FMAYS 2026-2027 Information

FMAYS consists of three auditioned orchestras:
Concert Strings: 6-8 grades, strings only
Attacca Strings: 9-12 grades, strings only
Symphony Orchestra: 9-12 grades, full orchestra (strings, winds, brass, percussion)
(8th graders allowed for wind/brass/percussion)

Students who join FMAYS are expected to make a full-season commitment. Our ensembles are designed as year-long programs, with musical skills, repertoire, and ensemble relationships developing throughout the season. Regular participation is important not only for the individual student's growth, but also for the success of the entire ensemble.

Location and Time of Weekly Sunday Rehearsals

Attacca Strings: NDSU Challey Hall Choir Room 122 3:30pm-5:15pm*
Symphony Orchestra: NDSU Challey Hall Band Room 118, 3:30pm-5:45pm**
Concert Strings: MSUM Roland Dille Center for the Arts Band Room 100, 5:30pm-7:00pm

Address of NDSU Challey Hall
1511 12th Avenue North Fargo, ND 58102 (corner of 12th and Bolley)
https://www.ndsu.edu/alphaindex/buildings/Building::383

Address of MSUM Roland Dille Center for the Arts
801 13th Street South, Moorhead, MN 56563 (make sure you go to 13th Street South–not North, or you'll end up in a residential area.)
Google Maps link to Roland Dille Center for the Arts

*Occasionally, Attacca Strings rehearsal time will change when there are Fargo Moorhead Symphony Orchestra (FMSO) concerts at NDSU. Ms. Schwartz is in the FMSO, and the concerts typically end at 4:00pm or later. This means rehearsal will start at 4:30pm.
**One Symphony Orchestra rehearsal will be 4:30-6:00pm (January 17) due to FMAYS' Side-by-Side concert with the Fargo Moorhead Symphony Orchestra (FMSO).

Please check the schedules below and on our website for the most updated information.

Schedule

Attacca Strings Rehearsal and Concert Schedule
Concert Strings Rehearsal and Concert Schedule
Symphony Orchestra Rehearsal and Concert Schedule

Copies of the schedule are in each student's folder and available on our website here: https://www.fmays.org/calendar

Concert Schedule

November 1, 2026 4:00pm NDSU Festival Concert Hall (all three orchestras)
November 8, 2026 3:00pm Valley City Center for the Arts (Symphony Orchestra)
December 6, 2026 7:00pm First Presbyterian Church (Concert Strings)
**January 16, 2027 7:30pm* NDSU Festival Concert Hall Side-by-Side with FMSO (Symphony Orchestra)
**January 17, 2027 2:00pm* NDSU Festival Concert Hall Side-by-Side with FMSO (Symphony Orchestra)
February 7, 2027 4:00pm First Presbyterian Church (Attacca Strings)
March 7, 2027 7:00pm NDSU Festival Concert Hall (Symphony Orchestra)
April 4, 2027 4:00pm Riverview Place (Concert Strings) (This is an outreach concert for the residents at Riverview Place. Therefore, the concert is NOT open to the public–only to parents/guardians).
April 11, 2027 4:00pm at MSUM Weld Hall (Concert Strings)
April 18, 2027 4:00pm at NDSU Festival Concert Hall (Attacca Strings and Symphony Orchestra)

* Symphony Orchestra students need to play in the Thursday and Friday evening rehearsals to participate in these concerts.

Concert Attire for Students

Tops

- Solid black long-sleeve (3/4 length is acceptable)
- Collared shirts should be buttoned to the next-to-last top button.For other tops,
- necklines may be rounded or V-neck, but must not be plunging.
- NO CROPTOPS

Bottoms

- Solid black dress pants, pantsuit, dress, or skirt that reaches fully down to the ankles (for dress pants and pantsuits) or past the knee (for dresses and skirts). Slits in dresses and skirts are to stay below the knee.
- NO LEGGINGS

Hosiery/Socks

- Socks and hosiery are to be black.

Footwear

- Black dress shoes: close-toed, flats, or a 1”- 2” heel are acceptable. No clogs, sandals, flip-flops, boots, or platforms.

