



## The Bridge Program: Bridging Sinfonia to NVYS

This program is intended to help with the transition process from Sinfonia to Youth Symphony. The program was created to provide students who are not yet performing at Youth Symphony level the opportunity to receive an extra challenge as a member of Sinfonia. In conjunction with focused work at home and with a private teacher, the more advanced techniques of the Bridge program have the possibility to accelerate a student's growth. Bridge is a support program to help students who would like to audition successfully for Youth Symphony in one to two years, but it does not guarantee placement in Youth Symphony.

Bridge coachings and rehearsals are from 6:30 to 7:30 each Tuesday.

### There are four major components to this program:

- 1. Performing as a small group.** The bridge ensemble will work on chamber music, or music written for a small group of musicians, on occasional concerts throughout the season. This type of music has a greater responsibility on each player and is performed without a conductor, requiring each musician to know his or her music at a deeper level. Coaches will work with Bridge musicians to rehearse this music in preparation for
- 2. Solo performances.** Bridge musicians regularly perform solos for one another that they have been working on with their private teachers and in their own practice at home. This is an opportunity for students to build the valuable experience of playing for an audience and dealing with the always present nervousness that the experience induces. It is also a chance for the audience members to build their critical listening skills and understand what goes into a high-level musical performance.
- 3. Additional skill building.** Bridge students will receive regular coaching by our principal coach, Yasushi Ogura and other professional musicians. In addition to the above activities, there may be additional etudes or scale studies to build students' fundamental skills in preparation for auditions for Youth Symphony or school ensembles.
- 4. Exposure to NVYS music and level of play.** At select points throughout the season, Bridge students will be invited to play as members of the Youth Symphony on select pieces. This music will be prepared in weekly coaching sessions before the students become members of their respective sections in Youth Symphony for several weeks of the concert preparation period.

### Who Would be a Candidate

In addition to one hour of rehearsal following each Sinfonia rehearsal (That's three hours of music each Tuesday!), this program will require an extra commitment of practice at home and additional music to be learned. Therefore, candidates to this program are enthusiastic about accepting the challenge to continue to build their musical skills at an accelerated pace. The candidate should be beyond the skill requirements of Sinfonia and even meeting some of the skill requirements for Youth Symphony, but needing extra guidance to close the gap to the needs of the Youth Symphony. The student should show the independence and maturity required to prepare music at home for Sinfonia and Bridge rehearsals and coachings. For this reason the Bridge program is open to students who have demonstrated maturity in Sinfonia rehearsals; the group will be targeted at eighth and ninth grade students, but any middle-school age student who has demonstrated good rehearsal etiquette and a high level of motivation can be considered for membership. Because the success of the program depends on the size and instrumentation of the group (as it is a performing ensemble, and needs some level of instrumental balance), we will not be able to offer the program to all students who qualify.

### Auditions and Admission into the Program

Any student may audition for the program by completing a Sinfonia audition and performing the Youth Symphony excerpt; If you are only auditioning for Bridge and not Youth Symphony, you are welcome to take the tempo significantly slower. Additionally, directors may at their discretion recommend musicians for the Bridge program, in which case an invitation will be issued without a separate audition.

We hope that being a part of the bridge program will make our students more successful as they move through the NVYS organization. However, completion of the bridge program does not guarantee a spot in the Youth Symphony.

Fee: Free