustainable policies that will ensure a safe and stable climate for generations to come. In my free time, I enjoy crocheting amigurumi animals, reading, and sleeping. I have a lot of favorite NVYS memories, so it's hard to choose just one, but I loved going to New York City and getting to play as Concertmaster at Carnegie Hall during our Summer 2024 Tour. After graduating high school, I plan to attend a four-year university studying Climate and Environmental Science. Wherever I end up, I plan on playing in my college orchestra and joining (or even forming) a chamber music group with friends!



LIAM DALEY

I started out in Sinfonia when I was in 6th grade, I wish back then I could've seen myself now, because I know little sixth grade me would've been so proud at how far I've come. In that time I went from struggling with anything above an elementary school level to being able to sight read most pieces given to me, learning improvisation, and being able to hit notes that I didn't even realize were possible on the trombone. I've also made incredible memories, the trip to Europe after my freshman year was probably



the most memorable and amazing trip I've been on in my entire life, I still frequently bring it whenever I talk about some of the coolest things I've ever been a part of. After graduation I plan on going to a college down in Los Angeles or San Diego, I still haven't decided which one yet. I want to study psychology and philosophy. I also plan on sticking with the arts, regarding music specifically, I'd like to find either another youth orchestra or jazz band to be a part of. I'd recommend that younger musicians play music they enjoy. If you like what you're playing you'll just be more excited to play and end up playing better, and you'll never get tired of your instrument. Recently I joined a local community band playing movie music, and although I'm in both my school concert and jazz bands, as well as the community band and youth symphony I never get tired of playing because I enjoy what I'm playing, and I really love the trombone. Overall, I'd like to thank the Napa Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra because it exposed me to music I never would've otherwise had a chance to play, and gave me a new appreciation for music in general, as well as giving me opportunities of a lifetime and memories I'll never forget.



CLASS OF 2025



ROGER FLORES-CHACÓN

I am currently a senior at Napa High School, serving as First Horn for both the Napa Valley Youth Symphony and the Napa High Performing Band. Additionally, I hold the role of Lead Trumpet for the Napa High Jazz Band and have been Drum Major for the Napa High Marching Band for two years. My passion for music has flourished since my first encounter with Miles Davis' works, continuing to evolve throughout my time with the Youth Symphony. It has been an honor to perform with the Youth Symphony for three years. Over this time, I've learned invaluable lessons in teamwork,



balancing sound and rhythm, honing my horn-playing techniques, and understanding performance etiquette. My sight reading skills have improved, and my desire to excel in tonality has grown stronger. Among my most memorable experiences with the Youth Symphony are the 2022 Cazadero trip and the 2024 New York trip. In Cazadero, I woke up to the misty morning in the redwoods, feeling surrounded by nature's majesty. The morning air was crisp, with the sun filtering through the fog as our trumpeter played Reveille. In New York, I stood in awe in one of the world's most famous concert halls, preparing to perform with my horn chilled by the cool air. The next day, as I flew over the skyline, I realized I was standing on the edge of something greater—a glimpse into my future. Though my path isn't yet fully clear, I plan to major in aerospace engineering at a college that offers a solid education at an affordable price. I may even study in Mexico with my extended family. No matter where I go, I will carry the legacy of the Symphony with me, always seeking my next musical community.

EDEN JAMES



Being part of the Youth Orchestra throughout my high school journey has deeply moved me. I started in middle school via Zoom, and since then, the program has allowed me to grow as a musician and nurture my passion for music. From performing at the San Francisco Brazilian Consulate to playing at Carnegie Hall during our New York tour, each performance has been a cherished moment to escape daily stresses and immerse myself in music. Reflecting on my time with the Napa Valley Youth Orchestra, I'm proud of the

growth I've made, not only in my technical abilities but also in my musical confidence. This experience has strengthened my performance skills and belief in my abilities. I've also loved witnessing the orchestra's evolution as we rehearsed for concerts and trips, seeing our collective sound blend and grow stronger with each practice, and feeling proud of the hard work we put into every performance. As I move forward, I'm excited to continue growing as a cellist in college, joining local orchestras, and deepening my musical understanding. I'll attend Napa Valley Community College for two years before transferring to UC Berkeley to major in Architecture and minor in Music. Though I'm sad to leave the Youth Symphony, I'm grateful and excited for this next chapter.



