



NAPA VALLEY YOUTH SYMPHONY



Community Concert & Instrument Petting Zoo

A Fun, Interactive Musical Experience for the
Whole Family



The Jarvis Conservatory for the Arts

1711 Main Street | Napa, CA



Friday | May 8, 2026 | 6 PM



Where young musicians grow in confidence, skill, and community.

Program

6:00 PM Instrumental Petting Zoo

Instruments provided by Music Connection

6:30 PM Concert

Our musicians have been working hard to bring this music to life. We hope you enjoy each piece as much as they've enjoyed learning it.

NOTES

- * *Appalachian Hymn* - Soon Hee Newbold

SINFONIA

- * *Dragonhunter* - Richard Meyer
- * *The Russian Music Box* - Soon Hee Newbold

BRIDGE ENSEMBLE

- * *Dance of the Tumblers* - Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, arr. by Sandra Dackow
- * *Millenium* - Richard Meyer
- * *Dance of the Hours from La Gioconda* - Amilcare Ponchielli, arr. by Richard Meyer

Welcome Message



A MESSAGE FROM SILVIA NVYS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Napa Valley Youth Symphony Board of Directors, staff, musicians, and families, thank you for joining us tonight as we celebrate the energy, dedication, and artistry our young musicians bring to the stage across every ensemble.

Over the past 28 weeks, these musicians have shown up with focus, commitment, and heart—learning to listen, lead, and perform together as

one. Through every rehearsal, they have strengthened not only their musicianship, but also their discipline, confidence, resilience, and collaboration. Behind this growth stands an extraordinary team of sectional coaches and teaching artists who have delivered more than 250 hours of focused instruction to support and challenge each student.

Each season, NVYS musicians engage in more than 2,840 minutes of advanced music education, rehearsal, and performance training. This level of growth does not happen alone—it is made possible through a powerful ecosystem of support. Our artistic and operational teams, teaching artists, families, board members, community partners, and donors all actively invest in the success of these students. Together, we help ensure that high-quality music education remains accessible to young musicians of all backgrounds, regardless of socioeconomic circumstance, language, or prior access to instrumental instruction.

This year, in partnership with our educational partners—the NOTES Foundation, Festival Napa Valley, Amplifi Napa Valley, and the California Arts Council—we witnessed a full-circle pathway of musical development. Students who began in elementary music programs stepped into NVYS and challenged themselves to reach new levels of excellence. They set higher goals, embraced new opportunities, and grew into confident, capable young artists. This is what happens when young people are given structure, opportunity, mentorship, and a community that believes in them.

We would also like to thank Music Connection for generously providing instruments for tonight's Instrument Petting Zoo, and our Youth Symphony members who helped introduce aspiring young musicians to the instruments of the orchestra.

As we look ahead, we invite you to continue sharing NVYS with the young musicians in your life—as future students, audience members, volunteers, or supporters. This summer, our programs will continue creating meaningful opportunities for growth, helping students deepen their artistry while carrying the joy of music into our schools and throughout our community.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping make music-making possible.

OUR MUSICIANS

These are the young musicians you're hearing tonight—each at a different stage of their musical journey.

NOTES

Amanda (Andy) Ting, Guest Conductor

Violins

Mia Fernandez
Naomi Knutson
Mariel Moreno
Sara Pacheco Diaz
Cristobal Rizo Lopez
Sofia Rosas Herмосillo
Lily Snider
William Tholcke
Jack Wetzel

Cellos

Ellie Ballines
Cataleya Saldivar Rios

Flute

Evalenah Clark
Daphne Paukert

Trumpet

Magdalene Tholcke

Violin Coaches

Cody Alves
Amanda (Andy) Ting
Beth Vye

Viola Coach

Amanda (Andy) Ting

Cello Coach

Hanna Murakami

Flute Coach

Theodore Hayse

Trumpet Coach

Madison Lechman

SINFONIA

Dr. Richard Loheyde, Director

Violins

Ronald Magcauas Jr.
Paloma Ortiz
Dasha S. Ramirez
Vargas
Nemo Roehm
Nathalia Rosas
Anthony Vega Vallejo
Alessandra Zachlod

Violas

Jamie
Ballines
Sofia
Preciado

Cellos

Alexis
Gallagher
Alex Harle

BRIDGE ENSEMBLE

Debbie Walden, Director

Violins I

Levi Fisher
Bienvenido Magbanua
**
Maxwell Petrick
Ruby Solga
Andre Tsai

Flutes

Sachiko Abella
Delilah Acosta
Michael Fernandez
Morgan Galvin
Olivia Pope *

Violins II

Julia Camara *
Kal Nebiyou
Eleanor Nelson
Yelena Reyes
Alexandra Vega
Vallejo

Clarinets

Janney Gutierrez
Ava Luchetti
Ranielle
Magcauas *
Joel Mueller
Penelope Paukert
Lena Scott

Violas

Sophia Lopez-
Ramos
Lexi Morgan
Max Read-Myers*

Trumpets

Robert Bulman *
Mateo
Covarrubias

Percussion

Ariana DiPiero *

Cellos

Alex Bui
Olivia D'Antilio
Camille Kim *
Margot Leiken
Gemma
Penserini

Trombones

Dominic DiPiero *
Indigo Fisher

Bass

Jaciel Polina
Kalyuzhnaya*

** Concertmaster

* Principal

WHERE YOUNG MUSICIANS GROW, BELONG, AND THRIVE

Young musicians ages 8-18 are invited to learn more about our programs, ensembles, and audition process!



