

WISCONSIN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHES TRAS



2023-2024



MEMBER
HANDBOOK

Enriching Lives by Providing Transformational Musical Experiences and Opportunities

2023-2024 Season Calendar

First Day of Rehearsals

September 9 & 10, 2023, Madison Country Day School

Art of Note Gala

Saturday, November 4, 2023, Monona Terrace

Music Makers Fall Recital Weekend

Saturday, November 11 & Sunday November 12 (*Time and location TBD*)

Evelyn Steenbock Fall Concerts

Saturday, November 18, 2023, *Location TBD*

4:00pm Youth Brass Choir & Youth Orchestra

7:00pm Concert-Philharmonia Brass Choir & Philharmonia Orchestra

Sunday, November 19, 2023, *Location TBD*

12:00pm Harp Ensemble, Opus One & Sinfonietta Orchestras

4:00pm Percussion Ensemble & Concert Orchestra Music

Makers Fall Concert

Saturday, December 17, 2023, *Time and Location TBD*

Chamber Music Program Recitals (*subject to change*)

Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 7:00pm *Location TBD*

Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 4:00pm *Location TBD*

Youth/Philharmonia Honors Recital

Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm, *Location TBD*

Diane Ballweg Winterfest Concerts

Saturday, March 2, 2024, *Location TBD*

4:00pm Youth Brass Choir & Youth Orchestra

7:00pm Concert-Philharmonia Brass Choir & Philharmonia Orchestra

Sunday, March 3, 2024, *Location TBD*

1:00pm Percussion Ensemble & Concert Orchestra

4:00pm Harp Ensemble, Opus One & Sinfonietta Orchestras

Percussion EXTRAVAGANZA!

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 1:00pm, *Location TBD*

Music Makers Spring Recital Weekend

Saturday, April 27 & Sunday, April 28 (*Time and location TBD*)

Chamber Music Program Concert (*subject to change*)

Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 7:00pm, *Location TBD*

Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 4:00pm, *Location TBD*

Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Spring Concerts

Saturday, May 18, 2024, Hamel Music Center, Madison

1:00pm Percussion Ensemble & Concert Orchestra

4:00pm Harp Ensemble, Opus One & Sinfonietta Orchestras

7:00 pm Philharmonia Orchestra side by side with Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra

Thursday, May 23, 2024, Hamel Music Center, Madison

7:00pm Youth Orchestra

Music Makers Spring Concert

Saturday, May 19, 2024, *Time and Location TBD*



Dates, times and locations are subject to change.

Additional event details will be announced at a later date.

Visit our website for the most up to date information.

Events to be announced at a later date:

- In-State Tours
- Philharmonia Honors Recital
- Youth Honors Recital
- WCO Side-by-Side Concert

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MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

The following expectations are for all members, all rehearsals:

1. It is expected all members will come to rehearsal knowing their part. Individual practice at home prior to rehearsal is essential! Rehearsals are not practice time, but time for ensemble development and musical growth. Every member knowing their part at rehearsal is the musical minimum.
2. Members should arrive 15 minutes before rehearsal. Percussionists are required to arrive 30 minutes before rehearsal to allow for setting up, warming up, and Tai Chi Movement. To be early is to be on time!
3. For the safety of all WYSO members, signing in with the attendance taker at your assigned room is required at EVERY rehearsal and performance.
4. If you leave rehearsal early, you must sign out with WYSO staff/volunteers before departing.
5. Members are responsible for reading all announcements and handouts in addition to carefully listening to announcements made during rehearsal.

What do members need to bring to every rehearsal?

1. A dedicated WYSO bag which contains:
 - a. Music in a folder labeled with member's name and orchestra
 - b. Pencil to write down information from the conductor and WYSO staff
 - c. Emergency repair accessories, including an extra set of strings
2. Instrument(s) with proper accessories (i.e. mutes, reeds, rock stops, etc.).
3. Folding music stand in a carrying case with member's name labeled on all parts.
4. Percussionists will be provided a specific supply list.

If WYSO has emergency strings available, members will be invoiced for the cost of the string(s) or new string(s) may be reimbursed to WYSO.

Extra folding stands are available if a member forgets to bring one.



WYSO CODE OF CONDUCT

Every member agrees to the following Code of Conduct as a basic condition of membership.

WYSO members are ambassadors for the organization and the behavior of each member reflects upon the entire group. Each member is expected to use good manners, display common courtesy and show consideration for others. A successful WYSO experience requires a cohesive group wherein each individual accepts and follows the same standards of behavior.

1. Members will respect the guidance and authority of the WYSO staff at all times.
2. There will be no use of drugs, no smoking and no drinking alcoholic beverages at any time during WYSO activities. Members may not participate in any WYSO activities under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
3. It is a privilege for WYSO to use community rehearsal and performing spaces. Members will respect and follow these guidelines:
 - a. Food and drink (except bottled water) in the rehearsal rooms is prohibited.
 - b. The placement of anything on top of pianos or percussion equipment is forbidden.
 - c. During rehearsal breaks: running, shouting, climbing on handrails, or playing instruments in the halls is not allowed.
 - d. Percussion equipment should only be handled by members and staff who have been instructed how to properly do so.
4. The use of cell phones or other electronic devices for texting, calling, playing games, or any other use, during rehearsal is prohibited. Members are free to use cell phones and other electronics as they wish before rehearsal, after rehearsal, and while on break. Cell phone use is distracting to members of the orchestra. Repeated reminders will result in the phone being confiscated until the end of rehearsal. Continued violations of this rule will result in a meeting with your conductor and the Executive Director.
5. It is the policy of Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras, in keeping with efforts to establish an environment in which the dignity and worth of all members of the WYSO community are respected, that inappropriate verbal or physical behavior or sexual harassment of or by WYSO members and staff is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Overt sexual behavior will not be permitted while members are involved in a WYSO-related activity. Good judgment and restraint are expected.
6. Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras is dedicated to educating a diverse and changing student body. WYSO affirms its commitment to a community in which all members and staff are accepted and judged as individuals, independent of ancestry, social background, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, physical characteristics or personal beliefs.

MEMBERS WHO DO NOT OBSERVE THE CODE OF CONDUCT ARE SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION INCLUDING: CONFERENCE WITH FAMILY, REMOVAL FROM A WYSO ACTIVITY OR TOUR, AND EXPULSION FROM MEMBERSHIP.

REHEARSALS

Orchestra rehearsals take place most Saturdays and Sundays throughout the school year. Rehearsals occur in rooms provided by community organizations. Details regarding rehearsal locations will be announced before the start of the season and included in the Thursday Weekly Announcement email.

Occasionally, WYSO institutes a special rehearsal schedule due to facility conflicts or special events. Please consult the schedules on the website for the most up to date information: <https://wysomusic.org/members/schedules/>

Specific schedules, room assignments, and announcements will be sent in the Thursday Weekly Announcement email. Forms or payments may be dropped off with a WYSO staff member at rehearsals.

REHEARSAL DRESS CODE

Members are to be thoughtful in how they dress for rehearsals. Clothing should not be distracting to others, nor should it inhibit playing during rehearsal.

NO midriff-baring shirts

NO waist-revealing pants

NO hats

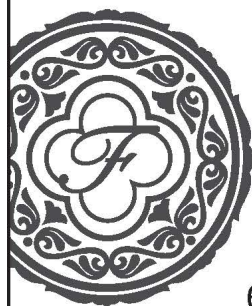
NO visible undergarments

NO bare feet

NO gum-chewing

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CONCERTS AND TOURS

CONCERTS



All WYSO concerts are the result of individual practice and weekly rehearsals. WYSO Tour/Enrichment programs expand and augment the WYSO concert season by providing experiences for all members through travel, performance, cultural, and educational opportunities.

WYSO concerts occur in Madison facilities or surrounding communities. Members are required to attend all of their orchestra's performances and concerts. If a member misses a concert, they must meet with their conductor and the Executive Director. Members who miss two concerts will be dismissed from WYSO. Members anticipating a conflict with a concert or tour should inform the office as soon as possible by emailing wyso@wysomusic.org.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

WYSO aims to provide the best possible concert experience for both the performers and the audience. Certain behaviors can distract the performers, conductor, and the audience from enjoying the final product of weeks of rehearsals. In general, please adhere to the following rules:

- No food or drink is allowed at the concert venue.
- Please move loud or disruptive children to outside the concert hall.
- When recording or taking photos, please be courteous to those around you. (See Photo Policy below).
- Please stay until the end of your child's concert, regardless of whether or not they are finished performing. Pick a meeting spot to reunite after the concert is finished.
- Please enter and exit only during applause. Ushers will indicate appropriate times to find a seat.

PHOTO POLICY

While you are welcome to capture WYSO performances with your own equipment, we also want to make you aware that WYSO has a very talented Photo Team with professional equipment that will capture great photos of your children.

To ensure that the quality and integrity of WYSO's concerts are preserved to the highest standard, please ensure that you adhere to the following guidelines:

- Video recordings must be made in designated "recording spaces." This is to minimize disruptions to audience members caused by obstructed views and glowing screens.
- Please turn the sound of your recording device off. Beeps, clicks, and buzzes will interfere with the sound quality of other recordings. Those noises are also a distraction for other audience members.
- If you would like to photograph the concert, please be mindful of the people around you. Please do not stand up, block other audience members' view, or disturb your neighbors.
- Please turn off your flash. It is distracting to the audience, the conductor, and the performers.