CLASS OF 2025



LACHLAN JOHNSON

I first entered into this program in Sinfonia back when I was just in sixth grade. I was just eleven years old. I remember at the time not being able to do vibrato. I didn't know anyone at the time, except for my best friend and his twin brother, who also joined at the same time. I ended up making multiple friends and warming up to the conductors. In a couple years after joining Sinfonia, I made it into bridge, the in-between stage between Sinfonia and youth symphony and a year after that, I made it into youth symphony. Our conductor at the time, Alan, was a very warm and fun guy. He would always have some story to tell that would relate to what we were playing and he made everyone feel welcome. It was sad to see him go, though our new conductor also seems like a very good guy. I've grown both in my abilities and confidence over the years. I've gotten better at subdivision countering, intonation, shifting into different positions, bowing techniques, and playing as a group. My favorite thing we've done as a symphony has been to go to Camp Cazadero over the summer of 2023. We camped in the redwoods inside of a tented wooden cabin bunking with friends and met new people. We practice music but we did some fun activities. We got in groups to make a 1 minute advertisement for Camp Cazadero, where we helped each other with the cinematography and acting. We also played jeopardy with our symphony. We roasted marshmallows over an open fire and put them into chocolate bars and graham crackers to make s'mores. I purchased a hoodie from there to remember my experiences. We practiced outside on a stage. I have been accepted into Santa Clara University and plan to go there for four years, where I will major in Mechanical engineering.



GABRIEN MAGCAUAS



I started playing flute in my freshman year of high school. I attended band camp at American Canyon High School and instantly fell in love with the flute. When I first heard about the Napa Valley Youth Symphony, I immediately knew that I wanted to be a part of it. Before I knew it, I achieved this goal after playing for only six months. Some of my favorite memories of NVYS is the Europe tour in 2022 when I got to see the beautiful sights of Leipzig, Prague, and Vienna. On the bus, I heard my fellow members singing top 80s/00s hits out of tune and they kept me entertained. I was also honored to be part

of the New York tour and perform at Carnegie Hall and watch other exceptional orchestras. After high school, I will be majoring in biochemistry at college. I am currently unsure where I will be attending, but I hope to go to Cal Poly Pomona, UC Riverside, CSU Long Beach, or get off the waitlist at UC San Diego! After receiving my bachelor's in biochemistry, I hope to attend the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and become a veterinarian. I will definitely be keeping in touch with my musical side by joining groups in and outside of school.



CLASS OF 2025



SOPHIA PIPER

As my time with NVYS comes to an end, I'm incredibly grateful for the experiences, challenges, and friendships that have shaped me over the past 3 years. When I first joined my sophomore year, I was both excited and intimidated. I already had a couple of friends in the group and it actually helped grow our friendships even further. Through countless Sundays of practice and many unforgettable concerts, I've grown not only as a musician but also as a person. NVYS has taught me discipline, perseverance, and the importance of working together to create something bigger than ourselves. Some



of my favorite memories include going to Canes in Times Square and our ensemble's trip to Carnegie Hall in New York. These experiences remind me just how powerful and rewarding music can be. I plan to attend San Diego State University as an English Major, but no matter where I go, music will always be a huge part of my life. The lessons I've learned here—about dedication, collaboration, and pushing through challenges—will stay with me long after my final performance. To younger musicians in NVYS: appreciate every moment. Take in the rehearsals, the concerts, and even the times you don't want to go and when things don't go as planned. Every challenge helps you grow, and every performance is a chance to create something meaningful. Thank you to my fellow musicians, our conductors, the incredible staff, Silvia, my family and everyone who has supported me on this journey. I will always cherish my time with NVYS and the incredible music we made together.



ANGELINE RODRIGUEZ

The Napa Valley Youth Symphony has been a huge part of my life. I first joined my sophomore year after my friends encouraged me to apply. I remember being so nervous for my audition because I didn't feel good enough or ready to play the music but I ended up making it straight to Youth Symphony. This was just one time of many that I had successfully pushed myself musically because of the Napa Valley Youth Symphony. I have been playing with this symphony for 3 years and every year I have grown immensely. I started as the last

chair in the clarinet section and had moved all the way to first. Being in this group has helped me grow not only as a musician but as a person. It has improved my confidence in playing and just overall and because of that I have made some everlasting friendships and amazing memories during our rehearsals and our tours. Some of my favorites were during our tour to New York. Specifically the dinner right before we played at Carnegie Hall, I ate some of the best pizza of my life and I got to meet so many people in the symphony I had never talked to before. After I graduate I am planning on attending UC Santa Cruz or UC Santa Barbara to study Neuropsychology as I hope to become a clinical Neuropsychologist. Music has taught me so much in so many aspects of my life and so I ask any younger musicians to not give up on music and continue to stay passionate and curious about the arts, because it really is worth it.



