



**North Sound Youth Symphony
Member Handbook
2026-2027 Season**

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NSYS General Information

We grow musicians!

North Sound Youth Symphony (NSYS) was established in 1993 to provide an opportunity for band and orchestra students ages 9 to 22 years old to unite in a symphony orchestra with strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. In cooperation with the Western Washington University (WWU) Department of Music, we draw on the expertise of the University's staff and students to provide the best possible musical experience and education for young musicians, complementing and supporting the musical offerings in public schools. NSYS has two performance levels: Symphony, for advanced students, and Philharmonia, for younger students.

Our goals:

- To strive for musical excellence through the performance and in-depth study of repertoire of the highest educational and artistic quality
- To give young musicians the opportunity to reach their maximum potential
- To offer a fun, memorable, and inspirational musical experience
- To provide a symphony orchestra opportunity for all aspiring young musicians, regardless of gender, race, physical ability, or economic status
- To encourage young musicians to develop self-esteem, leadership, responsibility, commitment, cooperation, and discipline
- To support our community through free public concerts presenting the timeless beauty of classical music

Board of Directors

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, NSYS is governed by a Non-Profit Board of Directors. The Board consists of parents of current NSYS students, parents of NSYS alumni, and community members. NSYS relies on parent volunteers to operate and to create an enjoyable and productive atmosphere for students.

2026-2027 Board of Directors

President: Desiree Kane

Vice President: Peyton Winterowd-Laughman

Treasurer: Bryce Fegley

Secretary: Rachel Throolin

Communications & Publicity: Mac Bubb

Co-Past Presidents: Julie Dugger & Kim Markworth

Members-at-Large: Julie Dugger, Loran Edwards, Robin Elwood

To contact the NSYS Board, email president@northsoundyouthsymphony.org.

Calendar *all dates subject to change*

Fall 2026

SEP 21	Auditions
SEP 28	Auditions; First rehearsal; Pizza Night; Concerto competition
OCT 5	Rehearsal with sectionals
OCT 12	Rehearsal with sectionals
OCT 19	Rehearsal with sectionals; Board Meeting
OCT 26	Rehearsal with sectionals
NOV 2	Rehearsal with sectionals
NOV 9	Rehearsal with sectionals
NOV 16	Rehearsal
NOV 23	Rehearsal
NOV 30	Rehearsal
DEC 7	Fall Concert, 7:30 PM

Winter 2026-2027

DEC 14	Auditions; First rehearsal; Pizza Night; Concerto competition
JAN 4	Rehearsal with sectionals
JAN 11	Rehearsal with sectionals
JAN 18	No rehearsal (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
JAN 25	Rehearsal with sectionals; Board Meeting
FEB 1	Rehearsal with sectionals
FEB 8	Rehearsal with sectionals
FEB 15	No rehearsal (Presidents Day)
FEB 22	Rehearsal
MAR 1	Rehearsal
MAR 8	Rehearsal
MAR 15	Winter Concert, 7:30 PM

Spring 2027

MAR 22	Auditions; First rehearsal; Pizza Night; Concerto competition
MAR 29	Rehearsal with sectionals
APR 5	No rehearsal (Spring Break)
APR 12	Rehearsal with sectionals; Board Meeting
APR 19	Rehearsal with sectionals
APR 26	Rehearsal with sectionals
MAY 3	Rehearsal with sectionals
MAY 10	Rehearsal
MAY 17	Rehearsal
MAY 24	Rehearsal
MAY 31	No rehearsal (Memorial Day)
JUN 7	Spring Concert, 7:30 PM

Rehearsals

Day, Time, and Location

Rehearsals are held Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Musicians are expected to be “ready to play” at 6:30 PM, so they should arrive 10–15 minutes early to sign in, find their rooms, set up their chairs and stands, and assemble their instruments.

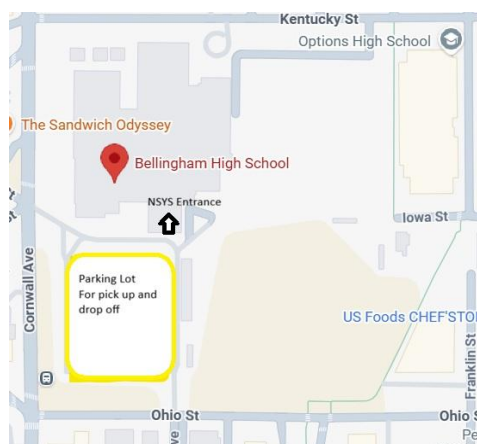
Rehearsals are held at Bellingham High School in the Orchestra and Choir rooms. Check in is in the hallway by the East entrance to the school.