Stage Crew Help Needed for Attacca Strings and Symphony Orchestra

- We are looking for a stage crew to help set up and tear down for rehearsals and some concerts.
- Students need to arrive 30-minutes early to rehearsal and stay afterwards to tear down.
- We need 3 students from Attacca Strings and 5 students from Symphony Orchestra.
- Students on stage crew will receive 1/2 off tuition.
- Please email fmays@fmays.org to request to be on stage crew.

Important Notice for Cello and Bass Attacca and Symphony Players

Cello and bass musicians must bring a rockstop to every rehearsal. The floors in the NDSU band and choir rooms are new and sound-treated, so endpins may not be placed directly on the floor.

Special Considerations for the Symphony Orchestra

Members of the Symphony Orchestra are encouraged to participate in the following:

- **Concerto Competition**
  - November 7, 2026 9:00am-11:30am at NDSU
  - One winner will be selected to perform their concerto with the Symphony Orchestra at the March 7, 2027 concert.
  - After the competition, several students will be selected to perform their concerto (with piano accompaniment) in the Honors Recital on November 15, 2026 at NDSU.
  - Other information pertaining to the Concerto Competition can be found here: Concerto Competition 2026-2027

- **Encore Chamber Program**
  - Symphony Orchestra musicians have the opportunity to form small chamber ensembles. Chamber music helps students develop independent musicianship, confidence, listening, communication, and leadership skills.
  - ***Weekly Rehearsals:*** Chamber groups rehearse independently, with scheduled Encore rehearsals beginning at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays.

    - ***Professional Coaching:*** FMAYS brings in experienced musicians and educators to coach ensembles and provide feedback throughout the season.
    - ***Performance Opportunities:*** Chamber groups perform on FMAYS concerts and provide lobby music for Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra concerts, giving students valuable performance experience in a professional setting.
    - ***Student Initiative:*** Students are expected to take an active role in organizing rehearsals, preparing music, and working collaboratively with their ensemble.
    - ***How to Participate:*** Students interested in forming or joining an Encore Chamber ensemble should contact Brad Lambrecht and the FMAYS Executive Director to express their interest.
- Valley City State University Concert
    - **Location:** VCSU Center for the Arts (306 Viking Dr, Valley City, ND 58072)
    - **Price:** Free! However, there is a freewill offering that will go towards the cost of the buses, for those who would like to donate.
    - **Who can attend?:** Anyone! it's free and open to the public
    - **Dress rehearsal time:** As soon as we arrive until 2:30pm
    - **Concert time:** 3:00pm
    - **Instrument Petting Zoo:** 2:00pm (this is for concert goers and children to try out/learn about instruments)
    - **Arrival time at NDSU:** 11:30-11:45am at NDSU. You can park in Lot T2 (across from Challey Hall) Check in with either Dr. Kellogg or Mr. Lambrecht
    - **Load Bus:** 12:00pm
    - **Leave:** 12:15pm
    - **Set-up/Sound Check/Dress Rehearsal:** as soon as we arrive! Hopefully 1:15pm to 2:30pm
    - **Concert:** 3:00pm
    - **Load Bus:** 4:00pm
    - **Approximate arrival back in Fargo:** 5:00pm
    - We are expecting most students to ride the bus there and back. It is difficult if parents drive students to VCSU because we always run into situations where the arrival time is different and students don't know where to go. If everyone is on the bus, we don't have that issue. If you have extenuating circumstances and need to drive your students there, please email fmays@fmays.org
    - Parents are invited to the concert. For liability purposes, if parents are driving a student home, we need to know. It is difficult to keep track of students if parents mention at the concert that they are taking their child home, and this causes problems when keeping track of students. To alleviate this, please let me know in advance if you are planning on taking your child home after the concert.
- FMAYS and FMSO (Fargo Moorhead Symphony Orchestra) Side-by-Side rehearsals and concert

Tuition

FMAYS charges tuition once a year. Tuition is non-refundable.

Tuition is due **October 18, 2026**

Here are the tuition prices:

$310 per year for Concert Strings
$310 per year for Attacca Strings
$310 per year for Symphony Orchestra.

