

MINNESOTA'S YOUTH ORCHESTRA OFFERINGS

compiled by Karin Boyce

We hope this list of youth orchestras will help teachers find additional orchestra opportunities for their students. The information is correct as far as we know at time of printing; however there are bound to be errors and omissions. Please send additions and corrections to String Notes editor, Faith Farr, faith@farrpublications.com. [ed.]

Cannon Valley Youth Orchestra: Students in grades 4–12 from Northfield, Faribault, Cannon Falls, New Prague, Montgomery, Elko, Red Wing, Lakeville, Hampton, Owatonna, Prior Lake, Randolph, Nerstrand, Kenyon, and Dundas. 2 orchestras: Haydn (beginner) and Mozart (more advanced). Placement by audition; \$10 audition fee. Jennifer Arco, conductor. Audition info: Dora Barvir 507-645-4311. contact@cvyomn.org; www.cvyomn.org

Crow River Area Youth Symphony: Hutchinson, Minnesota. 3 orchestras; auditions required for Symphony only. The Symphony Orchestra (Lisa Zeller, Director) is the advanced group, which performs high school and college material from classical to contemporary composers. The Chamber Orchestra (Marie K. Nelson, Director) is an intermediate level string orchestra (Suzuki Book 3 and up) for less advanced students and/or those unavailable for the Symphony rehearsal day. The String Ensemble (Michael A. Crary, Director) is a beginning ensemble for strings only. Audition info: Marie Nelson 320-693-7243. www.crayo.org

Eden Prairie String Academy: 5 levels of string orchestras. Harmonia is for students with no previous experience. Preludio is for students at the beginner to intermediate levels. Harmonia and Preludio include group lessons as well as orchestra. Intermezzo (intermediate) and Divertimento (advanced) are auditioned orchestras. Concertino is an auditioned orchestra for advanced students selected from Divertimento. Students have solo opportunities, and must meet private lesson and practice requirements. Michelle Persian, Director. Audition info: 952-947-9400; michelle@epstringacademy.org; www.epstringacademy.org

Excelsior Youth Symphonic Strings: Operates in conjunction with Mount Calvary Academy, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Excelsior. 3 orchestras: String Symphony (beginning); Chamber Orchestra (intermediate); Counterpoint (advanced). Chamber and Counterpoint combine once a week to form Symphonic Strings. Students must take lessons or be in a school orchestra program. Audition required. Kristina Lantz, Director. info@eyss.org; www.eyss.org

Fargo Moorhead Area Youth Symphonies: 2 ensembles: Junior High Concert Strings (Brian Cole, Director) and High School Symphony Orchestra (Jane Linde Capistran, Director). Executive Director: Beth Fortier. 701-388-4536; fmays@fmays.org; www.fmays.org

Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies: 5 orchestras, ranging from intermediate to very advanced levels, selected from competitive annual auditions. (In order of advancement): Philharmonia (Michelle Persian, Conductor); Sinfonia (Mary Sorlie, Conductor); Concert (Barb Flooding, Conductor); Concertino (Jason Eten, Conductor); Philharmonic (Jeffrey Stirling, Conductor); Symphony (Cary John Franklin, Conductor). GTCYS office: 528 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 404, Minneapolis MN 55403; 612-870-7611; [\[gtcys.org\]\(http://gtcys.org\); \[www.gtcys.org\]\(http://www.gtcys.org\)](mailto:mail@</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra: 2 levels of ensemble: MAYSO (Adrian Lo, Conductor and Music Director) is for senior high students. North Star Strings (Steve Dunn, Conductor) is for beginning strings, middle and junior high school. 507-345-0702; info@mayso.net; www.mayso.org

Minnesota Youth Symphonies: 4 orchestras, with students placed by audition, according to ability. Strings (Patricia Kelly, Conductor) is intermediate level. Philharmonic (James Bartsch, Conductor) is advanced intermediate level. Repertory (Claudette Laureano, Conductor) is advanced level. Symphony (Manny Laureano, Conductor) is collegiate level. MYS office: 790 Cleveland Ave S. Suite 203, St. Paul Minnesota, 55116; 651-699-5811; mys@mnyouthsymphonies.org; www.mnyouthsymphonies.org

New American Symphony: River Falls, WI. String orchestra of violinists and rhythm section with violinists, ages 10 – 18. “Performs jazz and classical pieces in unique, creative fashions.” Kristin Tjornehoj, Director. 715-425-3940; Kristin.tjornehoj@uwrf.edu; www.uwrf.edu/music/SCVSymphonyOrchestra.html

St. Joseph School of Music: The website shows that there is an orchestra (Sister Rose Immacula, Director) and that students may register for chamber ensembles. It is unclear whether you must be a student of St. Joseph to participate in these groups. St. Joseph School of Music, 450 N. Syndicate, Suite 350, St. Paul 55104; 651-690-4364; www.st.josephschoolofmusic.net

Simply Strings Studio: The Chamber Strings Ensemble is considered a community orchestra — anyone is welcome to participate; all must audition for placement. Plans are in the works to develop a full orchestra. St. Croix Lutheran High School, 1200 Oakdale Ave., West St, Paul. Sadie Benson (Owner and Teacher), 651-457-1724, select option 2 to leave a message; sadie@simplystringsstudio.com

South of the River Youth Orchestra: Apple Valley. 3 orchestras. Simply Strings (Joy Haglund, Conductor) is for beginning students; Philharmonic (Allison Williams, Conductor) is a full orchestra for students with 2-3 years experience; Youth Symphony (Susan Jacobson, Conductor) is for advanced strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Contact: Lisa Beytien-Carlson 651-423-7701 or Director Susan Jacobson 651-423-6585.

Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestras: 3 orchestras; placement by audition only, \$15 fee. Chamber Strings (Susan Oftedahl, Director) is open to string players with a minimum of 1–2 years of playing experience, aimed at elementary through grade 8. Philharmonic Orchestra (Mark Scheitel, Director) is a full orchestra geared towards the advanced intermediate player in grades 5–11. Concert Orchestra (Adam Lange-Pearson, Director) is a full orchestra for

advanced players, grades 9–12. Contact: Cathy Ashton 507-282-1718; semyo@rconnect.com; www.semyo.org

Spiritoso: St. Cloud State University sponsors the Spiritoso youth orchestra in conjunction with the SCSU String Project. Contact Director Pablo Mahave-Veglia, 320-255-3223.

Woodbury Youth Orchestra: 2 ensembles; audition only, \$25 fee. Philharmonic is for late-beginner to intermediate-level string players; Symphony is for advanced-level (high school) strings, winds,

and percussion. Chamber Ensembles selected from Symphony perform at each concert. Director Benjamin Skroch. Contact: WYO, 651-255-6772; www.woodburyyouthorchestra.org

Karin Boyce works full-time at MacPhail Center for Music, with responsibilities ranging from teaching private lessons and group classes at MacPhail to supervising programming and leading classes and small ensembles for several community partnerships. Karin freelances and performs with the Allegro Sinfonia orchestra. †