CLASS OF 2025



FINNEGAN SHANAHAN

Since watching Classical Baby as a toddler, I've had a love for classical music. So, when it came time to pick an instrument in 4th grade, I was excited. What I didn't realize was how much work would be required to play any music—let alone a single note in tune. Now, looking back, I'm glad I put in the hours—about 5,000 of them. I'm finally able to play the music I once listened to in awe, even if it isn't quite as good. Although I've been playing violin since 4th grade, I really started to enjoy it in middle school. My teacher Mr. Burdick



taught me the joy of creating music, and showed me how to put emotion into every movement. Since then, I've realized the full value of that thought: music is art, and art is meant to make you feel something. Like the Ancient Greeks and their tragedies, music can be incredibly cathartic—which is probably why music is universally loved. Through my 6+ years in NVYS, I've continued to learn about the joy of music: particularly, playing in a group. I especially remember our trip to New York last summer, and our heavenly concert at Carnegie Hall. I can't even begin to describe the acoustics in that room—you truly had to be there. It was a very special experience, being able to play music on that stage. I'll never forget the moment—mid concert—that I paused to really pay attention to the sound reverberating in the hall. Going into the future, I expect my journey through music to change once again. I'll never stop playing the violin, but I don't see myself playing professionally either. I'm looking forward to taking more of an independent/hobbyist route: playing more Irish jigs, solo pieces, and perhaps joining a small quartet with friends. I have enjoyed playing in a big symphony, but I find that the small groups are my forte. As the beginning comes to an end, I find myself reflecting fondly on my time with music in Napa. I'm looking forward to whatever the future holds. Next year, you might find me studying a physics textbook, or playing an Irish jig in a pub—we'll see.



NVYS AT 9/11 MEMORIAL IN NEW YORK CITY



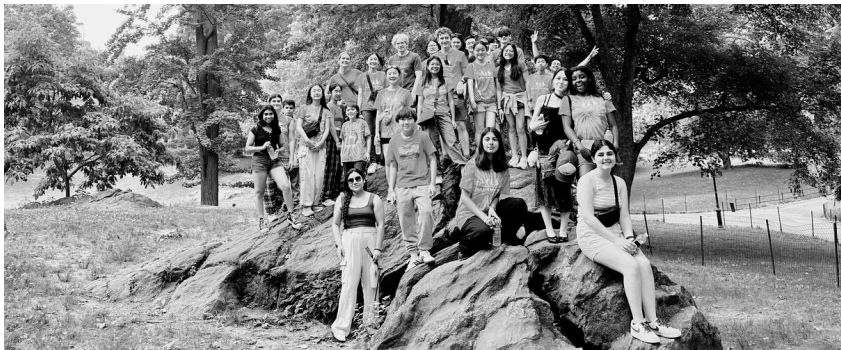
CLASS OF 2025



COLIN THEUNISSEN

In the six years I have been with NVYS, I have grown so much as a musician and a person. When I joined, there weren't yet any percussionists in the program, but I was welcomed into Sinfonia and Bridge regardless. During those years, I learned how much there was to know about percussion. I joined the Youth Symphony right as Alan stepped in as conductor. I looked at the parts for Choros and Danson and, not recognizing a single instrument that was called for, realized that I had work to do. That's when Beverly and Robert came in and excitedly showed me the many techniques and instruments

that they rarely get to play in their usual repertoire. Alan was also very excited about these pieces and would often modify the percussion parts to fit his vision for the piece. Working with the exceptional coaching of Beverly and Robert while trying to incorporate these modifications set me towards rapid improvement in my instrument. The following concerts saw a similar process, allowing me to learn new instruments as we went. My favorite memories of Youth Symphony are undoubtedly the tours. In my ninth-grade summer, we traveled to Europe to perform in Leipzig, Prague, and Vienna. Experiencing different countries alongside friends and peers was extremely fun and allowed me to form connections with members I hadn't known very well. Some of the highlights of that trip were getting ice cream in Vienna, climbing to the top of a cathedral as fast as we could, and sliding across a bridge in the rain of Prague. After that tour, another percussionist joined me in Youth Symphony, and I finally had a section. Two others arrived the following year, and I was able to grow my leadership skills in the NVYS community. My hope for the Youth Symphony is that they continue to have percussionists who can learn and grow like I did. I plan to major in physics, but I know that I will continue to play music as I move toward higher education.



NVYS IN CENTRAL PARK IN NEW YORK CITY



CLASS OF 2025



MICHELLE WASSEF

I joined the Napa Valley Youth Symphony in the Fall of 2022. Piano was my main instrument before high school. I had not been doing percussion for long, let alone performed with other people, so auditioning was quite intimidating at first. However, I am happy to say I was welcomed with open arms. NVYS has given me so much more confidence in myself as well as a deeper appreciation for the music that I love. It has also provided me with a community of like-minded people that I always look forward to playing with every concert and Sunday during rehearsal. One of my favorite memories is when we were walking off the stage at Carnegie Hall and I just took a moment to stand there in awe, absorbing every corner of the auditorium. That was a once in a lifetime opportunity I will never forget. To anyone looking to audition for the symphony: don't be afraid to put yourself out there. You can only realize your full potential when you decide to go beyond boundaries of comfort. I am so happy that I didn't give into my initial trepidations because I would have been missing out on something that has grown to be such a meaningful part of my life. I hope to continue my involvement in music in college while I pursue a career somewhere within science.