CONCERTS AND TOURS (CONT.)

EXTENDED TOURS/TRAVEL

An extended tour entails substantial expense and detailed planning over a multi-year period. In partial fulfillment of its mission of “enriching lives by providing transformational musical experiences and opportunities,” the Board of Directors Tour Committee and WYSO staff will strive to continually seek travel/exchange/performance opportunities that meet a majority of the following WYSO Touring Objectives:

- Interaction with youth peers
- Interaction with other musicians and/or musical performances
- Great music making experiences by WYSO members
- Multiple performances
- Significant interaction with WYSO member peers
- Itineraries that are appealing to students
- Educationally elevating experiences
- A safe and secure travel environment
- Financially feasible travel experiences
- Experiences that might also benefit non-traveling WYSO members

In the past, extended tours have included trips to Italy, England, Scotland, Taiwan, Japan, Spain, France, Canada, Hungary, Austria, the Czech Republic, Argentina, and Peru.

IN-STATE OUTREACH TOURS

The WYSO Board and staff believe members can experience significant individual growth in a setting apart from the daily support network of home and school. The WYSO touring experience offers an opportunity for members to grow independently, increase teamwork skills, build on the strengths of the family/school network while outside of that environment, and learn the importance of serving as positive role models for their peers.

Every WYSO season, each orchestra performs concerts in Madison and throughout the state. All orchestras will perform scheduled one-day tours to schools or for school-based cultural events.

WYSO pays most of the tour fees, but may ask members to pay for meals and other special events while on the tour (e.g., museum visits, a professional orchestra concert, etc.)

Members are to be advised that the in-state tours require at least one missed day of school per year. An absence from tour will count as a rehearsal absence. In addition, members who miss their tour are required to meet with their conductor and the Executive Director. Members anticipating a conflict with a concert or tour should inform the office as soon as possible. On occasion, schools may count tour performances as community service hours. Tour dates should be entered into personal calendars as soon as possible.

CONCERT DRESS CODES

Students present a professional and uniform appearance at concerts appropriate to the occasion. Attire requirements are designed to minimize attention on individuals and encourage audiences to focus on the music performed, not wardrobe choices. If you are not properly dressed for your concert, you will be given apparel from the WYSO office to wear.

If you have doubts about whether a piece of clothing is appropriate, the best choice is not to wear it.

FOR OPUS ONE, SINFONIETTA, AND CONCERT ORCHESTRA:

Option 1: White collared shirt and black dress pants

Top: clean and pressed, solid-colored, bright white, long sleeve (to the wrist) shirt with collar, tucked in.

Tie: straight tie, conservatively colored and patterned.

Bottom: solid (not faded) black, floor-length dress pants and black belt.

Socks/Hose: solid black socks (no skin should be visible between bottom hem and shoes when seated).

Shoes: solid black, closed-toe dress shoes with black laces.

No: short-sleeved or sleeveless shirts; off-white, ivory or cream colored shirts, jackets, or vests; untucked shirts; wrinkles or stains.

No: bow ties, brightly-colored ties or ties with distracting patterns.

No: jeans, corduroys, shorts.

No: ankle socks or patterned socks.

No: athletic shoes, sandals, boots, or colored shoe laces.

No: hats, brightly colored accessories, embellishments, or distracting hair adornments.

Option 2: White blouse and black skirt or black pants

Top: clean and pressed, bright white blouse with long or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves and conservative neck line.

Bottom: solid black ankle-length to floor-length skirt OR black dress pants that are ankle length or longer.

Socks/Hose: solid-colored and black (no skin should be visible between bottom hem and shoes when seated).

Shoes: black closed-toe dress shoes with flat sole or conservative heel.

No: short-sleeved, sleeveless, or midriff-baring shirts; off-white, ivory or cream colored shirts; wrinkles or stains.

No: capris, leggings, jeggings, jeans, shorts, spandex, corduroys.

No: ankle socks, flesh-colored tights, bare legs, prints or patterns.

No: athletic shoes, sandals, boots, or colored shoe laces.

No: hats, brightly colored accessories, embellishments or distracting hair adornments.

CONCERT DRESS CODES (CONT.)

FOR PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Option 1: Black collared shirt and black dress pants</p> | <p>Top: clean and pressed, long sleeve (to the wrist), solid-colored black collared shirt, tucked in.</p> <p>Bottom: solid black, dress pants (ankle length or longer) and black belt.</p> <p>Socks/Hose: solid black socks (no skin should be visible between bottom hem and shoes when seated).</p> <p>Shoes: solid black, closed-toe dress shoes with black laces.</p> | <p>No: short-sleeved or sleeveless shirts, jackets, or vests; untucked shirts; wrinkles or stains.</p> <p>No: faded fabrics, jeans, shorts, corduroys.</p> <p>No: ankle socks or patterned socks.</p> <p>No: athletic shoes, sandals, boots, or colored shoe laces.</p> <p>No: hats, brightly colored accessories, embellishments, or distracting hair.</p> |
| <p>Option 2: Long-sleeved black blouse and black skirt or dress pants</p> | <p>Top: long-sleeved (to the wrist) black blouse with conservative neck line.</p> <p>Bottom: solid black ankle-length to floor-length skirt OR black dress pants that are ankle length or longer.</p> <p>Socks/Hose: solid-colored and black (no skin should be visible between bottom hem and shoes when seated).</p> <p>Shoes: black closed-toe dress shoes with flat sole or conservative heel.</p> | <p>No: short-sleeved, sleeveless, or midriff-baring shirts; wrinkles or stains.</p> <p>No: capris, leggings, jeggings, jeans, shorts, spandex, corduroys, athletic pants.</p> <p>No: flesh-colored tights, bare legs, prints or patterns.</p> <p>No: athletic shoes, sandals, boots, colored shoe laces.</p> <p>No: hats, brightly colored accessories, embellishments, or distracting hair adornments.</p> |
| <p>Option 3: Black dress</p> | <p>Dress: solid black ankle-length to floor-length dress with long sleeves (to the wrist) and conservative neckline.</p> <p>Socks/Hose: solid-colored and black (no skin should be visible between bottom hem and shoes when seated).</p> <p>Shoes: black closed-toe dress shoes with flat sole or conservative heel.</p> | <p>No: short-sleeved or sleeveless dresses.</p> <p>No: flesh-colored tights, bare legs, prints or patterns.</p> <p>No: athletic shoes, sandals, boots, colored shoe laces.</p> <p>No: hats, brightly colored accessories, embellishments, or distracting hair adornments.</p> |

CONCERT DRESS CODES (CONT.)

FOR YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Option 1: Black suit

All dress for Youth Orchestra should be formal and comparable to a tuxedo.

Top: black suit jacket. Bright white-collared (oxford) shirt, tucked in.

Tie: black bow tie.

Bottom: solid black dress pants (ankle length or longer) and black belt.

Socks/Hose: solid black socks or hosiery (no skin should be visible between bottom hem and shoes when seated).

Shoes: solid black, closed- toe dress shoes with black laces.

No: dark blue or gray suit jackets or pants; faded fabrics; wrinkles or stains.

No: straight (long) ties or colored/patterned ties.

No: jeans, corduroys, athletic pants.

No: ankle socks or patterned socks.

No: athletic shoes, sandals, boots, colored shoe laces.

No: hats, brightly colored accessories, embellishments, or distracting hair adornments.

Option 2: Long-sleeved black blouse and black skirt or dress pants

All dress for Youth Orchestra should be formal and comparable to a tuxedo.

Top: long-sleeved (to the wrist) black blouse with conservative neck line.

Bottom: solid black ankle-length to floor-length skirt OR black dress pants that are ankle length or longer.

Socks/Hose: solid-colored and black (no skin should be visible between bottom hem and shoes when seated).

Shoes: black closed-toe dress shoes with flat sole or conservative heel.

No: short-sleeved, sleeveless, or midriff-baring shirts; sweaters; see-through fabrics; wrinkles or stains.

No: capris, leggings, jeggings, jeans, shorts, spandex, corduroys, athletic pants.

No: flesh-colored tights, bare legs, prints or patterns.

No: athletic shoes, sandals, boots, or colored shoe laces.

No: hats, brightly colored accessories, embellishments, or distracting hair adornments.

CONCERT DRESS CODES (CONT.)

FOR YOUTH ORCHESTRA (CONT.)

Option 3:
Long-sleeved white blouse, long-sleeved black blazer, black dress pants or skirt

All dress for Youth Orchestra should be formal and comparable to a tuxedo.

Top: long-sleeved (to the wrist) bright white blouse and long-sleeved (to the wrist) black blazer.

Bottom: solid black floor-length skirt OR black dress pants (ankle length or longer).

Socks/Hose: solid-colored and black (no skin should be visible between bottom hem and shoes when seated).

Shoes: black closed-toe dress shoes with flat sole or conservative heel.

