

Santa Rosa Symphony
Youth Ensembles

**Membership
Handbook**

for the

**String Orchestra Workshop
Preparatory Orchestra
Repertory Orchestra
Youth Orchestra
&
Young People's Chamber Orchestra**

Revised 2011

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About this Handbook

Welcome to the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles (SRSYE)! Our organization is dedicated to providing young musicians with orchestral training and performance opportunities of the highest caliber. If you are new to our program, please take the time to read this handbook in its entirety. It will inform you of essentials regarding operations and expectations so that you can take advantage of everything our organization has to offer.

We encourage you to speak with SRS Education Department staff regarding any additional information you may need related to the policies, procedures and schedules listed in this handbook and online. Individual staff contact information is located in the *SRS Education Department Who's Who* section of this handbook.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles (SRSYE) is to offer young musicians an exceptional educational experience by providing the finest quality orchestral training and performance opportunities in Sonoma County.

Our goal is for young musicians to develop an awareness and appreciation of great music in the context of learning responsibility and teamwork, while they participate in our community through public performance.

Introduction

The SRSYE are comprised of students from elementary through college level who are invited to join one of the groups following a competitive audition process. Members represent public and private schools throughout Sonoma, Napa, and Marin counties. The SRSYE offer in-depth study of selected orchestral literature under the direction of professional conductors, coaching by outstanding professional musicians of the Santa Rosa Symphony and public performances throughout the year. These educationally valuable musical experiences motivate students to fulfill their potential and strive for excellence, and they promote appreciation of the performing arts in the community to further the tradition of concert music. Membership in one of our youth ensembles will provide a rich and rewarding educational experience for students who wish to expand their knowledge and skills in music while performing with a group of peers who have similar interests and abilities.

Fundamentals of Membership

Membership in the SRSYE requires participation in all rehearsal and performance activities scheduled for your respective orchestra. In addition, all required auditions and registration-related materials must be completed. The expectations of membership can be remembered with the Italian word for harp: ARPA.

Attendance

Responsibility

Preparedness

Attitude

Tuition fees are required for each of the SRSYE. Financial aid is available and awarded according to California state guidelines. Tuition must be paid in full, or a payment plan established, by the second rehearsal.

Once the required forms and fees have been received, the member should understand that he or she may still be dismissed or suspended from their orchestra for failure to honor rehearsal, performance and/or financial obligations, or for inappropriate conduct. Such action will be taken only after consultation with parents and the orchestra member.

Primary Focus of the Ensembles

The *String Orchestra Workshop* provides beginning musicians with an opportunity to learn to play with others in a small ensemble, preparing musicians for the full-orchestra experience. Players work directly with string coaches, and the smaller group allows for greater personal attention, building strong foundational skills.

The *Preparatory Orchestra* (PO) provides a solid foundation for younger students to learn to play within a full orchestra under the direction of a professional conductor. Students learn to follow the lead of a conductor, understand music notation, style, and gain experience performing before live audiences. To qualify, students must have played their instrument for a minimum of two years. Some prior ensemble training or experience in a performing group is also desirable. Due to the intensive nature of this group, it is recommended that the minimum age of new students be 9 years old. Preparatory students typically may be as old as 15 years. It is strongly recommended that all members be studying their instrument with a private teacher and practice their instrument regularly.

The *Repertory Orchestra* (RO) continues the musical experience by providing an opportunity for intermediate to advanced students to perform a wide variety of repertoire within a full orchestra. Repertory Orchestra members are expected to have private instruction on their instrument and follow a regular practice routine. To qualify, students must have been playing their instrument a minimum of three years and have prior ensemble experience – at least one year in the Preparatory Orchestra or the equivalent. Approximate age of orchestra members is 12-18 years.

The *Young People's Chamber Orchestra* (YPCO), a string orchestra working without a conductor, is designed to take accomplished young string players and mold them into high-

functioning musicians with a complete attentiveness to detail and to each other within the context of the music. The Director trains the musicians to interact and collaborate on high-level music-making and nuanced performance. This orchestra is for students up to 23 years of age who are studying privately and have had previous orchestral training. It is modeled after the Bay Area's renowned New Century Chamber Orchestra and is the first youth ensemble of its kind in northern California. All members of YPCO must be enrolled in another of the SRS ensembles or their school's orchestra, and must be committed to a strict routine of rehearsals, private lessons, and at-home practice.

The *Youth Orchestra* (YO) membership is comprised of advanced students, typically 14-23 years of age, who are studying privately and have had previous orchestral training. Many members started in the Preparatory Orchestra and earned their position in the Youth Orchestra through growth, experience and skill. The Youth Orchestra is among the oldest orchestras of its kind in California and has performed in Carnegie Hall, Davies Symphony Hall, and toured in Germany and the Czech Republic. Members typically have more performing opportunities than students in the Preparatory and Repertory Orchestras and must be committed to a strict routine of rehearsals, private lessons, and at-home practice. Music performed is from the standard symphonic orchestral repertoire.

Tuition

As with the great majority of youth orchestras across the country, the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles (SRSYE) depend upon tuition fees and parent contributions. Santa Rosa Symphony has made every effort to keep rates competitive with other youth ensembles in the area and has consistently kept tuition lower than the average. Approximately 13 Northern California Youth Orchestras are surveyed to draw these comparisons.