Rehearsal Rooms

Students begin their rehearsals either working as a full ensemble or in sectionals. Information about where students report first will be available at check-in.

Drop-off & Pick-up for Rehearsals

Drop off is in the main parking lot off Ohio Street at Bellingham HS. Please do not use the Bus only lane for pick up and drop off.



Snacks

The Philharmonia and Symphony stagger their breaks for snacks and socializing. See the [Support NSYS](#) section for information on how you can support this important relaxation and bonding opportunity for the ensembles.

Absences

In general, it is expected that students attend all rehearsals. If sickness or emergency prevents a musician from attending, please email info@northsoundyouthsymphony.org *Musicians with three or more absences or lack of practice may be asked not to play in the next concert.

Recruiting New Members

Each session, NSYS holds a Pizza Night that is open to anyone interested in learning more about the ensembles. Musicians are encouraged to bring a friend! New members are admitted mid-year on a space-available basis.

Concerts

Day, Time, and Location

Free concerts are held once per session on Monday evenings in December, March, and June. The Philharmonia and Symphony have the pleasure of performing at the Concert Hall in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at WWU. The Concert Hall can be accessed via the main entrance to the PAC on the main level. Concerts typically start at 7:30 PM with a musician call time of 5:30 PM. Be sure to check your email as each concert approaches for any revisions to the schedule or additional information.

Donations

Our concerts are free and open to the public. However, NSYS greatly appreciates donations of any amount. A violin case at the entrance to the Concert Hall will be available for cash and checks. A QR code will also be posted for those who wish to make a donation via PayPal.

Parking

NSYS reserves parking for individuals with limited mobility in Lot 11G. If you are able-bodied, please save this parking for guests who may need to park close to the venue.

Low-cost parking is available in Lot 6V, and free parking may be found along N. Garden St. (near Lot 6V) and along Highland Dr.

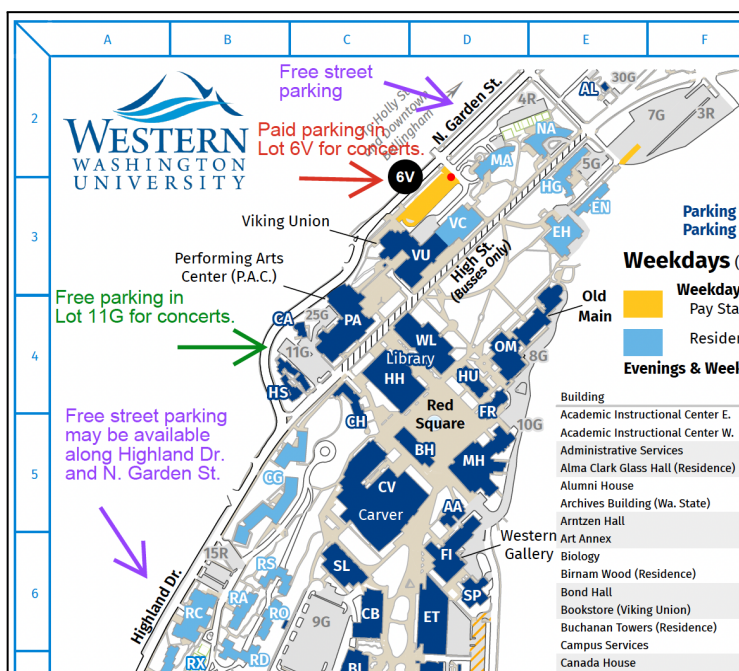
Reception

A reception immediately follows each NSYS outside the Concert Hall in the lobby of the PAC. We invite all families to bring a treat to share to celebrate the musicians' accomplishments. If possible, send a treat with your musician when they arrive for their call time so that volunteers can prepare the reception table before the concert.

Zoom and Recordings

NSYS makes every effort to provide a live link to each concert for friends and family who cannot attend in person. Watch your email as the concert approaches for a concert Zoom link. Please reach out to us at info@northsoundyouthsymphony.org with any questions.