No: short-sleeved, sleeveless, or midriff-baring shirts; off-white, ivory or cream colored shirts.

No: capris, leggings, jeggings, jeans, shorts, spandex, corduroys, athletic pants.

No: flesh-colored tights, bare legs, prints, or patterns.

No: athletic shoes, sandals, boots, or colored shoe laces.

No: hats, brightly colored accessories, embellishments, or distracting hair adornments.

Option 4: Black dress

All dress for Youth Orchestra should be formal and comparable to a tuxedo.

Dress: solid black, floor-length dress with long sleeves (to the wrist) and conservative neckline.

Socks/Hose: solid-colored and black (no skin should be visible between bottom hem and shoes when seated).

Shoes: black closed-toe dress shoes with flat sole or conservative heel.

No: short-sleeved or sleeveless dresses.

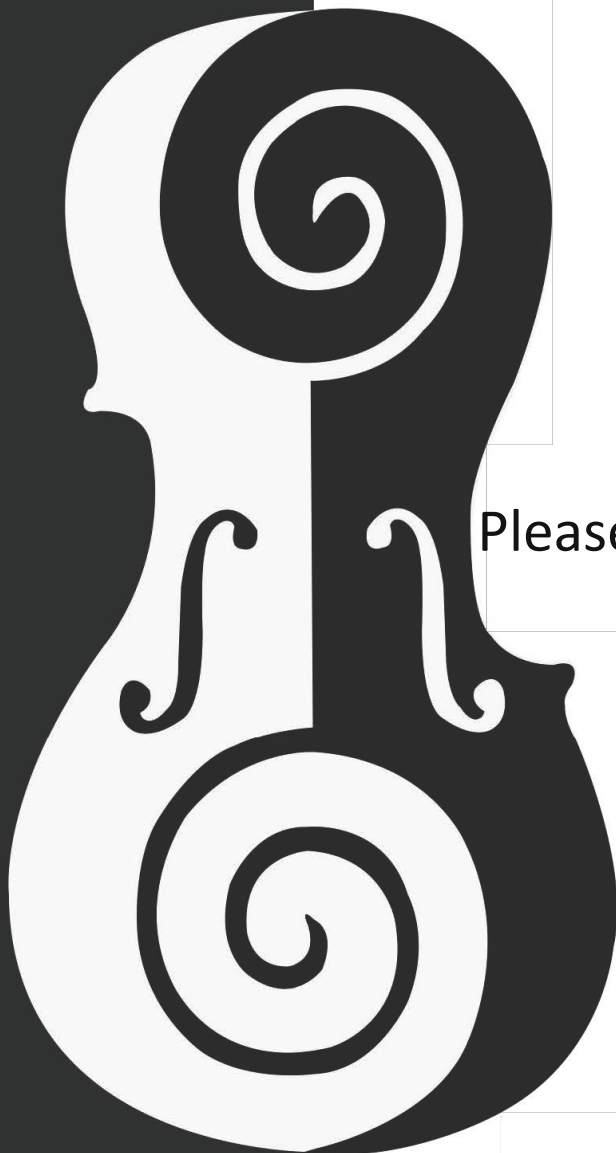
No: flesh-colored tights, bare legs, prints or patterns.

No: athletic shoes, sandals, boots, colored shoe laces.

No: hats, brightly colored accessories, embellishments, or distracting hair adornments.

Ralph Rabin & Carol Willett

Violins, Violas & Cellos



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CONCERT TICKETS

FOR LIVE PERFORMANCES

- At the start of the season all members will be receive six family tickets to be used at any point throughout the season. Any tickets needed beyond those six will need to be purchased.

Ticketing for live performances will be dependent upon venue requirements, and family tickets may not always be accepted in special circumstances. In these instances, an alternative ticketing method will be communicated to member families. Additionally, information regarding comp tickets and purchasing tickets will be provided in the Weekly Announcements and on our website.

Event Calendar: <https://wysomusic.org/concerts-events/>

Ticketing: <https://wysomusic.org/concerts-events/ticketing/>

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

WYSO is committed to providing all members with the highest quality musical and educational experience possible and requires a serious commitment from all members and their families. The very nature of the orchestral experience requires that all members are present to rehearse together. Any member's absence, regardless of how well they know their part, is detrimental to the orchestra. By accepting membership in WYSO, members have agreed to fulfill the obligations associated with all rehearsals, performances, tours, and special events. By choosing to participate in WYSO, members have made WYSO a priority.

ABSENCE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

1. To assist with rehearsal planning for orchestras and smaller ensembles, members should report planned absences no later than one week before the affected rehearsal. Absences should be reported at this link: <https://wysomusic.org/absence-request-form/>
2. Last-minute absences due to illness or other unexpected conflicts should be called in to (608) 733-6283 ext. 7, or sent in an email to wyso@wysomusic.org. Whenever possible, members should call *before* the rehearsal begins.
3. Planned tardiness and early departure from rehearsals should also be reported at this link: <https://wysomusic.org/absence-request-form/>. Members must sign in/out with a WYSO staff member if arriving at rehearsal more than 15 minutes late or leaving before rehearsal ends.

ATTENDANCE POLICY



The administrative and artistic staffs recognize that members may occasionally have other obligations or unexpected conflicts with rehearsals. However, they firmly believe it is detrimental to the educational experience of WYSO to have different members missing each week.

Allowed rehearsal absences for all orchestras:

- Steenbock Fall Concerts: Two
- Ballweg Winterfest Concerts: Two
- Bolz Spring Concerts: Two

If allowed absences are exceeded, members are still expected to attend all remaining rehearsals, with the exception of concert days. Failure to do so will be grounds for removal from WYSO. Whenever possible, members should avoid consecutive absences. Members must attend the full rehearsal prior to each concert. At the discretion of the orchestra conductor, members who do not attend the dress rehearsal may not play the concert.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE (CONT.)

ATTENDANCE POLICY (CONT.)



Being more than 15 minutes tardy or departing more than 15 minutes early will count as a half rehearsal absence. Missing two separate half rehearsals during a concert cycle will count as one full absence.

Because orchestra is a team activity, it is important to attend every rehearsal. If you anticipate an absence, it is your responsibility to inform members of your section prior to the missed rehearsal. This way, members of your section can discuss how to cover your part during your absence.

Planned absences should be kept to a minimum to allow for unexpected conflicts. Members are encouraged to work as a family at the beginning of the year to set priorities regarding extracurricular activities, college visits, school music activities and scheduling required college exams. This is possible with some effort and advance planning. For example, members may consider waiting to take the ACT or SAT until another concert cycle if they already have too many other conflicts. These tests are scheduled multiple times throughout the year and in different locations (<https://www.collegeboard.org/> or <https://www.act.org/>). For those with conflicts, conductors request attendance at any part of the rehearsal they are able to make. It is better for members to attend part of a rehearsal rather than none of it.

The WYSO office carefully tracks absences, tardiness, and early departures from rehearsals to ensure everyone's safety and to ensure that WYSO's absence policies are consistently and fairly enforced. **Each member is responsible for checking in with the attendance taker at EVERY rehearsal!** Late arrivals and early departures must check in/out with the hall monitor or a WYSO staff member. Attendance volunteers or WYSO staff will call the homes of members who have failed to check in.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required at all WYSO orchestra and ensemble concerts for members who are expected to perform. This includes in-state tours, which require a full school-day commitment. An absence from a concert without reasonable excuse is probable cause for dismissal from the WYSO program. All members who miss a concert must meet with the Executive Director and conductor. Members who miss two concerts will be dismissed from WYSO. Final decisions on continued program participation will be made by the conductor and Executive Director. Members anticipating a conflict with a concert or tour should inform the office as soon as possible.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

WYSO does not grant leaves of absence for any reason. Prospective members who cannot commit to the entire season are discouraged from joining WYSO. Medical leave, as outlined below, is the only exception for a prolonged WYSO absence.

MEDICAL LEAVE

Medical leave may be implemented for members with a serious medical problem and a signed doctor's note indicating the problem. Medical leave is determined on a case-by-case basis. If the amount of time needed to recover requires the member to miss too many rehearsals for a concert, they will not perform in that concert. The health and safety of all WYSO members is of paramount importance.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE (CONT.)

Punctuality

All members should arrive 15 MINUTES before (percussionists 30 minutes before) their rehearsal starting time. At starting time, members should be checked in, in their seat with music ready, warmed up and ready to tune and focus. Members are expected to be in place on time after scheduled breaks. Members with chronic tardiness or early departures will be required to meet with the conductor and the Executive Director.

Religious Holidays

Members who need to miss a rehearsal or concert for a religious holiday must report an absence stating this fact. Every effort should be made to avoid exceeding the number of permitted absences for a concert cycle; however, religious holidays will be granted exception upon the conductor's review of attendance record. Religious retreats and parties are not considered religious holidays.

Weather Policy

Since WYSO is unable to make up a canceled rehearsal, the weather has to be particularly treacherous to cause a cancellation. Any cancellations will be posted on the website at wysomusic.org, AND communicated via email by 7:00am. If rehearsal is not canceled but a member decides the drive is too difficult, a message should be left on the attendance voicemail, stating absence or estimated time of arrival. Absences due to bad weather will not be considered a commitment issue, but will count toward absences for a concert cycle.