Mandatory fees include tuition and a \$25 materials fee per student per ensemble. Fees for the 2011-2012 season are as follows:

Ensemble	Annual Tuition	Materials Fee
String Orchestra Workshop (8 wks)	\$125	\$25
Preparatory Orchestra	\$360	\$25
Repertory Orchestra	\$380	\$25
Youth Orchestra	\$545	\$25
Young People's Chamber Orchestra (8 wks)	\$140	\$25

The total tuition amount, plus the materials fee (\$25) is due no later than the second rehearsal. Musicians who have not completed payment of tuition by the end of the second rehearsal may be dismissed from the ensemble.

A 10% tuition discount may apply for families with more than one musician participating in a SRSYE, and for families with one musician participating in several ensembles. Please bring this to our attention to determine if you qualify.

Any student who withdraws from one of the ensembles, and who notifies the Education Department by the Wednesday after the second rehearsal, will receive a refund of the tuition paid, less the \$25 materials fee and a \$25 processing fee. There will be no tuition refunds or credits issued after this date.

If a musician joins one of the ensembles mid-season tuition will be half of the amount listed above.

Financial Aid Awards

A limited number of financial aid awards are available each season to help members cover tuition fees. Student eligibility is based upon family income and expenses, using criteria created by the State of California Department of Education. You may obtain a financial aid application by requesting one from the SRS Education Department or by printing the forms from the SRS website at www.santarosasympphony.com. Please note that financial aid recipients are not eligible for other tuition discounts.

Deadlines for financial aid vary and are posted on the SRS website. Applications received prior to the deadline are given preference over those received following the deadline.

Audition Information

Membership in the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles (SRSYE) is achieved through competitive auditions held each year in August/September. Auditions are approximately 10 to 15 minutes in length. Auditions are not open to members of the public, family members or friends, and are evaluated by the SRSYE conductors. Students are placed according to technical facility, reading ability, musicality, experience and age. The conductors must consider the needs of individual students as well as the distribution of strengths within each orchestra. Our intent is to do what is in the best interest of both the individual student's education and the overall SRSYE program. All auditions are video recorded for reference by the audition panel and staff.

For information on seating and challenges for seating, please see **Audition Results & Placement** below.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

All members audition annually regardless of past participation for placement and seating. Past participation, including attendance, commitment and attitude, may be taken into consideration at the time of auditions. Auditions are generally led by a panel of the SRSYE conductors. Occasionally, coaches and staff may participate on the audition panel.

Returning students occasionally may be placed in a lower orchestra than they achieved the previous year. Such a placement is not considered a demotion but is decided in the interest of the student and the orchestras.

Mid-season auditions may occur at the discretion of the conductors.

Auditions are evaluated for quality of tone, correct position and posture, reading skills, demonstration of dynamic range in varying positions or registers, and embouchure or bowing technique. The following requirements and guidelines are cumulative, such that any requirement for one orchestra is implicitly a requirement for a more advanced orchestra.

All auditions follow a basic format, asking for 1) a prepared solo, 2) scales and arpeggios, 3) assigned excerpts, and 4) sightreading. These are all performed without accompaniment. No part of the audition needs to be memorized. The following guidelines are intended to be as specific as realistically possible and represent expectations. If you feel you may not measure up to any of the below guidelines, do not be deterred. You are encouraged to call the Education staff to for some consultation.

1) Prepared Solo

In selecting a solo, the student should, when possible, seek the guidance of their teacher. Auditions for the Youth Orchestra and the Young People's Chamber Orchestra require the solo be approximately 5 minutes in length. The prepared solo should be an excerpt from the standard repertoire, a solo work or etude, and should demonstrate the musician's present level of accomplishment. No accompaniment is allowed in the audition. The solo does not need to be memorized.

2) Scales and Arpeggios

a) Arpeggios are optional. If the student can play arpeggios, they should prepare them in two

major keys of their choice. (Beginning in Fall 2012, arpeggios will be required of all YO/YPCO auditions.)

b) The student should prepare scales in two major keys of their choice. A minimum of one octave per scale is required for all auditions. Auditions for the Youth Orchestra and the Young People's Chamber Orchestra require three octaves (two octaves where applicable).

3) **Excerpts**

These are to be prepared in advance and are available from the Education Department staff. Staff email excerpts to all those who request them or have scheduled an audition. There are three excerpts per instrument, each representing a different level of technical challenge. The student should prepare two of the three excerpts, if possible. We recommend the student consult with their teacher in selecting which excerpts to prepare.

4) **Sightreading**

The student will be asked in the audition to read a short selection they have not seen before. The audition panel will choose the sightreading selection to ascertain the student's reading skills.

PO: Sightreading may include simple meters (2/4, 3/4, & 4/4), dotted rhythms, syncopation, rests, a key signature up to 3 sharps or flats, and accidentals.

RO: Sightreading will be evaluated for accuracy of rhythm in compound and simple meters, accuracy of pitch and intonation, and awareness of dynamics.

YO/YPCO: Sightreading will be evaluated for accuracy of rhythm, pitch and intonation, as well as attention to dynamics, phrasing and articulation. The selection may include mixed meter, complex rhythms and technique.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL INSTRUMENTS

Strings

PO:

All students should demonstrate simple articulation techniques, including staccato and legato bowing. Violins and violas must demonstrate a solid knowledge of first position. Knowledge of third position is a plus, as is producing a tone with vibrato. Cello and doublebass must demonstrate facility through third and fourth positions.

RO:

All students must demonstrate use of vibrato and be proficient spiccato, détaché, martelé and staccato bowing techniques. Violins and violas must demonstrate strong facility in first through third positions. Comfort in fifth position is a plus. Cello and doublebass must demonstrate facility through fifth and sixth positions.