NVYS PEER MENTOR WITH NOTES MUSICIAN

CURIOS WHAT THIS COULD LOOK LIKE FOR YOUR CHILD?

Scan to explore programs and upcoming auditions



WWW.NVYSO.ORG/ABOUT/AUDITIONS



NOTES PROGRAM FOR STRINGS, WOODWINDS & BRASS

ENSEMBLE DIRECTORS

ALEXANDER KAHN, PH.D.

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 came to Sonoma State from Gettysburg College, where he was Associate Professor of Music and Director of Orchestral Activities at the Sunderman Conservatory of Music. Previous university-level orchestras with whom Alexander has worked include the UC Berkeley Chamber Orchestra (Founder and Music Director) and the UC Berkeley Symphony (Assistant Conductor).

In addition to his work with college-level orchestras, Alexander has worked with professional orchestras across the United States and throughout Europe. Currently he serves as Assistant and Cover Conductor for both the Santa Rosa Symphony and the San Francisco Symphony, and as Principal Guest Conductor for the Bay Philharmonic in Fremont, CA. Previous positions he has held include Music Director of the Metta Ensemble (Gettysburg, PA), Cover Conductor for the Baltimore Symphony, Staff Conductor for the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC, Assistant Conductor of the Bamberg Symphony, and Music Director of the Bamberg Collegium Musicum.

A champion for music education, Alexander is Music Director of the Napa Valley Youth Orchestra. He regularly works with young musicians at the Encore Coda Performing Arts Camp (Sweden, Maine) and at the Cazadero Performing Arts Camp, and is a frequent guest conductor for middle school and high school honor orchestras throughout California. He also serves on the Board of the California Orchestra Directors Association (CODA).

Alexander earned a Ph.D. in Music History from UC Berkeley and remains active as a scholar. His book on mindfulness and music, *Caring for the Whole Musician*, was published by Routledge Press in 2023. He lectures and offers workshops on the subject of mindfulness for musicians throughout California and beyond.

Alexander's love of music was inherited from his father, Eugene Kahn, a conductor and educator on Long Island. His primary conducting studies were at UC Berkeley with David Milnes and at the Peabody Institute with Marin Alsop, Gustav Meier and Markand Thakar. He has also participated in workshops with teachers including Larry Rachleff, Kenneth Kiesler, Daniel Lewis and Peter Gülke.

YASUSHI OGURA

Yasushi Ogura has been NVYS's principal coach since the orchestra's inception in 2003. He is the current concertmaster of Symphony Napa Valley and Pocket Opera, past concertmaster and soloist of the Napa Valley Symphony and Diablo Valley Ballet, and has performed as guest concertmaster with Berkeley Symphony, California Symphony, and Santa Rosa and Modesto Symphonies. Mr. Ogura often performs with San Francisco Ballet and is a regular member of Skywalker Symphony performing on numerous film and video soundtracks recorded at Skywalker Ranch. He also performed as concertmaster for all 16 Zarzuela performances at the Jarvis Conservatory. The San Francisco Classical Voice gave "special kudos to Yasushi Ogura for his leadership" in their review of the Pocket Philharmonic performance of "The Two Widows." Mr. Ogura is in demand as both a teacher and performer.

ENSEMBLE DIRECTORS

DEBBIE WALDEN

Director of our Bridge Ensemble and beloved music educator, Debbie Walden received her Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and her California Teaching Credential from California State University at Fullerton. She began her teaching career in the Capistrano Unified School District and recently retired from the Napa Valley Unified School District. Debbie was formerly the Music Director at American Canyon Middle School.

Debbie has been involved with the Napa Valley Youth Symphony Organization for 15 years, and though her love for music is evident, her heart for her family reigns supreme as she cherishes her husband of 43 years, her 3 children and their spouses, and her 8 grandchildren. In addition, Debbie is very involved in her church where her husband is the lead pastor and Debbie leads the women's ministry.

RICHARD LOHEYDE

Dr. Richard Loheyde is an accomplished conductor and educator with a proven record of leadership and training young musicians. Currently he will be guest conducting the Ukiah Symphony throughout the 2025–2026 season. Loheyde served as the conductor of the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra for thirteen seasons, during which time the orchestra was named "Youth Orchestra of the Year" by Classics Alive. His previous roles include string faculty member at Sonoma State University, Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of Evansville, Music Director of the Heartland Philharmonic, Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Nebraska–Omaha, Music Director of the University of Texas University Orchestra, and Music Director of the Owensboro Symphony Youth Orchestra. He was also conductor of orchestras for the University of Texas String Project, the Summerfield Waldorf School Orchestra, and the Credo High School orchestra. His guest conducting experience includes engagements with the Austin Symphony Orchestra, the Austin Civic Orchestra and Opera, the Nebraska Honors Orchestra, the Iowa State University Symphony Orchestra, the International Music Camp, and over twenty pops and family concerts as conductor of the Santa Rosa Symphony Family Concert Series.