In-State Tour Attendance

Members are to be advised that the in-state tours require at least one missed day of school per year. An absence from tour will count as a rehearsal absence. In addition, members who miss their tour are required to meet with their conductor and the Executive Director. Members anticipating a conflict with a concert or tour should inform the office as soon as possible. On occasion, schools may count tour performances as community service hours. Tour dates should be entered into personal calendars as soon as possible.

TRANSFER OF CUSTODY

WYSO members and families will receive rehearsal location information every Thursday in the Weekly Announcements email.

All WYSO members **MUST** check in with the attendance taker at their orchestra's rehearsal room door. WYSO members are not considered in the care of the WYSO program until they have checked in with their orchestra's attendance taker or with a WYSO staff member. WYSO members who arrive more than 15 minutes late must check in with a WYSO staff member. **Any WYSO member who leaves early must check out with a WYSO staff member.**

SCHOOL MUSIC ACTIVITY

WYSO does not have an "excused or unexcused absence" attendance policy. We do, however, allow for one additional absence per concert cycle for a school ensemble obligation or school music required activity such as Solo and Ensemble. A school music activity is a performance or tour corresponding with a class taken for school credit. Involvement in school musicals, including pit orchestras, is a voluntary activity. Absences for voluntary school music activities such as school musicals will not be considered as an activity allowing an additional absence.

WYSO SCHOOL MUSIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

All WYSO members are expected, and strongly encouraged, to participate in their school orchestra, band or strings program. Members who do not meet this expectation are asked to email the Executive Director to state their reason for non-participation. Involvement in school orchestra or band, the training and experience gained there, and the support received from school music directors make WYSO members stronger leaders. In turn, school music programs benefit from the technical, musical and leadership skills WYSO members develop.

School music ensembles provide daily playing and technique/musicianship building, exposure to a wide variety of literature, the chance to learn from different music directors, additional opportunities (all-state groups, solo/ensemble festivals, tours, competitions, community events, etc.), and opportunities for leadership and to serve as role models.

Participation in scheduled school orchestra or band performances always takes precedence over WYSO. All absences exceeding the per-concert limit will be reviewed by the administrative staff and in some cases by the conductor. Performances with school music programs will receive special consideration in each member's attendance review. Members will be granted one additional absence per concert cycle for required school music activities only. Please refer to the attendance policy for more information about school music absences.

NEWSLETTERS & FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS

The *WYSO Weekly Tune Up* will be distributed via email to members, families, alumni, donors, and community. Occasionally, WYSO will send mass emails containing new opportunities, special information, or schedule changes. Each Thursday during the season, members will receive Weekly Announcements via email from the Operations Assistant/Librarian with details about upcoming rehearsals and important updates.

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TUITION FEES, PAYMENT SCHEDULES AND POLICIES

Tuition for WYSO membership is tiered by orchestra level. Tuition represents less than 30% of the total cost to support a musician in the program.

Youth Orchestra - \$850
Concert Orchestra - \$700
Opus One - \$600

Philharmonia Orchestra - \$775
Sinfonietta Orchestra - \$675
Harp Ensemble - \$700

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Tuition should be paid in full by Friday, August 11, 2023 or in two installments postmarked by Friday, August 11, 2023 and Tuesday, September 5, 2023. WYSO will gladly set up payment plans (prior to the first rehearsal) with any families who are unable to make tuition payments as scheduled above. Please email wyso@wysomusic.org to schedule a payment plan.

A \$50 late fee will be charged for any payment post marked after the due date. If no payment or payment plans have been arranged by the first concert, the WYSO member will not be permitted to perform.

Tuition balance must be paid in full by the Spring Concert. Failure to do so will preclude the member from performing.

FORMS OF PAYMENT

WYSO accepts cash, personal and cashier checks, money orders, VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express credit cards. A \$35 fee will be charged for any returned checks.

WYSO also accepts ACH fund transfers. Please contact wyso@wysomusic.org to make ACH arrangements.

All credit/debit card payments will be charged a 4% convenience fee.

REFUND POLICY

If for any reason, a member is unable to continue in the program, the tuition refund schedule is as follows:

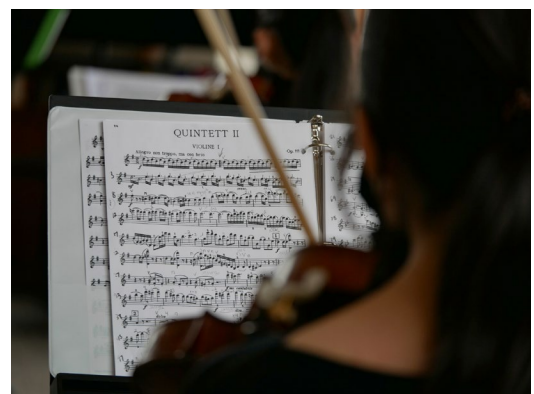
1. Dropout on or before Saturday, September 9, 2023: Refund of total tuition paid minus a \$50 processing fee. *
2. Dropout on Sunday, September 10, 2023 through Saturday, October 28, 2023: \$200 refund. *
3. Dropout on/after Sunday, October 29, 2023: No tuition refund. *

*Unpaid tuition will be invoiced.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

The WYSO Board of Directors and staff feel very strongly that if a student and their family cannot afford WYSO tuition, that student should not be denied entrance. WYSO provides scholarship support for orchestra tuition as well as support for private lessons and special projects. WYSO scholarships are based solely on financial need and availability of funds. All scholarship recipients are expected to pay at least part of their tuition.

Scholarship applications will be accepted any time during the year in the case of a family emergency that affects the member's financial situation. <https://wysomusic.org/scholarship-application-form/>



MUSIC LIBRARY

All WYSO music should be kept separate from school music. Members will be responsible for printing a set of their parts. If they are unable to print parts they should reach out to Librarian Joseph Greer at greer@wysomusic.org for a set. Although WYSO primarily provides photocopies, original parts may be handed out from its library and members are expected to keep track of and take proper care of them. Members will be instructed on how to turn in music after a concert in which originals are used. If you are unsure if parts are originals, please contact Dr. Greer. Replacement costs will be charged for misplaced or late original parts.

INSTRUMENT LENDING

All students who borrow an instrument through WYSO must agree to the terms of the Instrument Lending Agreement.

WOODWINDS

- Members assigned to play an auxiliary instrument such as piccolo, bass clarinet, E flat clarinet, or English horn, may borrow an instrument from WYSO at no cost. All clarinetists in Youth and Philharmonia Orchestras are assigned an A Clarinet for the year at no cost. Members are expected to provide their own reeds for all WYSO instruments. Contact Operations Assistant & Librarian Joseph Greer at greer@wysomusic.org prior to the season start to be assigned an instrument.

STRINGS

- WYSO has a few string instruments available for emergency use during rehearsals or concerts. Instrument lending is subject to availability.

STRING BASS

- A limited number of string basses are available to borrow for rehearsals and concerts only. String bass players interested in borrowing a WYSO bass must contact Operations Assistant & Librarian Joseph Greer at greer@wysomusic.org prior to the first rehearsal.

All WYSO instruments must be returned upon the completion of assignments unless other arrangements have been previously made with Dr. Greer. Members assume full responsibility for any WYSO instrument used and will be invoiced for the cost to repair any damage above normal wear and tear.

MEMBER FUNDRAISING

Fundraising activities take place throughout the year and are carried out by the WYSO staff, board and member families. Fundraising is critically important in meeting WYSO operating costs each year and offsetting tuition paid by families. WYSO family fundraising is directed by the Parent Leadership Committee (PLC).

FAMILY FUNDRAISING REQUIREMENTS

WYSO Family Fundraising takes place during the year through the Musical Notes Campaign. WYSO expects all families to raise \$150 each year for each child in WYSO, beyond their tuition payments. In lieu of fundraising, families are welcome to make a \$150 donation directly to WYSO. Tuition represents less than 30% of the total cost to support a musician in the program. Family fundraising helps keep our tuition low for students and their families.

MUSICAL NOTES CAMPAIGN

The Musical Notes Campaign goal is \$70,000 for the 2023-2024 season. As participants in the campaign, WYSO families solicit donations from a variety of sources including extended family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, local businesses, etc. Members also have the opportunity to participate in the Practice-A-Thon from February 10 - February 24. All proceeds earned from the Practice-A-Thon will go towards a member's campaign. Each member is asked to create a personal page for online donations. The Musical Notes Campaign will conclude in May 2024 and prizes will be awarded in early May.

MEMBER FUNDRAISING (CONT.)

Our fundraising goal for the 2023-2024 Musical Notes Campaign is \$70,000- and 100%-member participation. WYSO families may participate in the Musical Notes Campaign in the following ways:

ONLINE FUNDRAISING

The 2023- 24 Musical Notes Campaign will have an online fundraising option for students and their families. While we have previously used "Classy" to facilitate this, we are currently switching over to a new platform very similar to Classy. Details will be coming out soon regarding this new platform.

RAFFLE TICKETS

As available each season, you can also raise money for your Musical Notes account by selling raffle tickets. Anyone can sell raffle tickets! More information regarding raffle tickets will be provided after the start of the season.