YO/YPCO:

All students must be proficient in all positions, have advanced bowing technique and be able to produce a solid, clear tone with continuous vibrato. Violas should be able to read the treble clef. Cellos should be able to read the tenor and treble clefs. Bases should be able to read the tenor clef.

Woodwinds

PO: Students must demonstrate simple articulation techniques, including staccato and legato tonguing.

RO: Students must be proficient in producing a full, clear tone in all registers and demonstrate accurate articulation technique, including staccato and legato tonguing. Clarinets: some knowledge of transposition a plus.

YO: Clarinets must have a basic knowledge of A and C transposition. Bassoons must be able to read the tenor clef. Flutes must also be able to double tongue.

Brass

PO: Students must demonstrate simple articulation techniques, including staccato and legato tonguing.

RO: Students must be proficient in producing a full, clear tone in all registers and demonstrate accurate articulation technique, including staccato and legato tonguing. Horn and trumpet: some knowledge of transposition a plus.

YO: Students must be able to double tongue and should own or have access to all mutes. Horns should have basic knowledge of the following transpositions: Eb, G, C, D and E; trumpets should know C, F, D and A transpositions; trombone players should be able to read the tenor clef (familiarity with alto clef a plus).

Percussion

PO: Students must demonstrate good basic technique on snare drum, bass drum, cymbal, and be able to read dotted rhythms and triplets. Knowledge of drum set, timpani, mallets and other auxiliary instruments a plus.

RO: Students must be able to read in simple and compound meters. Students must demonstrate proficiency and good technique for playing all the basic instruments: snare drum, cymbals, bass drum, and triangle. Knowledge of drum set, timpani, mallets and other auxiliary instruments a plus.

YO: Students may be a specialist (timpani, mallets etc.) or be versed in all the rudiments and proper technique for all pitched and non-pitched percussion.

AUDITION RESULTS & PLACEMENT

Notification: Students will be notified of the audition results as soon as possible following the auditions. In many cases, results may not be decided until all auditions have been completed. Results will be distributed by email. Staff welcome any questions about the audition results. Following all auditions and notifications, orchestra rosters are posted on the SRS website.

Placement and Seating: Students successfully completing an audition are offered membership in one (or more) of the ensembles. Upon payment of tuition, materials fees and completion of required forms, the student's ensemble membership becomes permanent for the current season. Each member's placement in the group will be based upon auditions and input from qualified professional musicians. Placement is decided by the audition panel. Seating within each orchestra is decided by the conductor of that orchestra in order to best fulfill the needs of the group. The Conductor may make changes in seating positions or rotation of parts at any time during the year.

Principal Positions: Principals are selected by the conductor and are responsible for demonstrating leadership in the following areas:

- the musical proficiency of their section, addressing in a positive manner ways to strengthen the section;
- modeling positive behavior, preparedness and excellent attendance;
- reporting concerns to the conductor or staff

- motivation and stability within their section
- string principals for all orchestras - except the Preparatory Orchestra - must see that their section has the correct bowings in coordination with the concertmaster and conductor/director.

A principal makes no decisions for their section or any member of the orchestra, but rather acts as a resource for their section.

Challenges: If a student feels their position in their section does not reflect their accomplishment and dedication relative to those seated above them, they may challenge for a position above their current seat. They may challenge for a single seat in their orchestra only once per season. If a student wishes to challenge for a position above them, they must contact the orchestra manager in writing to request an opportunity for challenge. The orchestra manager will relay the request to the conductor. The request may be granted or denied. If the challenge is granted, the necessary auditions will be scheduled for a time appropriate to best serve the orchestra. Conductors and staff will share news or information about any challenge only with those directly involved (the challenger and the challengee). As the conductor may at any time change seating for a number of potential reasons, no reseating of a section or reassignment of parts should be considered to be necessarily the result of a challenge.

Mid-season Auditions: If openings occur during the season in any group, auditions for the openings will be held at the discretion of the conductor. Current members of the orchestras have an equal opportunity to audition for openings as do qualified students from outside the organization. Membership in one of the orchestras does not automatically ensure acceptance into another.

Audition-Ready Checklist

- **Practice regularly** well in advance of your audition. Include some daily sightreading. Practice scales (and arpeggios, if your teacher has taught them to you) every day.
- Call the SRS Education Department to **schedule an appointment**. Appointments are generally scheduled weeks in advance, so don't delay. Call 546-7097, ext 225.
- **Consult with your teacher** about the audition requirements and how best to prepare.
- accoutrements (rosin, extra reeds or strings, valve oil, etc). Take care of any repairs needed well in advance of your audition.
- **Arrive at least 15 minutes early**. Give yourself time to find parking, complete any necessary paperwork and warm up without feeling rushed.
- **Bring your instrument in good working order**. Be sure to have all necessary
- **Bring your calendar**. You will be asked to sign a commitment contract regarding attendance. Any potential calendar conflicts should be addressed prior to signing this contract. Staff will be happy to discuss any concerns you might have.
- **Bring your music**. Even if you have it memorized, bring copies of your solo and excerpts.
- **Dress comfortably**. Casual attire is appropriate. The audition panel isn't judging your outfit. Dress so you can play well.
- **Ask any questions you might have**. We're all here to help!

Rehearsals & Sectionals

Rehearsals are held weekly beginning in September and continue through May. Rehearsals are not typically scheduled on major holiday weekends, depending upon performance schedules. Rehearsal and sectional times are subject to change, and these are kept up to date on the SRS website. Please check the complete rehearsal and performance listings on the Education pages of the SRS website for exact meeting days and times. Additionally, weekly email communications update our families on schedules and necessary information. You may also call Education staff members for schedule information.