Follow the NSYS YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@NorthSoundYouthSymphony>) to view recordings of previous concert pieces and to enjoy new recordings as they are released.



Support NSYS

Tuition

NSYS tuition for the season is \$495 or \$165 per session (fall, winter, and spring). Payments may be made by check, Venmo, or PayPal in three installments. If paid in full at the beginning of the season, there is a \$25 discount and \$25 discount for early registration (Sept. 18th). Siblings also receive a \$30 discount, or \$10 per session. NSYS is committed to welcoming all musicians regardless of their ability to pay tuition. Scholarship assistance is available. Please email president@northsoundyouthsymphony.org for more information.

Tuition is non-refundable except in extenuating circumstances approved by the NSYS President.

Volunteers

The success of North Sound Youth Symphony depends on its volunteers! At the beginning of each session, parents and guardians will receive an email invitation to a SignUp Genius. We request that each family commits to at least two volunteer opportunities which include providing snacks, supervising a rehearsal, or providing concert support.

Snack Provider: If you sign up as one of two volunteers providing snacks for a rehearsal, please send enough snacks for approximately 40 musicians. Options include, but are not limited to, juice, vegetables, fruits, cookies, and crackers. Some musicians are vegan and/or gluten-free. If you are able to provide something that meets these dietary restrictions, please label it accordingly. If you send perishable items, please be sure that you or your child comes by the check-in area at the end of rehearsal to take any leftovers home.

Rehearsal Supervisor: These critical volunteers support students with checking in, finding room assignments, and serving and cleaning up from snacks. A full description of the responsibilities can be found [here](#). There is often a fair amount of down time, so bring a book or something to do!

Concert Support: Opportunities for supporting our concerts include hanging up flyers around town, setting up for the reception, serving at the reception, and cleaning up. We appreciate all the people who help to make each concert a success!

We know that the NSYS families' busy lives may make volunteering difficult! If you find that volunteering for a particular session will be too challenging, we invite you to make a monetary donation to cover snacks and other supplies. Thank you in advance for your support!

Sponsorships, Fundraising, and Donations

Tuition only partially funds NSYS's operating expenses, so we rely on fundraising, donations, and sponsorships. Please consider supporting us—or inviting family and friends to support us—in any or all of the following ways:

Sponsorships: NSYS welcomes different levels of local business sponsorship. Visit our sponsorship page for more information about these levels:

<https://www.northsoundyouthsymphony.org/sponsor-information/>. If you have connections to a local business that you would like us to reach out to, please email info@northsoundyouthsymphony.org with contact information.

Fundraising: Each session, NSYS aims to conduct at least two fundraising events. Menchie's and MOD Pizza are popular options. Watch for more information about these events. Every dollar counts! If you have other suggestions for fundraising, please reach out to info@northsoundyouthsymphony.org.

Donations: While we always accept donations, your grocery shopping at Fred Meyer is an additional—and so easy!—way to support NSYS without making a direct donation. Use the QR code at the right or [this link](#) to sign up for Fred Meyer's Community Rewards Program. A portion of the Fred Meyer profits goes directly to NSYS. The NSYS organization code is EI879.



Social Media

Please follow us on [Facebook](#) (NorthSoundYouthSymphony) or [Instagram](#) (northsoundyouthsymphony), and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#). Sharing our posts is a great way to spread the word about NSYS and the wonderful opportunities it provides to our young musicians.

NSYS Code of Conduct

As a member of the North Sound Youth Symphony, I will:

- Be ready to play at 6:30! This includes:
 - Checking in
 - Setting up my chair and stand
 - Assembling and tuning my instrument
 - Having my folder, music, and a pencil ready to go
- Have my phone off and put away
- Listen respectfully and follow directions from conductors, coaches, and volunteers
- Mark my music with directions during rehearsal
- Ask questions when I need help or don't understand something
- Help clean up after rehearsals. This includes:
 - Putting away my chair and stand
 - Throwing away my trash
 - Doing anything else that I see needs to be done
- Practice my music between rehearsals
- Email NSYS if I will miss or be late to rehearsal
- Be kind and encouraging to myself, other musicians, and NSYS staff and volunteers
- Be a team player and give the best of my abilities to help the ensemble succeed
- Have a positive attitude and have fun making music together!

We are delighted to have you as a member of North Sound Youth Symphony!