OTHER FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

ART OF NOTE GALA

Spearheaded by the WYSO Board of Directors, the Art of Note Gala raised over \$150,000 in 2022. As part of this project, student artists create one-of-a-kind musical works of art for a silent auction. The Art of Note Gala will take place on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at the Monona Terrace.

THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

The Annual Campaign is WYSO's annual direct-mail fundraising appeal to individuals, including alumni, alumni parents, current parents and businesses. Funds raised from the annual campaign help pay for conductors' and coaches' salaries, rehearsal expenses, concert production and other projects. Many families contribute to the campaign in addition to their personal fundraising efforts; parents who work at companies with matching gift programs can add support by filling out the appropriate forms and designating WYSO as a beneficiary.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

Families with connections to companies or groups interested in sponsoring artistic or educational organizations should contact WYSO's Development Director, Susan Gardels (susan@wysomusic.org). In exchange for their support, WYSO can provide sponsors with great marketing benefits. No matter how small a connection might seem, families are encouraged to reach out to WYSO.

MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

R=Required O=Optional N/A=Not applicable

| | Youth Orchestra | Philharmonia Orchestra | Concert Orchestra | Sinfonietta Orchestra | Opus One |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Advanced String Orchestra | N/A | O | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Brass Choir (Brass members only) | R | R | R | N/A | N/A |
| Chamber Ambassadors | O | O | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Chamber Music Program | O | O | O | O | N/A |
| Chamber Orchestra | O | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Concerto Competition | O | O | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Flute Ensemble | O | O | O | N/A | N/A |
| Honors Recital | O | O | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Honors String Quartet | O | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Lalita Honors Woodwind Quintet | O | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Murphy Family Interlochen Scholarship Competition | O | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Music Makers Program | O | O | O | O | O |
| National/International Tours | O | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Percussion Ensemble (Percussion members only) | R | R | R | N/A | N/A |
| Pondrom Honors String Quartet/Piano Trio | O | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Regional (In-State) Tours | R | R | R | R | R |
| Scholarships | O | O | O | O | O |
| Thomas Buchhauser Honors Orchestra Scholarship | O | O | O | O | N/A |

ORCHESTRAS

YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Youth Orchestra was founded in 1966 and is WYSO's premier orchestra, performing advanced orchestral literature. Members range from age 13 to 18, have several years of ensemble experience and perform individually at a pre-college or college level. The Youth Orchestra is under the direction of Music Director Kyle Knox.

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Philharmonia Orchestra is a full orchestra that performs orchestral literature at the high school and college level. Members range from age 12 to 18, have three or more years of ensemble experience and perform individually at an advanced high school level. Michelle Kaebisch conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Concert Orchestra is a full orchestra that performs at the advanced middle school through high school level. Members range from age 11 to 17, have two to three years of ensemble experience and perform individually at a standard high school or advanced middle school level. Christine Mata Eckel conducts the Concert Orchestra.

SINFONIETTA ORCHESTRA

Sinfonietta is a string orchestra that performs various levels of literature from standard middle school (class C) to high school (class A) level. Members range from age 10 to 16 and have at least three years of private study or school string experience, along with some ensemble playing. Geri Hamilton conducts Sinfonietta Orchestra.

OPUS ONE ORCHESTRA

Opus One was formed in 2016 to meet the needs of young string players aged 8 to 15 and provide an introductory ensemble experience. This orchestra has a strong emphasis on technique, incorporating instruction on fundamentals of playing string instruments as well as ensembles skills. The group will work on scales, shifting, and bowing in addition to work on blending in an ensemble, following a conductor, and working together as a section. Repertoire performed will range from early middle school through late middle school to early high school level repertoire (Class C – B). Steve Kurr conducts Opus One Orchestra.

ENSEMBLES AND PROGRAMS

Advanced String Orchestra

An additional enrichment opportunity, the Advanced String Orchestra is open to interested string players of the Philharmonia Orchestra. Focusing solely on advanced-level string orchestra repertoire, the ensemble will perform some of the great college and professional-level works by Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Mahler, and others. For the 2023-24 season, the ensemble will rehearse during the fall WYSO concert cycle and perform on the Philharmonia Orchestra's November Concert. The ASO will be led by Philharmonia conductor Michelle Kaebisch and be comprised of approximately 18-24 musicians.

Brass Choir Program

Required for all WYSO brass players, the Brass Choir Program assists brass players in becoming great orchestral musicians. The brass sections of each of WYSO's three full orchestras rehearse to develop techniques for playing as a cohesive unit and learn music expressly written for brass ensemble. This program allows members to become more proficient on their instrument, learn sectional teamwork, develop listening skills and explore repertoire outside the orchestral setting. The brass choirs perform at each concert, and occasionally at other community events.

Chamber Music Program

The WYSO Chamber Music Program is designed for members interested in learning more about chamber music and performing in a small group setting. The Chamber Music Program is open to String, Woodwind, and Piano players that are current WYSO members. Non-WYSO musicians are eligible by video or live auditions. Members can choose their own group members or be assigned a group. Groups rehearse with a coach before or after their orchestra rehearsal ten times throughout each semester, and perform in at least two concerts each season. Although optional, members are highly encouraged to participate.

- The Chamber Program offers its members the opportunity to perform as an Ambassador with other WYSO members. The Ambassador program provides performance opportunities outside of the WYSO concert schedule for community and corporate events. Ambassadors are not required to enroll in the Chamber Music Program but should contact the Chamber Program Director, Karl Lavine if interested.

Chamber Orchestra

Led by Music Director Kyle Knox and offered to Youth Orchestra string members only this year, Chamber Orchestra is comprised of about 35-40 members. Chamber Orchestra will focus on works from the classical and early romantic periods, through neo-classical works of the 20th century. The Chamber Orchestra rehearses for one concert cycle culminating in a community performance.

Pondrom Honors String Quartet/Piano Trio

The Pondrom Honors String Quartet/Piano Trio will provide educational and performance experience for Youth Orchestra members. Participation will be by audition as an individual or as a pre-formed quartet. In addition to weekly coaching and independent rehearsals, the program will feature coaching with some of the finest chamber musicians and pedagogues in the Midwest. Competitions, recording and performances outside of the WYSO concert schedule are also possible. This program is generously sponsored by Cyrena and Lee Pondrom.

Harp Ensemble

Directed by Jenny DeRoche Christian, the WYSO Harp Ensemble Program has two components: orchestral playing and participation in the Harp Ensemble. During the school year, WYSO harpists meet to rehearse with each other and with the orchestras to prepare for orchestra concerts and Harp Ensemble performances each season. Harp Ensemble Program members may play with various orchestras throughout the season, depending on repertoire needs, student ability, and number of harpists. Students develop orchestral skills through individual and small group coaching, orchestra rehearsals, and performances. Now in its 23rd year, the harp ensemble also offers students a chance to learn chamber music skills.

ENSEMBLES (CONT.)

Lalita Honors Woodwind Quintet

The Lalita Honors Woodwind Quintet is a chamber music opportunity offered to five gifted Youth orchestra woodwind players each season free of charge. The group will explore the vast woodwind quintet repertoire, give public performances, work with guest artists, compete in chamber music competitions, and serve as WYSO ambassadors in the Dane County area. The ensemble will be recruited each year and coached by Music Director Kyle Knox. This program is generously sponsored by Deepika and Rajaraman Rajesh.

Music Makers Program

The Music Makers program is home to a diverse student body, providing musical instruction in a non-competitive, community-focused environment, regardless of ability to pay. In the Music Makers program, students have the opportunity to access private and group lessons, as well as a quality musical instrument to use while they are enrolled.

Percussion Ensemble

Directed by Vicki Peterson Jenks and mandatory for all percussion members, the WYSO Percussion Ensemble is a longtime WYSO tradition. Delighting audiences at concerts and on tours, the Percussion Ensemble is a valuable supplement to the outstanding full orchestra experience accorded to the percussion members of Concert, Philharmonia, and Youth Orchestras. The Percussion Ensemble performs during regularly scheduled concerts and at the PercussionEXTRAVAGANZA.

Flute Ensemble

Now in its second year, the Flute Ensemble has expanded to consist of two choirs. Created as a way to accommodate the musical aspirations of an abundance of talented auditioning flautists, the ensembles focus on a range of repertoire written and arranged to be played by alto, bass, and C-flute.

COMPETITIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

CONCERTO COMPETITION

WYSO's Concerto Competition is held each season for Youth Orchestra and Philharmonia Orchestra members. The audition requires competitors to perform ten minutes of their concerto with accompaniment. WYSO recommends, although does not require, that the piece be memorized. Members who have won the concerto competition may not compete in future years with that same orchestra. The Youth Orchestra and Philharmonia Orchestra concerto winners perform at one concert during the season. Honorable mention winners are asked to perform at the Youth Honors Recital and at the Philharmonia Honors Recital.