All ensemble members should be in their assigned section with their instrument(s), music and pencil, ready to rehearse 5 minutes prior to the scheduled rehearsal time to allow for warming-up, tuning and the taking of attendance.

Many rehearsal dates include sectionals (sometimes called coaching). These are a mandatory and regular part of the rehearsal process. The Preparatory and Repertory Orchestras have sectionals weekly, depending on the instrument. The Youth Orchestra also routinely has mandatory sectionals that fall within their regularly scheduled rehearsal time, and the Young People's Chamber Orchestra may have occasional mandatory sectionals.

Weekly rehearsal days and times for the ensembles are typically as follows:

String Orchestra Workshop

Fall and Spring Sessions

Saturday 9:00 am - 9:50 am SRJC, Forsyth Hall (Room 105)
1501 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa

Preparatory Orchestra

Saturdays 9:15 am - 11:45 am SRJC, Forsyth Hall (Room 115)
1501 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa
9:15 am - 10:45 am Rehearsal (Room 115)
11:00 am - 11:45 am Alternating low, high, all strings sectionals (Room 105)
11:00 am - 11:45 am Alternating woodwinds and brass sectionals (Room 189)
SECTIONALS MAY VARY

Repertory Orchestra

Saturdays 10:00 am - 1:00 pm SRJC, Forsyth Hall (Room 115)
1501 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa
10:00 am - 10:45 am Alternating low, high, all strings sectionals (Room 105)
10:00 am - 10:45 am Alternating woodwinds and brass sectionals (Room 189)
11:00 am - 1:00 pm Rehearsal (Room 115)
Percussion Sectionals are at the discretion of the conductor.
SECTIONALS MAY VARY

Young People's Chamber Orchestra

Fridays 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Glaser Center, at the Unitarian-Universalist
Congregation of Santa Rosa
547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa

Youth Orchestra

Sundays 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm Sonoma Country Day School
4400 Day School Place, Santa Rosa
REHEARSAL AND SECTIONAL TIMES VARY

Rehearsal-Ready Checklist

- **Come with music prepared.** Practice! You will thank yourself and those around you will be grateful, too.
- **Arrive at least 10 minutes early.** We model our ensembles based on what happens in professional orchestras. In professional orchestras the rehearsal time indicated is when the downbeat occurs. This means all players are tuned, warmed-up, situated in their chairs and ready to play when the conductor gives the first downbeat from the podium at the rehearsal start time.
- **Bring your music.** It is often the only copy and others are relying on you to remember it.
- **Bring a pencil to mark music.** (Music is very valuable and can not be marked in pen)
- Leave mobile devices at home or turned off and in your case during rehearsal. Texting and phone calls are allowed only during breaks. If there is some special reason you need to monitor your calls, speak the orchestra manager about it.
- Dress comfortably and appropriately. Casual attire is appropriate for rehearsals. Concert Dress is outlined in this Handbook.
- Mentally prepare to focus for the entire rehearsal. There are many distractions in life, and this is a place to get away from them all!
- If you have a hard time staying focused when you are not playing consider bringing a score for the piece to rehearsal, borrowing a copy of a friend's music and trying to follow along on their part, or try to listen for things in the music you hadn't noticed before. It's fun, it will help the time pass more enjoyably, and it will improve your playing and understanding of the music.
- Be sensitive to those around you. Listen to what they say and listen to what they play.

Performances

Each of the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles (SRSYE) presents two main concerts per season. The Youth Orchestra presents three main concerts per season. Each family is expected to purchase six tickets to each of the concerts and re-sell/distribute to friends and family. This not only generates vital revenue but ensures that the students play to a great audience.

All the orchestras usually schedule special-event performances in the community, which are generally free admission. There is a current listing of the concert dates on the SRS website.

PURCHASING YOUTH ENSEMBLE TICKETS

Tickets to all public youth ensemble performances may be purchased through the Santa Rosa Symphony Patron Services, located at 50 Santa Rosa Avenue, in downtown Santa Rosa across from the Roxy Theater. (Please enter through the lobby doors, at the rear of the building.) The Patron Services phone number is 54-MUSIC (546-8742). Tickets prices are \$12 general, \$10 students and seniors. Group sales of 10 tickets or more are \$8 each. General admission tickets may be purchased online at the SRS website. Online purchases are subject to a \$4 per transaction handling fee. Tickets purchased through patron services more than one week prior to performance may be mailed if requested. Tickets ordered less than one week prior to performance will be held under "Will Call" at the concert hall the day of performance, or may be picked up at the SRS Patron Services during office hours, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9am-5:30pm and Wednesday 10:30 – 5:30 during the concert season.

PURCHASING YOUTH ENSEMBLE AUDIO & VIDEO RECORDINGS

A professional audio recording (CD format) and a video recording (DVD or BluRay format) are made for most concerts. Families may order copies of the CD or DVD at any time during the year. However, prepayment is required. Please check with Education Department staff for the current purchase price and availability.

Attendance

Good attendance is a necessary component of a successful ensemble and a worthwhile rehearsal. **Excessive absences or tardiness may result in reassignment of parts, re-seating in the section or dismissal from the ensemble.**

TARDINESS

All orchestra members should arrive at rehearsal 15 minutes before the starting time.

