

WEEK OF: 01/13/2026



FROM THE STAND

NEWS, EVENTS AND SPOTLIGHTS



WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM SILVIA

It was wonderful to see our musicians back in rehearsal this past weekend! A friendly reminder that we look forward to seeing families **ONLINE** for our Family Check-In, a simple and informative way to get caught up on what to expect for the rest of the season.

A key part of your musician's experience with us is both performing alongside and learning from other student musicians. We invite families to join us at the Sierra Youth Festival on Saturday, January 24 at 3:00 PM, where our Youth Symphony will perform alongside four distinguished youth orchestras.

Congratulations to the four NVYS musicians selected for IDOL Napa Valley—please come cheer them on this Saturday! Be sure to check out our newest performance videos on YouTube and follow us on social media. Our programs continue to grow, and we're thrilled to welcome six new members to Bridge and Sinfonia.

Looking ahead, we're excited to share that the Youth Symphony is scheduled to perform at BottleRock on Sunday, May 24—more details coming soon, but we encourage you to secure one-day tickets early.

UPCOMING DATES

01/15/26

- Family Check-In 7PM ([Zoom Link](#))

01/18/26

- Just Added - [Open Auditions](#)

01/24/26

- Sierra Youth Orchestra Festival -
Tickets Now Available [HERE](#)

02/01/26 - NOTE DATE CHANGE

- STRINGS Seating Auditions for Youth
Symphony & Bridge

02/08/26 - NOTE TIME CHANGE

- 12 PM to 2 PM Rehearsals

FOLLOW US

Stay Connected to all NVYS on:



MAILING ADDRESS

Napa Valley Youth Symphony
P.O. Box 6594 | Napa, CA 94581

www.nvys.org



YOUTH SYMPHONY

Message from Dr. Alexander Kahn, Music Director and Conductor

Hi everyone! Great to see everyone again! We did some good work brushing off the cobwebs from Dvořák and Marquez!

On Sunday, we will continue to prepare for the January 24th Sierra Youth Orchestra Festival, where we will perform Finlandia in addition to the first movement of Dvořák 8 and the Conga del Fuego Nuevo. **PLEASE PRACTICE THIS MUSIC** in preparation for our next rehearsal. We will also sight-read the fourth movement of Dvořák 8, which we will perform in our March concert.

A reminder that on **Feb 1st**, we will hold seating auditions for the strings. We will review the excerpts and the audition process on Sunday. The excerpts are as follows:

- Violin: Dvorak movement 3, opening - measure 22; Dvorak movement 4: R-end
- Viola: Dvorak movement 4, N - P; Dvorak movement 4: R-end
- Cello: Dvorak movement 4, N - P; Dvorak movement 4: R-end
- Bass: Dvorak movement 4, N - P; Dvorak movement 4: R-end

Recommended video of the week: [Rob Knopper on practicing more efficiently](#)

BRIDGE

Message from Debbie Walden, Director and Conductor

Hi Bridge Students.

It was great to get back to work! Now that you have dusted off your instruments, it's important to get back to a regular practicing schedule. You can do it!

During our next rehearsal, we will be rehearsing the slower section of Millennium from 73-142. Be sure to spend a generous amount of time on it. We'll also be working on Jupiter, so **review the triplet rhythm part in measures 26-58**, as well as the **melody starting at 75** where the key changes. It would be a good idea for the string players to work on this section with their private teachers. I know you LOVE those flats!! We'll touch on the other pieces also, but these will be our focus.

If you still don't have your music in a binder, please take care of that before Sunday. Not only will it keep your music from flying away, it will also give you a hard surface so you can easily write reminders on your music - which, by the way, will only happen if you bring a PENCIL! Please have one on your stand at the beginning of rehearsal. It will help us to rehearse more efficiently.

I'm looking forward to our next rehearsal. Try not to miss, but if you must, be sure to fill out an absence form [HERE](#).

See you Sunday!



NYCE - YOUTH STRINGS CHAMBER

Message from Yasushi Ogura, Director and Head Strings Coach

PLEASE KEEP PRACTICING! You have original music - please make sure to keep it neat and do not lose it! Self-directed rehearsal will take place from 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm. Please make sure to arrive early and help with set-up.

SINFONIA

Message from Dr. Richard Loheyde, Director and Conductor

Hello Sinfonia Musicians!

Thank you for all of your hard work throughout the semester!

We will be doing more advanced music this next semester. I wanted to give you one of the main pieces I would like to have us perform so that you can begin to work on it over the holiday break. It is called **Rock-On Strings by Soon-Hee Newbold**. [LINK](#)

[HERE](#) to the audio track and scanned violin and viola parts. *Please look at the clef to make sure you are reading the correct part. :)*

For improving your note reading - I suggest you also **play along with the Essential Elements website tracks** a few pages per week from #116 - #180 in your Essential Elements book. Especially the pieces using the low 2nd fingers if that is new for you.



NOTES YEAR 2 - STRINGS

Message from Beth, Teaching Artist

Special Invitation: Join us for our Family Check-In ([Zoom Link](#)) on Thursday, January, 15th - Hear important updates about the second half of the season!

Helpful Tip of the Week for Parents: Encourage your musician to build confidence and fluency by practicing one scale each day alongside their assigned music. This should take no longer than 10 minutes total! Set your musician up for success by creating a dedicated, distraction-free **practice space at home**—good lighting, a music stand, and easy access to their instrument can make practice feel focused, welcoming, and part of their daily routine.

The **NOTES Program** emphasizes reading music notes because strong music literacy builds a solid string foundation—so as students ascend to Sinfonia and beyond, they can learn faster, play with confidence, and thrive as independent musicians; parents will be invited to join us for a quick crash course in scales in February – stay tuned!

Lastly, exposing young musicians to live performances inspires motivation, musical understanding, and a sense of possibility—join us at the **Sierra Youth Orchestra Festival** to experience five premier youth orchestras perform on January 24th!

NOTES YEAR 1 - STRINGS

Message from Mr. Alves, Hanna & Andy, Teaching Artists

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NOTES YEAR 1 - BAND

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COMMUNITY POSTS

Messages to/from Community and Educational Partners

CONGRATULATIONS
NVYS!

FOUR (4) YOUTH SYMPHONY MUSICIANS HAVE ADVANCED TO THE SEMI-FINALS THIS SATURDAY!

COME CHEER THEM ON! (SPECIAL 2 FOR 1 TICKET OFFER BELOW.)



IDOL INSTRUMENTAL will showcase young talent from throughout Napa County - ages 12-17 - in solo format on a variety of instruments of their choice. Cheer on your favorites at the finals - January 17 & 18.

FINALS at Napa Valley College Performing Arts Center (BUY ONE TICKET, GET ONE FREE)

- Saturday, January 17, 2026: 2pm - Semi-Finals
- Sunday, January 18, 2026: 2pm - Finals

Questions?
Email evywar@gmail.com or call 707-501-8567



Congratulations!



JOSÉ CRESPO
(CELLO)

BENEDICT MARAPAO
(VIOLIN)

ADELA REGALADO-ZACHLOD
(CELLO)

CELESTÉ TRUONG
(OBOE)

 MARIA BELTRÁN
MITCHELL GLOTZER