MURPHY FAMILY INTERLOCHEN SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Open to Youth Orchestra members, the Murphy Family Interlochen Scholarship Competition is a competition for a \$1,000 scholarship to the Interlochen Arts Academy Summer Program and a WYSO letter of recommendation to be used in the application for possible further scholarship support from Interlochen. Auditions are held in conjunction with the Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition. Previous winners and graduating seniors are ineligible for the competition.

THOMAS BUCHHAUSER HONORS ORCHESTRA SCHOLARSHIP

Open to members in high school, the Thomas Buchhauser Honors Orchestra Scholarship is a competition for a \$250 scholarship to attend the WSMA High School State Honors Camp. To be eligible, competitors must successfully audition into the WSMA Honors Orchestra or Band and commit to playing in WYSO during the following season. The competition is held in April.



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YOUTH ORCHESTRA SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Youth Orchestra's regular rehearsal (RR) time is 11:00am-2:00pm. | | |
| 2023 | | |
| September | 10 Sun | RR, orchestra only |
| | 17 Sun | RR, 1st rehearsal for ensembles |
| | 24 Sun | RR |
| | | |
| October | 1 Sun | RR |
| | 8 Sun | RR |
| | 15 Sun | RR |
| | 22 Sun | RR |
| | 28 Sat | Concerto Competition |
| | 29 Sun | RR |
| November | 5 Sun | RR |
| | 12 Sun | RR |
| | 15 Wed | Dress Rehearsal, 5:00-8:00pm Fall |
| | 18 Sat | Concert, 4:00pm |
| | 26 Sun | No rehearsal - Thanksgiving Break |
| December | 3 Sun | RR |
| | 10 Sun | RR, Chamber Recital 7pm |
| | 17 Sun | RR |
| | 24 Sun | No rehearsal - Winter Break |
| | 31 Sun | No rehearsal - Winter Break |

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------------------------------|
| 2024 | | |
| January | 7 Sun | RR |
| | 14 Sun | RR |
| | 21 Sun | RR |
| | 28 Sun | RR |
| February | 4 Sun | RR |
| | 11 Sun | RR, Honors Recital, February 10 |
| | 18 Sun | RR |
| | 25 Sun | RR |
| | 28 Wed | Dress Rehearsal, 5:00-8:00pm |
| March | 2 Sat | Winter Concert, 4:00pm |
| | 10 Sun | RR |
| | 17 Sun | RR |
| | 24 Sun | No rehearsal - Spring Break |
| | 31 Sun | No rehearsal - Easter |
| April | 7 Sun | RR |
| | 14 Sun | RR |
| | 20 Sat | Percussion Extravaganza, 1:00pm |
| | 21 Sun | SPECIAL REHEARSAL, 10:30-1:00pm |
| | 28 Sun | RR |
| May | 4 Sat | Senior Celebration |
| | 5 Sun | RR |
| | 12 Sun | RR, Chamber Recital 4:00pm |
| | 20 Mon | Dress Rehearsal, 5:00-8:00pm |
| | 23 Thur | Spring Concert, 7:00 pm |

All schedules are subject to change. Read Weekly Announcements for updates.

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Philharmonia Orchestra's regular rehearsal (RR) time is 1:45pm-4:45pm. | | |
| 2023 | | |
| September | 9 Sat | RR, orchestra only |
| | 16 Sat | RR, 1st rehearsal for ensembles |
| | 23 Sat | RR |
| | 30 Sat | RR |
| October | 7 Sat | RR |
| | 14 Sat | RR |
| | 21 Sat | RR |
| | 28 Sat | RR |
| November | 4 Sat | RR |
| | 11 Sat | RR |
| | 16 Thur | Dress Rehearsal, 5:00-8:00pm |
| | 18 Sat | Fall Concert, 7:00pm |
| | 25 Sat | No rehearsal - Thanksgiving Break |
| December | 2 Sat | RR |
| | 9 Sat | RR, Chamber Recital 7pm |
| | 16 Sat | RR |
| | 23 Sat | No rehearsal - Winter Break |
| | 30 Sat | No rehearsal - Winter Break |

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------------------------------|
| 2024 | | |
| January | 6 Sat | RR, NEW TIME - 9:30-12:30 |
| | 13 Sat | RR |
| | 20 Sat | RR |
| | 21 Sun | Concerto Competition |
| | 27 Sat | RR |
| February | 3 Sat | RR |
| | 10 Sat | RR, Honors Recital |
| | 17 Sat | RR |
| | 24 Sat | Dress Rehearsal, 5:00-8:00pm |
| | 29 Thur | |
| March | 2 Sat | Winter Concert, 7:00pm |
| | 9 Sat | RR |
| | 16 Sat | RR |
| | 23 Sat | No rehearsal - Spring Break |
| | 30 Sat | No rehearsal - Easter |
| April | 6 Sat | RR |
| | 13 Sat | RR |
| | 20 Sat | Percussion Extravaganza, 1:00pm |
| | 21 Sun | SPECIAL REHEARSAL, 2:00-4:30pm |
| | 27 Sat | RR |
| May | 4 Sat | RR, Senior Celebration |
| | 11 Sat | RR, Chamber Recital 7:00pm |
| | 16 Thur | Dress Rehearsal, 5:00-8:00pm |
| | 18 Sat | Spring Concert, 7:00 pm |

All schedules are subject to change. Read Weekly Announcements for updates.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|--------|-----------------------------------|
| ConcertOrchestra's regularrehearsal (RR) time is 10:30am to 1:00pm. | | |
| 2023 | | |
| September | 9 Sat | RR, orchestras only |
| | 16 Sat | RR, 1st rehearsal for ensembles |
| | 23 Sat | RR |
| | 30 Sat | RR |
| October | 7 Sat | RR |
| | 14 Sat | RR |
| | 21 Sat | RR |
| | 28 Sat | RR |
| November | 4 Sat | RR |
| | 11 Sat | RR |
| | 17 Fri | Dress Rehearsal, 5:30-8:00pm |
| | 19 Sun | Fall Concert, 4:00pm |
| | 25 Sat | No rehearsal - Thanksgiving Break |
| December | 2 Sat | RR |
| | 9 Sat | RR, Chamber Recital 7:00pm |
| | 16 Sat | RR |
| | 23 Sat | No rehearsal - Winter Break |
| | 30 Sat | No rehearsal - Winter Break |

| | | |
|----------|--------|---------------------------------|
| 2024 | | |
| January | 6 Sat | RR - NEW TIME - 10:00-12:30 |
| | 13 Sat | RR |
| | 20 Sat | RR |
| | 27 Sat | RR |
| February | 3 Sat | RR |
| | 10 Sat | RR |
| | 17 Sat | RR |
| | 24 Sat | RR |
| March | 1 Wed | Dress Rehearsal, 5:30-8:00pm |
| | 3 Sun | Winter Concert, 1:00pm |
| | 9 Sat | RR |
| | 16 Sat | RR |
| | 23 Sat | No rehearsal - Spring Break |
| April | 30 Sat | No rehearsal - Easter |
| | 6 Sat | RR |
| | 13 Sat | RR, |
| | 20 Sat | Percussion Extravaganza, 1:00pm |
| | 21 Sun | SPECIAL REHEARSAL, 3:00-5:30pm |
| May | 27 Sat | RR |
| | 4 Sat | RR, Senior Celebration |
| | 11 Sat | RR, Chamber Recital 7:00pm |
| | 17 Wed | Dress Rehearsal, 5:30-8:00pm |
| | 18 Sat | Spring Concert, 1:00pm |

All schedules are subject to change. Read Weekly Announcements for updates.

SINFONIETTA ORCHESTRA SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Sinfonietta Orchestra's regular rehearsal (RR) time is 11:00am-1:30pm. | | |
| 2023 | | |
| September | 9 Sat | RR, orchestras only |
| | 16 Sat | RR , 1st rehearsal for ensembles |
| | 23 Sat | RR |
| | 30 Sat | RR |
| October | 7 Sat | RR |
| | 14 Sat | RR |
| | 21 Sat | RR |
| | 28 Sat | RR |
| November | 4 Sat | RR |
| | 11 Sat | RR |
| | 18 Sat | Dress Rehersal, 11:30am-2:00pm |
| | 19 Sun | Fall Concert, 12:00pm |
| | 25 Sat | No rehearsal - Thanksgiving Break |
| December | 2 Sat | RR |
| | 9 Sat | RR, Chamber Recital 7pm |
| | 16 Sat | RR |
| | 23 Sat | No rehearsal - Winter Break |
| | 30 Sat | No rehearsal - Winter Break |

| | | |
|----------|--------|----------------------------------|
| 2024 | | |
| January | 6 Sat | RR |
| | 13 Sat | RR |
| | 20 Sat | RR |
| | 27 Sat | RR |
| February | 3 Sat | RR |
| | 10 Sat | RR |
| | 17 Sat | RR |
| | 24 Sat | RR |
| March | 2 Sat | Dress rehearsal, 11:30am-2:00pm |
| | 3 Sun | Concert at 4:00pm |
| | 9 Sat | RR |
| | 16 Sat | RR |
| | 23 Sat | No rehearsal - Spring Break |
| April | 30 Sat | No rehearsal - Easter |
| | 6 Sat | RR |
| | 13 Sat | RR |
| | 21 Sun | SPECIAL REHEARSAL, 11:30-2:00pm |
| | 27 Sat | RR |
| May | 4 Sat | RR |
| | 11 Sat | Dress Rehearsal, 11:30am-2:00pm; |
| | 18 Sat | Chamber Recital 7:00pm |

All schedules are subject to change. Read Weekly Announcements for updates.