Members should be in their assigned sections with their instrument(s), music, and pencil - ready to rehearse 5 minutes before the rehearsal starts to allow for warming-up, tuning and the taking of attendance. **Members will be marked late if they are not ready 5 minutes prior to the scheduled rehearsal time.** Two instances of late arrivals or early departures from rehearsal will count as one absence. Leaving mid-rehearsal is disruptive to the entire orchestra and must be avoided.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Members of Preparatory, Repertory and Youth Orchestras are allowed 2 excused absences per semester, and not more than one unexcused absence for the entire year. If this number is exceeded by a member, the conductor will be notified and he/she will determine if any action will be taken. Due to the intensive nature of the 8-week Young People's Chamber Orchestra and

String Orchestra Workshop sessions, absences are to be avoided. The workshop instructor and the Young People's Chamber Orchestra director will determine how to address member absences.

Criteria and examples of excused absences

Serious illness or injury: examples include fever, excessive cough, painful or impeding injury, contagious illness (requires parental notification)

Special family events: examples include weddings, funerals, vacations

Selected school-related functions: examples include performances & college-prep activities

Major religious holidays: examples include Hashanah, Good Friday, Yom Kippur

Criteria and examples of unexcused absences

A mild cold or non-impeding injury

Social events ie: parties, concerts, birthday

School work & non-school performances

All attendance policies apply to sectionals with coaches, as well as rehearsals. The Education Department hires professional musicians from the Santa Rosa Symphony and local music professionals to coach sectionals on technique and interpretation. These coaching sessions are very valuable to the musician, and members are required to attend all sectionals just as they would a full rehearsal.

All dress rehearsals and all performances are mandatory. Absence from these commitments is not permitted (excepting serious illness or injury). There will be no unexcused absences from a dress rehearsal or concert. Any musician that misses a dress rehearsal or a mandatory coaching may be excluded from the following performance. Any missed performance may be grounds for dismissal.

PROCEDURE FOR ABSENCE NOTIFICATION

All absences must be cleared in advance through the SRS Education Department, not the conductor/director. Please see below for appropriate contact information.

Please provide us with notification of absence according to the following:

Illness: a phone call by the parent must be placed to the orchestra manager/coordinator *as soon as possible*. Please leave a message on the orchestra manager/coordinator's voicemail.

Family events: we request *two months* notice via email notification.

School functions: we request *two months* notice via email notification.

REQUIRED of all absences (excluding illness and certain unforeseeable events):
minimum of two weeks notice and email notification.

For **String Orchestra Workshop, Preparatory or Repertory Orchestra** absences, please notify:

Christina Penrose, Education Associate
(707) 546-7097 ext. 225
cpenrose@santarosasympphony.com

For **Youth Orchestra and Young People's Chamber Orchestra** absences, please notify:

Carly Nacmanie, Youth Orchestra Coordinator
(707) 546-7097 ext. 216
cnacmanie@santarosasympphony.com

Artistic Standards

The SRSYE is dedicated to promoting and maintaining the highest artistic standards, and each student is expected to meet these standards. Students are expected to practice regularly and to have all repertoire suitably prepared for each rehearsal and concert. If the conductor and/or members of the staff notify a student of specific deficiencies, that student must show improvement within a reasonable time. Failure to do so may result in reassignment or dismissal from the orchestra.

Students who do not perform to acceptable standards, as set by the conductor, may be reassigned or asked to discontinue membership.

REPERTOIRE

- Repertoire for each ensemble is selected to challenge, educate and provide enjoyment. Students are expected to prepare their parts for each week's rehearsal or sectional and to work on difficult passages or solos with their private teacher.
- Sheet music used by all groups is purchased, rented or borrowed. Therefore, all music must be handled with care. The following rules govern the use of SRSYE sheet music:
- Each student will be assigned sheet music and a folder at the beginning of the season. This material then becomes the full financial responsibility of the student.
- All sheet music must be brought to every rehearsal, concert and sectional. Failure to bring your sheet music is disruptive to the entire ensemble.
- If unable to attend a rehearsal, sectional or concert, your folder and sheet music may need to be delivered to a replacement player. Please ask the staff or conductor/director if this is required of your folder.

Notations must be made lightly on the music with pencil only!

Sheet music and folders must be returned at the end of the season. If folders are not returned within one week after the final performance, musicians will be charged the cost of replacement.

Participation in Your School's Music Program

The Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles were established to expand upon school music programs and to work cooperatively with public and private school music directors as well as independent music teachers. Your school music program is an excellent place to learn and gain practical experience. For this reason, the Santa Rosa Symphony's Education Committee passed a policy on September 5, 1996 that strongly encourages all of our members to participate and remain in good standing in their school music programs. We hope a positive climate for music education will continue to grow in our area and will help to provide a meaningful music experience for the larger population of students.

- Your school music program will qualify you for:
All-State Honor groups
State Solo and Ensemble Festivals
All-County Honor groups
Access to other opportunities and information
- Your school music program may also offer opportunities to:
Travel, compete and meet new people
Play principal or solo parts
Play in musicals or shows
- Other benefits of your school music program:
Daily practice, which is invaluable to a musician
Additional recognition and leadership training
Additional musical training from qualified music educators
Exposure to a greater variety of repertoire
Possible school scholarships
If you plan to major in music, school participation is vital to your future
Recommendations from music directors for scholarships, college entrance and special events are very important
- You can make a tremendous contribution to these programs:
To serve as a role model for others; sharing your talents
To repay the start in music that you may have received from your school
To be an advocate and supporter of music education in schools

Concert Dress

The concert dress code will be strictly enforced. Students without the required dress may not be allowed to perform. If you have any questions about an article of clothing or need help in acquiring an item, please contact the Education Department staff or parent representative (please see **Parent Involvement** on page 24 for more information about parent representatives). Review your concert dress well in advance so you don't find yourself unprepared the day of the performance.

