



NAPA VALLEY YOUTH SYMPHONY



**Young Musicians
and Parent
Handbook**

2018 – 2019

Napa Valley Youth Symphony / Sinfonia

2018-2019 Season at a glance

- Sunday, August 19** Fall auditions for new members • NVYS, Sinf.
- Sunday, August 19** Registration and Family BBQ at Kennedy Park
- Sunday, August 26** Rehearsals Begin • NVYS, Sinfonia
- Saturday & Sunday, September 8-9** Season Retreat Camp Cazadero • NVYS, Sinfonia
- Sunday, September 16** Parent Meeting • NVYS, Sinfonia
- Tuesday, October 21** Concerto Competition Auditions • Interested NVYS students
- Sunday, November 4** NVYS Fall Concert at American Canyon HS • NVYS
- Saturday, November 10** Sinfonia/NYCE Fall Concert @ Jarvis Conservatory • Sinfonia, NYCE
- Sunday, January 6** Rehearsal and New Year Family Pasta Feed • NVYS, Sinfonia
- Sunday, February 10** NVYS/Sinfonia Winter Concert @ Lincoln Theater • NVYS, Sinfonia
- Sunday, February 24** Open Rehearsal, Camp Fair and Audition Workshop • NVYS, Sinfonia
- Thurs & Fri, April 4 & 5** Red Gala Rehearsal • NVYS
- Saturday, April 6,** Red Gala @ Lincoln Theater • NVYS, Sinfonia
- Sunday, April 28; Wednesday, May 1; Saturday, May 4** Auditions • NVYS, Sinfonia
- Saturday, May 5** Community Concert @ Veterans Park • NVYS, Sinfonia
- May 24-26** BottleRock • NVYS, Bridge (*exact time and date TBD*)

This schedule may change at any time and is superseded by any communication by letter or email from the staff of NVYS or by our online calendar: 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@nvysso.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 The list of dates included in this handbook are subject to change and is superseded by any subsequent correspondence throughout the season.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

Chris Carpenter

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.nvysso.org, orchestra@nvysso.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 instrument, 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 email.

	Director	Rehearsal Time	Manager
NVYS	Tristan Arnold	4:30 - 7:15	Meeghan Pavelin
NYCE	Yasushi Ogura	7:15 - 8:30	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 2018-19 season for NVYS \$650. Sinfonia tuition is \$550. 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 must be paid by 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 qualify-ing 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

Parent and community volunteers are critical to the success of our programs and fundraising events. Each year, hundreds of hours will be donated by generous individuals to help us provide the highest musical experience possible for our young musicians. **At least one parent of each student is required to volunteer to help with concerts, Red Gala or special events for a minimum of 10 hours per season. Each family is required to raise a minimum of \$300 to support our program.** which can take the form of sponsorships, concert program ads, matching donations from your employer, 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. **Returning students must audition in the Spring.**

Additional auditions for vacancies in the NVYS may be held at any time until that vacancy is filled.

Musicians accepted into the orchestra after the first rehearsal of a rehearsal period will be required to sit in the back of their respective section. Seating placement auditions for 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 rehearsal will lead to a 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 to be excused, the student must email the orchestra manager requesting an excused absence at least one week prior to the absence date (examples include school events or college preparatory tests). 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.
2. Any musician with 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 that is reported less than one week in advance or any unreported absence.

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. Frequent tardies when returning from breaks in the rehearsal will also accumulate toward consequences.**

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 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.

Private Lessons:

Musicians are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on their instruments whenever possible. Admission into the NVYS is by audition and can be extremely competitive. NVYS has lists of private teachers as well as 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:

Men: Black dress pants, white dress shirt, black bow tie, black shoes, and black socks. NVYS (not Sinfonia) students also wear a black jacket.

Women: Black skirt or black dress pants, long-sleeved blouse (NVYS, black; Sinfonia and Wind Sinfonia, white), black shoes, and black nylons.

Dresses and skirts should fall below the knee when seated. Please no bare midriffs for rehearsals or concerts. No brightly dyed hair for concerts. No perfume or cologne should be worn during rehearsals or concerts. No head-gear is allowed during rehearsals or concerts. **NVYS Only:** For more casual concerts (such as BottleRock and Veterans Park), NVYS polos will be worn with jeans.

Questions?

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

Your question will be directed to the appropriate person!



NAPA VALLEY YOUTH SYMPHONY

**I read the complete information in the 2018-19 handbook,
including the updated attendance and audition policy.**

Parent Name: _____

Musician Name: _____