OPUS ONE ORCHESTRA SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 2023 | | |
| Opus One Orchestra's regular rehearsal (RR) time is 12:00pm to 2:00pm in the fall and 12:30pm to 2:30 pm after January 1st. | | |
| September | 10 Sun | RR, orchestras only |
| | 17 Sun | RR |
| | 24 Sun | RR |
| October | 1 Sun | RR |
| | 8 Sun | RR |
| | 15 Sun | RR |
| | 22 Sun | RR |
| | 29 Sun | RR |
| November | 5 Sun | RR |
| | 11 Sat | RR |
| | 18 Sat | Dress Rehearsal, 9:00-11:00am |
| | 19 Sun | Fall Concert, 12:00pm |
| | 26 Sun | No rehearsal - Thanksgiving Break |
| December | 3 Sun | RR |
| | 10 Sun | RR |
| | 17 Sun | RR |
| | 24 Sun | No rehearsal - Winter Break |
| | 31 Sun | No rehearsal - Winter Break |

| | | |
|----------|--------|----------------------------------|
| 2024 | | |
| January | 7 Sun | RR, New time; 12:30-2:30pm |
| | 14 Sun | RR |
| | 21 Sun | RR |
| | 28 Sun | RR |
| February | 4 Sun | RR |
| | 11 Sun | RR |
| | 18 Sun | RR |
| | 25 Sun | RR |
| March | 2 Sat | Dress Rehearsal, |
| | 3 Sun | 9:00-11:00am Winter |
| | 10 Sun | concert, 4:00pm RR |
| | 17 Sun | RR |
| | 25 Sun | No rehearsal - Spring Break |
| April | 31 Sun | No rehearsal - Easter |
| | 7 Sun | RR |
| | 14 Sun | RR |
| | 21 Sun | SPECIAL REHEARSAL, 10:30-12:30PM |
| | 28 Sun | RR |
| May | 5 Sun | RR |
| | 11 Sat | Dress Rehearsal, 9:00-11:00am |
| | 18 Sat | Spring Concert, 4:00pm |

All schedules are subject to change. Read Weekly Announcements for updates.

ENSEMBLES SCHEDULE

| | | |
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| 2023 | | |
| Percussion Ensemble (PE), Brass Choirs (BC), Harp Ensemble (H), and Chamber (C), Flute Choir (C) will meet at regularly scheduled times. Times provided in Weekly Announcements. | | |
| September | 16 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 23 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 30 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| October | 7 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 14 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 21 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 28 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| November | 4 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 11 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 18 Sat | H, BC Dress rehearsal and Fall Concert |
| | 19 Sun | PE Dress rehearsal and Fall Concert |
| | 25 Sat | No rehearsal - Thanksgiving Break |
| December | 2 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 9 Sat | PE, BC, H, Chamber Recital |
| | 16 Sat | PE, BC, H |
| | 23 Sat | No rehearsal - Winter Break |
| | 30 Sat | No rehearsal - Winter Break |

| | | |
|----------|--------|--|
| 2024 | | |
| January | 6 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 13 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 20 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 27 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| February | 3 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 10 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 17 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 24 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| March | 2 Sat | BC Dress rehearsal & Winter Concert |
| | 3 Sun | PE, H Dress rehearsal & Winter Concert |
| | 9 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 16 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 23 Sat | No rehearsal - Spring Break |
| April | 30 Sat | No rehearsal - Easter |
| | 6 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 13 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 20 Sat | Percussion Extravaganza 1:00pm |
| | 21 Sun | PE, BC, H, C, FC, SPECIAL REHEARSAL DATE |
| May | 27 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 4 Sat | PE, BC, H, C, FC |
| | 11 Sat | PE, BC, H, FC, Chamber Recital |
| | 12 Sun | Chamber Recital |
| | 18 Sat | PE, H Dress reh. & Spring Concert |

All schedules are subject to change. Read Weekly Announcements for updates.

WYSO STAFF



Josh Biere, Brass Choirs Director, has held the position of Principal Tuba with Madison Symphony since 2013, and has performed with numerous professional orchestras in the region including the Milwaukee Symphony, Grant Park Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Des Moines Symphony, Elgin Symphony, Dubuque Symphony and many others. He holds degrees from Illinois Wesleyan University and Northwestern University and is currently pursuing a Doctorate at the University of

Wisconsin as a Paul J. Collins Distinguished fellow. A highly sought after educator, Biere previously maintained a studio of over 50 tuba and euphonium students in the Chicago area with some of the region's best music programs. His students consistently find success in regional and all-state bands and orchestras, and often receive scholarships to continue their studies in colleges and universities across the country. He has given guest recitals and masterclasses at UW Madison, as well as Illinois Wesleyan University, and serves on the Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Leadership Council for the School of Music. As a soloist, he appeared with the Madison Symphony in the 2018-2019 season, and will appear next year with the UW- Madison Symphony as the recent winner of their concerto competition.



Jenny DeRoche Christian, Harp Program Director, graduated with distinction from UW-Madison with a BM in instrumental and general music education. While attending UW-Madison, Jenny began and led a university chapter of a nation-wide music education organization and earned numerous awards for both harp performance and education. Since graduating from UW, Jenny has taught

general music in MMSD, Stoughton School District and currently teaches in the Middleton Cross Plains School District. Aside from teaching, Jenny maintains a private studio and has performed in the area with the Madison Symphony Orchestra, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, and various other groups. In the past, she has served as faculty at Summer Music Clinic and was the harp assistant at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan for multiple summers.



Christine Mata Eckel, Concert Orchestra Conductor since 2000, is a native of Fairfield, CT. She began musical studies on piano at the age of 5, added violin in fourth grade, but then her heart fell in love with the clarinet's sound in sixth grade. She is grateful for the excellent well-rounded music education she received via the Fairfield (CT) Public Schools. Ms. Eckel has fond memories playing in the Norwalk Youth Symphony, especially with the

direction of Miguel Harth-Bedoya, and the opportunity to play in New York's Carnegie Hall. Ms. Eckel holds both a Bachelor of Music (with Distinction; '97) and a Master of Music ('03) in Education from the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison. Her primary clarinet teachers have been Dr. Richard Shillea (adjunct Fairfield Univ. & Juilliard Pre-College Div.) and Dr. Linda Bartley (UW-Madison).

Since 2004, she has performed as clarinetist with the Pentissimo Woodwind Quintet. Prior to conducting for WYSO, she performed in the Honor Band of America, with the direction of William Revelli and John P. Paynter, the All-New-England Band and Orchestra, Connecticut (CT) All-State Band and Orchestra, and CT-Regional Band and Orchestra, as well as the Fairfield University Orchestra, Madison Wind Ensemble, and Edgewood Chamber Orchestra. While attending UW-Madison, she performed in Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonietta, and Wind Ensemble. In addition to studying with Professor Bartley, Ms. Eckel's primary teachers at the UW-Madison were Professors James Smith, Gerald Olson, and David Becker. In the 1990's, Ms. Eckel enjoyed travelling for music festivals in Switzerland and Italy, getting to collaborate with diverse chamber and orchestral musicians from across the world.

Prior to her appointment as WYSO conductor in 2000, Ms. Eckel was the woodwind sectional coach and a chamberensemble coach for WYSO. For 25 years (1997-2022), Ms. Eckel also helped as an administrative assistant each summer and was on faculty occasionally for the UW-Madison Summer Music Clinic. Ms. Eckel has taught band/instrumental music in Madison, WI, since 1997, primarily between Our Lady Queen of Peace School (since 1997) and Eagle School (from 1998-2021). She now teaches full-time at Our Lady Queen of Peace School. Ms. Eckel is grateful to her spouse, Scott, and her two wonderful children for their consistent support. Ms. Eckel hopes to help spark a continuing interest in the fullness of the symphonic orchestra learning experience---with all the contours, textures, nuances, and depth possible of performing in such a group.



Sinfonietta conductor Geri Hamilton graduated with a Bachelor's in Music Education from the University of Wisconsin - Madison in the spring of 2004. She has extensive experience teaching beginners, middle and high school level orchestra through her work in the public schools of Waunakee, Stoughton and Oregon. In the spring of 2019 and after 15 years, Mrs. Hamilton chose to take a new path by leaving the public schools, expanding her studio and pursuing her passion for teaching privately. In the spring of 2016, she joined the staff of the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra (WYSO) as the conductor for their newest string ensemble, Opus One and in the fall of 2018, she took her new place as the conductor of Sinfonietta. She too is a proud six-year alumna of this wonderful organization.

Not only has Mrs. Hamilton been a violinist with the Madison Symphony Orchestra since 2003, but she also enjoys singing and playing electric fiddle with her new band, Tent Show Troubadours. She makes it a top priority as a music educator to maintain her playing skills and set the best example for her students.