Please Note: Unless otherwise announced, musicians do not have to wear their concert dress clothing to "dress rehearsals", which is typically the last rehearsal prior to a concert performance.

PREPARATORY & REPERTORY ORCHESTRAS

Gentlemen: black dress slacks, white dress shirt, black bow tie, black dress shoes and black socks (a black suit or jacket is optional).

Ladies: black skirt or all-black dress of modest design which **must** cover your knees when seated and have long sleeves; or black dress pants, long-sleeved white or black blouse. Black nylons/socks and black dress shoes. **Please, no bare legs or sandals.**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Gentlemen: All Black Dress: black dress pants, solid black long-sleeved collared shirt (no patterns please), black shoes and black socks

Ladies: black skirt or all black dress which **must** cover your knees when seated, have long sleeves and a modest neckline; or black dress pants, a long-sleeved black blouse with modest neckline. Black nylons/socks and black dress shoes. **Please, no bare legs or sandals.**

YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Gentlemen: We will be phasing out tuxedos and moving to “all black” for concerts similar to the Young People’s Chamber Orchestra. However, in the interim those who have invested in tuxedos may still wear them.

- Tuxedo Dress: black suit or tuxedo, white dress shirt, black bow tie, black dress shoes and black socks.
- All Black Dress: black dress pants, solid black long-sleeved collared shirt (no patterns please), black shoes and black socks.

Ladies: black skirt or all black dress which **must** cover your knees when seated, have long sleeves and a modest neckline; or black dress pants, a long-sleeved black blouse with modest neckline. Black nylons/socks and black dress shoes. **Please, no bare legs or sandals.**

Parent Involvement

Since 2007, the Santa Rosa Symphony Education Department has established an effective policy for parental support and involvement to ensure that the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles (SRSYE) operate in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner. This policy asks more from those who benefit most and provides a sustainable foundation for the future stability of the SRSYE. In addition, it provides more opportunities for parents to meet one another and join in community building.

The Education Department asks for active parent participation in generating revenues in three ways:

- Make a personally significant, tax deductible, contribution to their child's orchestra during the 2011-2012 season.
- Purchase six tickets to each of the concerts and re-sell/distribute to friends and family. This not only generates vital revenue but ensures that the students play to a great audience.
- Participation in fundraising campaigns and events, such the Human Race and the See's Candy drive. (See page 19 for details.)

We also require that parents volunteer for a minimum of 10 hours per season. Below is a list of the types of activities we have in place to support the SRSYE.

- Actively participate in the annual fundraiser for the SRS Youth Ensembles, the Human Race, as a volunteer and pledge gatherer.
- Actively participate with SRS Director of Development to identify, cultivate and procure major prospective donors and sponsors for music education.
- Help sell candy at SRS performances, SRS Youth Ensemble concerts and during the Holiday Candy Drive.
- Recruit businesses to advertise in our SRSYE concert program books.
- Provide office assistance to Education Department staff when needed.
- Transport musical equipment in your vehicle to rehearsals or concerts.
- Act as a parent representative for your child's orchestra, assisting with coordination of snack assignments and other volunteers.

For further information, or to volunteer, please contact Ben Taylor, Director of Education, at 707-546-7097 ext. 220.

Fundraising & Special Events

Annual tuition pays for only a portion of the cost it takes to operate the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles (SRSYE). Donations from members' families and friends, from their businesses or employers, and from the general public play a major role in the operation of our organization. Membership requires that students and their families participate in the following fundraising projects. Pre-payment is required before receiving any merchandise.

ANNUAL EVENT FUNDRAISER

This annual fundraising drive raises money specifically for the SRSYE. In past years, the event has been a golf tournament. In 2011, the SRSYE participated for the first time in the Human Race (sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County) raising over \$13,000 to support the SRSYE and keep tuition fees low. We encourage you to get involved with our Human Race fundraising effort by collecting pledges, finding sponsors and volunteering. And walking or running in the race is fun! Please contact the Director of Education, Ben Taylor, at <LINK> btaylor@santarosasympphony.com for more information.

SYMPHONY OF FOOD, WINE & ART

This annual Symphony League gala is a benefit for the youth ensembles, and has featured wine tasting (with coffees and other beverages), gourmet food tasting, art exhibits, and a silent auction. Members of the Youth Orchestra and the Repertory Orchestra are featured in chamber ensembles. Held each Spring, the Symphony League's event has been our organization's main source of support since 1975. We strongly encourage families to support us by buying tickets to this event (available through the Patron Services 54-MUSIC).

SEE'S CANDY SALES

The See's candy fundraising campaign has proven to be an important financial success for SRS Education Department. Sales are now year-round with boxes of chocolate bars available for our families to sell. These are typically sold at SRS classical concerts and SRSYE concerts. We ask for each family's participation in our See's Holiday Candy Drive in the fall.

CONCERT PROGRAM ADVERTISING

Each season a series of five concert program books are printed for the SRSYE concerts. Since 1975, we have solicited families, friends, and businesses to place an ad in these programs. We depend on this advertising support as another source of funds to maintain the SRSYE. Please help to secure these advertisers in the Fall - a business card size costs only \$100; 1/2 page is \$175; a full-page is \$225, and the back page or inside cover is \$500.

ESCRIP

Register your credit card(s) with eScrip and select local merchants will donate a percentage of your purchases made with your registered credit card(s) to the SRSYE. To sign up and to view participating businesses, visit <https://secure.escrip.com/jsp/supporter/registration/step1.jsp>.

<LINK> Follow the directions to sign up.

