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# Youth Orchestras

Audition and Application Information

The Venice Symphony, through its sponsorship of the Venice Symphony Youth Orchestra (VSYO) program will provide specialized training to many young musicians this season. The mission of the VSYO is to provide students an opportunity for high quality musical instruction in an ensemble setting while enriching the communities of Venice and neighboring areas. A high percentage of students exiting youth orchestras are offered college music scholarships and continue to perform beyond their high school graduation. The program will consist of two performing ensembles: an advanced (Symphonic) orchestra and an intermediate (Concert) orchestra. A beginning orchestra will be added in the future.

Youth Orchestra Ensembles

Symphonic Strings – Ages 14 -18, with more than three years of experience and the maturity to participate in a large ensemble. All students demonstrate solid technique and are developing extended positions.

Concert Strings - Ages 8-14, with 2 to 3 years of experience, developing positions, and ready to perform in an ensemble.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION POLICY

The Venice Symphony sees school orchestra programs as an essential foundation for building both ensemble and individual skills in young musicians. The Youth Orchestra is designed to be a high-quality supplemental ensemble for students to continue their musical instruction beyond the school day. This program is not meant to replace school music instruction in any way

**Rehearsals / Attendance**

The Symphonic Strings rehearse from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and the Concert Strings rehearse from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The schedule follows the Sarasota County Schools Calendar with some exceptions. Attendance at every rehearsal is expected. Unexcused absences will affect membership in the Youth Orchestra. School ensemble rehearsals and performances are considered excused and will take precedence over VSYO attendance.  Communication is extremely important to ensure a quality experience for every member. Participants are encouraged to communicate with their directors if they have questions and issues regarding attendance.

## Tuition

VSYO Tuition is $150 per semester, with payment due the first two weeks of the program by check or credit card. Need-based scholarships are available on a limited basis. Forms for scholarships will be provided on request and must be submitted no later than mid-September.

## Parent Involvement / Meetings

Communication with parents is extremely important to the success of the Youth Orchestra program. Parents meet from 3 to 3:30 p.m. prior to the first rehearsal each semester. An email reminder will be sent to parents before the meeting.

### Audition Requirements for Symphonic Strings:

* Two short contrasting studies or solos or the exposition of a standard solo work\*
* Scales: Two major and a chromatic scales (your choice, multiple octaves appreciated)
* Sight-reading

### Audition Requirements for Concert Strings

* One study, etude or solo piece
* Scales: Two major scales
* Sight-reading

To schedule an audition, email [vsyo@thevenicesymphony.org](mailto:vsyo@thevenicesymphony.org).

**Venice Symphony Youth Orchestra Calendar 2018-2019**

Rehearsals are held at The Venice Symphony Rehearsal Hall in Building 42 at the Venice Performing Arts Center, One Indian Ave, Venice at the following times:

* Symphonic Strings: Wednesdays 3:30 to 5 p.m.
* Concert Strings: Sundays 3:30 to 5 p.m.

## December 8 – Fall Performance: Holiday Tree Lighting event at 5 p.m. Saturday in West Blalock Park, 401-499 Pensacola Rd, Venice, FL 34285

**May 3 – Spring Concert @ 7 p.m.** LocationTBD – Free Admission

**Other performances, fundraisers and events will be scheduled throughout the year.**

## *For attendance, audition and rehearsal questions, contact Chris Riley at vsyo@thevenicesymphony.org*

## *For payment and other inquiries, please call the Venice Symphony at (941) 207-8822.*