CLASS OF 2025 FACTS

THE CLASS OF 2025 HAS 66 YEARS OF COMBINED MUSIC MAKING WITH THE NAPA VALLEY YOUTH SYMPHONY!

MANY OF THE GRADUATING CLASS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THEIR SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAMS LIKE MARCHING BAND, JAZZ BAND, ORCHESTRA, AND CHOIR!

ASIDE FROM MUSIC, OUR SENIORS PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL SPORTS, THEATER, AND ARE EXCELLENT STUDENTS!

TWO OF OUR SENIORS EARNED THE PRESTIGIOUS 2025 DISTINCTION AS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS - CONGRATS MADELINE AND FINNEGAN!

THANK YOU FOR THE SHARED MUSIC MAKING AND GREAT MEMORIES - WE WISH YOU THE BEST, CLASS OF 2025!



JOIN US



GREAT FRIENDSHIPS START HERE!

YOUNG MUSICIANS AGES 8-18 ARE INVITED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS, ENSEMBLES AND AUDITION PROCESS!



NVYS AT BOTTLEROCK NAPA VALLEY



WWW.NVYSO.ORG/ABOUT/AUDITIONS



NVYS TEAM



MUSIC DIRECTOR AND YOUTH SYMPHONY CONDUCTOR
DR. ALEXANDER KAHN, PH.D.

SINFONIA DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR
DEBBIE WALDEN

NYCE DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR AND HEAD COACH
YASUSHI OGURA

ORCHESTRA MANAGER
DIANA BALDOVINO

NOTES PROGRAM MANAGER
CYNTHIA SOTO

LIBRARIAN
JULIAN CRUZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SILVIA REGALADO-ZACHLOD

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COACHES



VIOLIN

YASUSHI OGURA
MATTHEW VINCENT

VIOLA

NAO KUBOTA
ALEXANDRA SIMPSON
ANDY TING

CELLO

DAVID BRIN
GWYNETH DAVIS
AMY LEUNG

WOODWINDS

CAROL ADEE

PERCUSSION

ROBERT HAMAKER
DOUG KNOLL

BRASS

SUZANNE CHASLOW
DREW JOHNSON
JANIS LIEBERMAN

GUEST CONDUCTORS



SINFONIA

MATTEA WILLIAMS, NVYS ALUMNA

YOUTH SYMPHONY

DR. ALEXANDER KAHN, PH.D.

*THIS SEASON'S SECTIONAL COACHING AND GUEST
CONDUCTORS WERE MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROUS
SUPPORT FROM AMPLIFI NAPA VALLEY.*



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music
in the
vineyards



Napa
Valley
Community
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*THANK YOU FOR MAKING QUALITY MUSIC EDUCATION
PROGRAMS, PERFORMANCES AND TRAINING ACCESSIBLE TO
YOUNG MUSICIANS THROUGH NVYS!*



UPCOMING EVENTS



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR PERFORMANCE THIS EVENING. WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AGAIN AND SHARE OUR PROGRAMS WITH YOUNG MUSICIANS IN YOUR LIFE.

2025/2026 AUDITIONS

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Saturday, August 23, 2025

Sunday, August 24, 2025

RECITALS AND CONCERTS

Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 2pm
Community Park II, American Canyon

Saturday, July 19, 2025 at 7pm
Jarvis Conservatory, Napa

Fall 2025 - TBD at 7pm
Jarvis Conservatory, Napa

STRINGS CHAMBER CAMP

Monday, July 14, 2025 through Saturday, July 19, 2025
Jarvis Conservatory, Napa

STUDENT MASTERCLASS WITH MUSIC IN THE VINEYARDS

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 4pm
Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, Napa

WWW.NVYSO.ORG/EVENTS/CONCERTS



IMAGINE THE FUTURE



Consider the gift of music for a new generation of NVYS musicians—your support empowers music-making and mastery, while making music accessible to young artists from all walks of life. Imagine the transformation you will inspire through harmony and creativity.



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**EVERY GIFT MAKES A
DIFFERENCE!**



THANK YOU FOR
ATTENDING!



LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

P.O. BOX 6594
NAPA, CA 94581

PHONE: (707) 681-5565
EMAIL: ORCHESTRA@NVYSO.ORG

WWW.NVYSO.ORG

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