Group Name: Santa Rosa Symphony - Youth Ensembles

Group ID: 6703643

For further information, or to volunteer, please contact Ben Taylor, Director of Education, at 707-546-7097 ext. 220.

Free Santa Rosa Symphony Tickets

Attending performances by professional music ensembles is an important part of music training. The SRSYE are fortunate to have a high caliber symphony orchestra not only close by, but also associated with us directly. In support of the training of SRSYE musicians, free tickets to the Santa Rosa Symphony concerts are available. SRSYE families are eligible to receive free admission to Santa Rosa Symphony concerts through the following two methods:

- Call the Santa Rosa Symphony Patron Services on the Wednesday immediately before each Santa Rosa Symphony concert weekend to request free tickets to the regular subscription concerts. Availability is limited.
- Use the SRSYE Membership Card to receive two free tickets to any Discovery Series concert (a dress rehearsal performance of the Santa Rosa Symphony) held at 2pm on Saturday afternoons during the season. You must have your membership card with you to receive your tickets.

For more information regarding free Santa Rosa Symphony tickets, please call the Santa Rosa Symphony Patron Services at 707-54-MUSIC (546-8742)

Outreach Efforts

Aside from the educational nature of the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles (SRSYE), we offer additional programs which add to the total experience of our musicians. The following programs also provide valuable services to the community:

FREE CONCERTS FOR YOUTH

For many years the Santa Rosa Symphony, the *Youth Orchestra* and the *Repertory Orchestra* have given free children's concerts to area-wide kindergarten through sixth grade public and private students. These concerts are held every year in the Person Theater at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts.

IT'S ELEMENTARY

The Santa Rosa Symphony partners with four elementary schools each year to offer them comprehensive music programming in their school. Each participating school is provided with all of the following:

Participation in the *Elementary School Listening Program*, using the acclaimed Brummitt-Taylor curriculum

Professional development for teachers focused on integration of music into the standard curriculum

Admission to the Free Concerts for Youth

Free admission to SRS Discovery Series Concerts

In-school performances by SRS chamber ensembles, as well as the SRSYE

It is important for elementary students to see exceptional young people perform, so in addition to professional ensembles going to the schools, we also provide opportunity for the students to experience performances by our Youth Ensembles. This is a great outreach experience for our musicians and a great opportunity for the *It's Elementary* school students.

RETIREMENT/CARE FACILITIES

Since 1986 the Youth Orchestra and Young People's Chamber Orchestra have been invited to perform at Spring Lake Village, a retirement community in Santa Rosa. Concerts in the Winter and Spring are given to an appreciative audience who might not have the ability to leave their homes to attend concerts. Additional retirement community performance locations include Friend's House and the Lodge at Paulin Creek.

FREE PUBLIC CONCERT AND BENEFITS

Frequently our performing groups, including chamber ensembles, have given free concerts to benefit other organizations and the community at large. Past concert sites have included the Wednesday Night Market, First Night, the Santa Rosa Plaza and Coddington Center. These additional concerts add to the performance opportunities of our members and provide great exposure and promotion within the community of music education.

FREE TICKETS

Complimentary tickets to attend Preparatory Orchestra, Repertory Orchestra, Youth Orchestra and Young People's Chamber Orchestra concerts have frequently been given to school music teachers and their students and to disadvantaged youth in the community.

History of the SRS Youth Ensembles

In October 1959, community members representing the Santa Rosa City Schools and concerned music educators met and decided to form a youth orchestra to further enhance the musical training being offered in the schools. As a result of their efforts, and under the auspices of the Santa Rosa Symphony Association, the Sonoma County Junior Symphony was formed under the direction of founding conductor, Eugene Shepherd. The orchestra had its first Saturday morning rehearsal on November 28, 1959.

The Junior Symphony helped prepare those musicians who pursued a professional music career with numerous professional ensembles throughout California, including the Santa Rosa Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, San Francisco Opera Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, Oakland Symphony, Musica Angelica, Sacramento Symphony and Napa Valley Symphony.

In 1977, the Junior Symphony Education Committee formed the Sonoma County Preparatory Orchestra. Jack Murphy was its first conductor until he retired in 1979. William R. Williams then led the Preparatory Orchestra until 2011. Its current conductor is Tristan Arnold. The Preparatory Orchestra's purpose is to prepare the younger, less experienced musicians for advancement to more advanced orchestras.

In October of 1994, due to the restructuring of the Junior Symphony (renamed the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra) after Eugene Shepherd's retirement, two new youth ensembles were formed: the Discovery Orchestra, conducted by William R. Williams until 2011, and the Youth Wind Ensemble, conducted by Andy Collinworth. In 1998, the Young People's Chamber Orchestra was formed under the direction of Linda Ghidossi-DeLuca, who led this ensemble until 2008. The Young People's Chamber Orchestra was then led by George Thompson 2008-2010. In 2011, Dawn Dover became the director of the Young People's Chamber Orchestra. Also beginning in 2011, Tristan Arnold took command of the Preparatory Orchestra, and Bobby Rogers became conductor of the Discovery Orchestra, which was renamed the Repertory Orchestra.

The Preparatory Orchestra remains the entry-level training orchestra, leading into the intermediate/advanced Repertory Orchestra, which in turn may lead to membership in the advanced Youth Orchestra or Young People's Chamber Orchestra. Due to changes in restructuring within the SRS Education Department, the Youth Wind Ensemble dissolved in 2000 and was incorporated into the Youth Orchestra.