Vicki Peterson Jenks, Director of Percussion since 1981, received her musical training at Minot State University, UW-Stevens Point, and Baylor University. In 1976, she founded the percussion program at UT-El Paso. For 25 years, she nurtured Jenks Music Studio, the largest percussion studio in Wisconsin. In 2008, she was inducted into the Percussive Arts

Society's Hall of Fame. Dedicated to altruism, the annual WYSO Percussion EXTRAVAGANZA has supported Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, the American Red Cross, Ronald McDonald House Charities, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dane County. As a dedicated Red Cross volunteer, in 2011 Vicki received the Clara Barton Honor Award, the most esteemed award presented to any Red Cross volunteer. This school year finds Vicki completing her internship in Diaconal Ministry at First English Lutheran Church (Wisconsin Rapids). Her specialization is youth ministry, elder care, and hospice.



Michelle A. Kaebisch - holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Instrumental Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has been teaching in Wisconsin public schools since 1995. She currently teaches the orchestra and music composition classes at Oregon High School (OHS), as well as conducts the pit orchestra for their annual musical productions. Ms. Kaebisch is the conductor for the Wisconsin Youth Symphony

Orchestra's Philharmonia (2013-present). Formerly, Ms. Kaebisch was the Director of Education and Community Engagement at the Madison Symphony Orchestra (MSO) from 2006-2015, as well as a tenured violinist in the MSO from 1993-2015. While at the MSO, she was a presenter at several local and national conferences including: League of American Orchestras (LAO), Society for the Arts in Healthcare, (Arts & Health Alliance) and the Association of Wisconsin Orchestras.

WYSO STAFF (CONT.)

While at the MSO, Ms. Kaebisch was co-chair of the LAO's national Education & Community Engagement Committee, as well as a mentor to education directors who were new to the field of arts administration. Additionally, Ms. Kaebisch has served both as a teacher and conductor for the UW-Madison Summer Music Clinic, UW-Whitewater Strings Camp, Badger Conference Honors Orchestra and Iowa State Junior Honors Orchestra Festival (IJHOF). She remains active with the Wisconsin School Music Association and has been a sectional coach (violin and viola) for the WSMA High School and Middle Level Honors Orchestras. Ms. Kaebisch is a sought-after clinician and conductor for music camps, festivals and honors orchestras. Ms. Kaebisch also regularly performs with a number of groups in the Madison area.



Kyle Knox took over the dual positions of Music Director of WYSO and Associate Conductor of the Madison Symphony Orchestra beginning in the 2018-2019 season. Recent past and upcoming conducting credits include his debut with the Milwaukee Symphony (on both their Family and Connections concert series); the Madison Symphony's 19-20

Bolz Final Forte and Education series concerts; Mark Adamo's *Little Women* with Madison Opera; Albert Herring, *The Turn of the Screw*, and *Transformations* with UW Opera; *Die Fledermaus*, *The Gondoliers* and *H.M.S. Pinafore* with Madison Savoyards, as well as UW Music Clinic's High School Honors Orchestra. Other concerts include *Carousel*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Sweeney Todd* (2018) with Middleton Players Theatre; Jon Deak's *The Passion of Scrooge* with Oakwood Chamber Players, as well as regular appearances with the Middleton Community Orchestra. He was formerly a clarinetist with the Milwaukee Symphony, Santa Fe Opera, and Philadelphia Orchestras, and on faculty at UW-Milwaukee. His festival credits include Tanglewood, Spoleto (Italy), Santa Fe Chamber Music, and Bowdoin Summer Music Festivals, as well as the New York String Orchestra Seminar. He has recorded for the Koch and Naxos labels and has been featured numerous times on NPR's Performance Today. Kyle has premiered works by Osvaldo Golijov, Tan Dun, Sean Shepherd, and Huang Ruo among many others. Nico Muhly's chamber work *Service Music* (2004) was written for and dedicated to him. His debut album, a recording of Conrad Susa's chamber opera *Transformations* (the work's world premiere recording) will be released soon on iTunes. Kyle studied clarinet with Ricardo Morales and Yehuda Gilad, and conducting with James Smith. He holds degrees from Juilliard and UW-Madison.



Dr. Danielle Breisach's exuberance and compassion permeate her performing and teaching. In demand as a collaborative musician and teacher, Dr. Breisach has performed all over the United States as well as in Canada, Asia and Europe. In addition to teaching as Associate Lecturer of Flute at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens

Point, she maintains a private studio of over 30 highly successful students in Madison, WI. In the summer, Dr. Breisach teaches at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Summer Music Clinics and the University of Wisconsin Whitewater Flute Camp. She has adjudicated competitions for the National Flute Association, the Florida Flute Association, and the Wisconsin Flute Festival.

As Co-Artistic Director of the Madison Flute Club since 2012, Dr. Breisach has extended the reach of the organization through founding the Chamber Ensemble, which gave its debut performance at the National Flute Association's annual convention in 2014. Additionally, Dr. Breisach founded the Middle School and High School Flute Ensembles in 2013.



Steve Kurr, Opus One conductor, has been at Middleton High School for more than two decades, teaching the three school orchestras, music history courses, and serving as the Instructional Leader for the Fine Arts Department.

He received undergraduate degrees in Viola Performance and Mathematics from UW-Platteville, a master's degree in Musicology from UW-Madison, and has

Completed doctoral course work at UW-Madison with specialties in mid-18th-century Viennese symphonies and orchestral conducting.

Mr. Kurr also has been teaching continuing education courses in music appreciation since 1997, served on the Wisconsin Music Educator Association Council as the State Chair for Lifelong Engagement in Music, produces Connect Events for the Madison Symphony Orchestra League, is a Master Adjudicator for the Wisconsin School Music Association, was a Kohl Teaching Fellowship recipient in 2017, won the UW-Madison Rockwell Award for Cooperating Teachers in 2018, and is Founding Conductor Emeritus for the Middleton Community Orchestra.

He lives in the Town of Middleton with his wife Nancy and two children Veronica and Thomas, also violists.



Karl Lavine is Principal cellist for the Madison Symphony Orchestra and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. As a member of the Madison Symphony Orchestra's Heartstrings Quartet Program, Karl performs in many special needs communities throughout the Madison area. Karl appears regularly at John and

Rose Mary Harbison's Token Creek Festival in Wisconsin. He has held faculty positions at Luther College, Illinois Wesleyan University and UW-Whitewater. As a past member of the Milwaukee based contemporary music ensemble, Present Music, Karl has recorded compositions with the ensemble as well as solo repertoire. He is also a member of the Kepler Quartet, a string quartet which resulted from performances of works of American composer Ben Johnston. With the help of generous grants from the Aaron Copland Recording Foundation and support from New World Records, the Kepler Quartet has recently finished recording the complete string quartets of Ben Johnston under the New World Records label.



Now in his fourth year as the Assistant Director of the WYSO Percussion Ensemble, Dane has been an active professional percussionist and drummer since graduating from the University of Michigan in 2010. His performance experience covers a lot of ground and has given him the opportunity to share the stage with many amazing musicians including

The Knights, Vadim Gluzman, Anne Akiko Meyers, Alessio Bax, New Music Detroit, the Madison Symphony Orchestra, Goldford, the Gold Coast All Stars, the Chicago Players, Lakeshore Rush, Cole DeGenova, Ida Jo, Spectrum Trio and Sidewalk Chalk, to name a few. Dane has performed throughout the U.S. including Ravinia, the North Shore Chamber Music Festival, PASIC, Thalia Hall, Lincoln Hall, Windy City Live, University of Wisconsin, Lawrence Conservatory, University of Michigan and the Juilliard School.

In addition, he is the founder of PercussionLessonsOnline.com and ChicagoPercussionLessons.com where he works with a diverse group of students across a broad range of percussion instruments and music genres. From 2011-2017, he served as an instructor at Terra Sounds in Glenview, IL as well as Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, IL which was named a National GRAMMY Signature School in 2013.



SECTIONAL COACHES

Clayton Tillotson – Violin 1
Vinicius Sant'ana – Violin 2
Melanie DeJesus – Viola
Aaron Fried – Cello
Jeff Takaki – Bass
Yvonne Schwinge – Woodwinds
TBD– Brass
Tristan Swihart – Percussion

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Bridget Fraser, Executive Director
Yanzel Rivera, Operations Director
Susan Gardels, Development &
Communications Director
Ellie McShane, Development Manager
Tiffany Misko, Communications &
Marketing Manager
Andrew Briddell, Director of Community
Partnerships
Roger Seaver, Director of Facilities
Joseph Greer, Operations Assistant &
Librarian
Suki Wong, Administrative Manager
Ria Hodgson, WYSO Music Makers Director
Maggie Schenk, WYSO Music Makers
Membership Coordinator
Simrin Sandhu, WYSO Music Makers
Program Coordinator

PHONE: 608-733-6283

EMAIL: wyso@wysomusic.org

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 258039
Madison, WI 53725

WYSO OFFICE HOURS

17 Applegate Court, Suite 10
Madison, WI 53713

**Open office hours are limited. Please contact
in advance to arrange a visit.*

IN SEASON HOURS
Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-5pm

SUMMER HOURS
Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5pm

WEBSITE RESOURCES

Staff Emails:

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