Dr. Loheyde began his music studies as a violinist, with early training at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras, and at the Tanglewood Music Center, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Richard has music degrees from the University of Michigan, the University of Connecticut, and the University of Texas at Austin. He received further conducting training at the Chautauqua Institution and the Brevard Music Center. Loheyde has been a violinist and/or violist with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra, and the Santa Rosa Symphony.

In addition to his teaching and conducting, Dr. Loheyde has led national and international orchestra tours, including those to Chicago, Vienna, Salzburg, Budapest, Prague, Berlin, Leipzig, China, and Belize. His collaborations include concerts with composers John Corigliano, Peter Schickele (PDQ Bach), violinists, MiDori, Stefan Milenkovich, jazz violinist, Regina Carter, crossover performers Lindsay Deutsch, Mads Tolling, and electric cellist Rebecca Roudman, to name but a few. Dr. Loheyde has a thriving violin and viola studio in Sonoma County and is active as clinician, judge, and coach for university, youth, and public school orchestras and festivals across the North Bay.

OUR TEACHING ARTISTS/COACHES

This season's sectional coaching was made possible through the generous support from the California Arts Council and AMPLIFI Napa Valley.

VIOLIN COACHES

Cody Alves
Richard Loheyde
Yasushi Ogura
Amanda (Andy) Ting
Beth Vye

VIOLA COACHES

Richard Loheyde
Amanda (Andy) Ting

CELO COACHES

Gwyneth Davis
Amy Leung
Hanna Murakami

FLUTE COACHES

Carol Adee
Theo Hayse

CLARINET COACH

Lindsey Ha

TRUMPET COACHES

Suzanne Chaslow
Josh Jerge
Madison Lechman
Janis Lieberman

PERCUSSION COACHES

Robert Hamaker
Carl J. Kittrell
Doug Knoll

NVYS MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Are Made Possible in Partnership With



OUR DONORS

This season our music education programs, performances, and student scholarships were made possible through the support and generosity of:

Anonymous	Jarvis Conservatory for the Arts
AMPLIFI Napa Valley	Jarvis Family
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Nancy Fireman	Verna Steinhauer
Sherry Fournier	Charlene Steen
Katy Gallagher	Bridget Stewart
Marianne Galvin	Maureen and Cobus Theunissen
Diane Gandara	Nadia Valenzuela
Amy Garden	Julianna Villegas Hart
Nancy Garden	Norman Weir
Elaine Herrick	Julie Worthington
Jan Hill	Krystyna Wulff

** Partial List of Support received through print date of 3/01/2026*

JOIN US FOR OUR 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.

2026/2027 AUDITIONS

Sunday, May 17, 2026
Sunday, August 16, 2026
Sunday, August 23, 2026
Sunday, August 30, 2026

SUMMER 2026 CONCERTS

YASUSHI & FRIENDS STRINGS CHAMBER BENEFIT CONCERT

Friday, May 29, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Jarvis Conservatory, Napa

STRINGS CHAMBER CAMP

Monday, July 20, 2026 through Saturday, July 25, 2026
Jarvis Conservatory, Napa

WOODWINDS & BRASS CHAMBER CAMP

Monday, July 27, 2026 through Friday, July 31, 2026
Jarvis Conservatory, Napa

**RESERVE YOUR
TICKETS**



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GIFTS TO NVYS TRANSFORM LIVES

Every performance you see tonight is made possible by a community that believes in the power of music to change lives.

Gifts of every size make a profound impact—ensuring that our comprehensive music education programs remain accessible to all young musicians seeking deeper mastery of their instrument.

Friends of the Napa Valley Youth Symphony share in the artistry and opportunity each season brings. Your generosity sustains the growth of our young musicians as they refine their expression, leadership, and technical mastery through challenging repertoire and collaborative performances.

Whether you once played an instrument or have always been inspired by the power of music, your gift helps nurture the next generation of musicians and keeps our ensembles thriving.

You can make a GIFT tonight by scanning this QR Code; or see an NVYS Staff person in the lobby to make your gift in-person via check or credit card.

MAKE A GIFT HERE



or visit us online at:
www.nvyso.org/donate

**EVERY GIFT MAKES A
DIFFERENCE!**

Your support helps ensure that every child—regardless of background—has access to music education.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS EVENING!

We hope tonight inspired you as much as it inspires our students.

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ARTISTIC TEAM

Alexander Kahn, Ph. D.

Music Director & Conductor

Yasushi Ogura

NYCE Director & Head Strings Coach

Debbie Walden

Bridge Director

Dr. Richard Loheyde

Sinfonia Strings Director

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