Since 1994, conductors for the Youth Orchestra have included Asher Raboy, Bundit Ungrangsee, Leanna Sterios, Semyon Lohss, Shenye, and currently Dr. Richard Loheyde. The Youth Orchestra has performed some of the finer concert halls in the world, including Carnegie Hall and Davies Hall, as well as touring Germany and the Czech Republic.

History of the Santa Rosa Symphony

The Santa Rosa Symphony was founded by conductor, George Trombley, in 1927 with 35 musicians playing at the local Elks Club. Thirty years later, Corrick Brown was drafted out of the Vienna Academy of Music to be the next conductor and Music Director. Under Brown's artistic and business leadership the orchestra grew in stature, talent, size and breadth of repertoire. Today it draws nearly all of its 80 players from the greater San Francisco Bay Area, has a budget over \$3 million, and is the largest regional symphony in California north of Los Angeles. With Brown's resignation after 37 years, his successor, conductor and renowned pianist, Jeffrey Kahane, assumed the podium in May of 1995. During the 2006-2007 season, Paris-based

conductor Bruno Ferrandis joined the Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS) as only the fourth Music Director in the organization's 84 year history.

The SRS concert season consists of 21 performances (7 triple sets) on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, reaching a broad audience of over 20,000. Outstanding featured soloists have included Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, Sarah Chang, Pamela Frank, Hilary Hahn, Edgar Meyer, Andre Watts and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg.

The Symphony has 11 full-time and 2 part-time administrative staff led by Executive Director, Alan Silow, and is directed by an elected 37-member volunteer board. The Executive Committee and various board committees conduct the activities of the Association. The Symphony League, founded in 1958, has approximately 120 members who promote and raise funds for the Santa Rosa Symphony while bringing musical opportunities and educational benefits to the Sonoma County community.

SRS Education Department Who's Who

Education Department Staff

The Santa Rosa Symphony administrative staff includes the two full-time and 1 part-time positions that make up the Education Department. The Education Department staff work in the Santa Rosa Symphony offices and support all the behind-the-scenes efforts to keep the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles (SRSYE) running smoothly. The staff serve as the main contacts for activities and policies concerning the SRSYE and are responsible for all music education outreach programs sponsored by the Santa Rosa Symphony, including *It's Elementary*, the *Elementary School Listening Program*, Free Concerts for Youth, in-school performances and the Summer Music Academy. The Education Department staff can answer questions in regard to logistics, scheduling, tuition, financial aid, policies, fundraising activities, as well as refer you to the appropriate person to speak to on other subjects.

Department Hours: Monday - Friday • 9:00am - 5:00pm

Phone: 707-546-7097

Fax: 707-546-0460

Ben Taylor, Director of Education
ext. 220, btaylor@santarosasympphony.com

Christina Penrose, Education Associate
ext. 225, cpenrose@santarosasympphony.com

Carly Nacmanie, Youth Orchestra Coordinator
ext. 216, cnacmanie@santarosasympphony.com

Artistic Staff

The artistic staff includes three orchestra conductors and an orchestra director of the SRSYE. They guide decisions having to do with music and artistic standards. These people evaluate auditions, select repertoire, determine musicians' placement in and seating within the SRSYE. Ensemble members are encouraged to engage their conductor with questions at rehearsals. Messages for your conductor may also be left with Education Department staff.

Business-related questions concerning membership (tuition, absences, etc) should not be discussed with the conductor, but rather with the Education Department staff.

String Orchestra Workshop • Jeanette Isenberg & Karen Zimmerman, instructors
Preparatory Orchestra • Tristan Arnold, conductor
Repertory Orchestra • Bobby Rogers, conductor
Young People's Chamber Orchestra • Dawn Dover, director
Youth Orchestra • Dr. Richard Loheyde, conductor

Coaches

In order to improve the overall experience and performance of the ensembles, we have regularly scheduled sectionals. This gives individual instruments and instrument groups an opportunity to work in smaller groups with a musician who is an expert with their particular instrument family. Coaches are established professional musicians from our region and are often members of the Santa Rosa Symphony. Messages for a coach may also be left with Education Department staff.

Parent Volunteers and Representatives

The SRSYE rely heavily on parent volunteers to support the ensembles in a multitude of ways. We strive to have parent representatives for each of the ensembles every year. The parent representatives help to coordinate the parent volunteers and can also act as a liaison between parents and the Education Staff if required. Parent volunteer activities include everything from helping to coordinate our major fundraising event, to bringing snacks for the students on their rehearsal breaks. Parent volunteers also sponsor bake sales, sell See's Candy and perform a variety of other tasks to help support the musicians in the ensembles.

If you are interested in becoming a parent representative, please contact Ben Taylor, Director of Education, at 707-546-7097 ext. 220.

SRS Education Committee

The SRS Education Committee is made up of representatives from the Board of Directors for the Santa Rosa Symphony, board Emeriti and community members appointed by the Committee chairperson. In consultation with the Director of Education, the Education Committee is responsible for developing and supporting the vision, goals, long-range plans and needs of the education programs sponsored by the Symphony Association. Committee activities include: overseeing the development of policies for achieving the Education Department's goals and objectives; providing direction for collaborations with other arts, educational and community organizations; and developing funding strategies and supporting fundraising projects and events that benefit Education Department program activities.

Santa Rosa Symphony League

The Santa Rosa Symphony League is a group of volunteers dedicated to supporting the Santa Rosa Symphony. While they support the symphony as a whole, they have a strong focus on contributing to the Education Department activities. Each year the League makes a significant contribution to the Santa Rosa Symphony Education Department. The majority of this contribution is raised through the *Symphony of Food and Wine* fundraising event, which often features members of the Youth Orchestra and the Discovery Orchestra in chamber ensembles.