Invoices

- We use Quickbooks for our payment system. You will receive an invoice by email from Quickbooks. Please make sure your email doesn't mark Quickbooks as spam.
- Invoices will be emailed to the primary email address that was listed on your audition registration form
- If you would like a hard copy invoice mailed to you instead of an electronic invoice, please email us at fmays@fmays.org to request that.
- *If you pay by check, your invoice will NOT automatically be updated. We have to go in and manually update as paid. This can take a few weeks because the check needs to clear, show up on our statement, and our treasurer has to match the statement with the invoice.* Your patience is appreciated as we take extra time to mark the tuition as paid.
- **If you are applying for a tuition scholarship, please wait to pay your tuition** until after scholarship notifications have gone out to avoid us having to refund tuition if a scholarship is awarded.

Forms of Payment Accepted

Check

- Please make check out to FMAYS or Fargo Moorhead Area Youth Symphonies
- Please write your child's name and either CS (for Concert Strings), AS (for Attacca Strings), or SO (for Symphony Orchestra) in the memo line. **This is especially important to help us track a student's name with a parent name if they have different last names.**
- Checks can be handed to Laura Kellogg or mailed to our office address: 808 3rd Ave. S. Suite 302, Fargo, ND 58103.

Credit Card

- Direct through Quickbooks invoice

EFT payments

- Direct through Quickbooks invoice

Scholarships

We have scholarships available for tuition, summer music camps, and private lessons.

Tuition scholarship applications are due September 27, 2026
Notification of awards will be sent on October 11, 2026
Private lesson scholarship applications are due September 30, 2026 for lessons Oct-Dec and January 31, 2027 for lessons Feb-April.
Notification of awards will be sent on October 7, 2026
Summer music camp scholarship applications are due March 31, 2027
Notification of awards will be sent out in early April

You can find more information about our scholarships and apply here:
https://fmays.org/scholarships

Attendance

Student absences must be communicated VIA EMAIL. Absences should be sent to both the Executive Director (fmays@fmays.org) and the Music Director for your student's ensemble. One of us will email back to confirm we received the email.

Executive Director, Laura Kellogg fmays@fmays.org
Concert Strings, Mr. Cole: bcole@moorheadschools.org
Attacca Strings, Mrs. Schwartz: LSCHWARTZ@west-fargo.k12.nd.us
Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Lambrecht: bradjlambrecht@gmail.com

- Reminder that student emails for absences are NOT accepted
- **All pre-planned absences must be communicated well in advance.** We understand last minute absences due to illness or emergencies.

Regular attendance at rehearsals is an important part of being a member of FMAYS. While students are expected to learn and practice their individual parts outside of rehearsal, being able to play their part is only one small part of what happens in an orchestra rehearsal.

Rehearsals are where students learn how to play together as an ensemble. They develop skills such as listening across the orchestra, balancing and blending with other sections, responding to the conductor, matching articulation and style, adjusting intonation, and understanding how their individual part fits into the larger musical picture. These are skills that cannot be learned by practicing a part independently.

Consistent attendance allows students to get the most out of their FMAYS experience while also showing respect for their fellow musicians, conductors, coaches, and the commitment the entire ensemble has made to one another.

Please review the attendance portion of the Code of Conduct. A copy of the Code of Conduct is also available in each student's music folder. Students are allowed 2 excused absences per semester.

What Happens When Students Have Additional Absences?
We understand that our students are busy, highly motivated, and involved in many outstanding musical and academic opportunities. FMAYS students may participate in school musicals, All-State ensembles, UND Honor Band, competitions, athletics, and other activities. We recognize that occasional conflicts are unavoidable, and our attendance policy is designed to provide flexibility while still maintaining a strong commitment to the ensemble. However, students who have more than the 2 excused absences per semester will be asked to complete an alternative assignment or make-up experience to demonstrate that they are keeping up with the musical expectations of the ensemble.

Depending on the circumstances, this may include:

- Submitting a recording of assigned music
- Attending an additional rehearsal after the regular rehearsal to perform portions of their music for the conductor
- Completing another assignment determined by the conductor

These alternatives are not intended as punishment. They are a way for students to make up some of the individual instruction and assessment they miss when they cannot be present at rehearsal. They also help ensure that students who are absent remain prepared and able to contribute to the ensemble.

We appreciate that FMAYS students are involved in many wonderful activities, and we want them to take advantage of those opportunities. At the same time, we ask families to make FMAYS rehearsals a priority and to plan other activities around the orchestra schedule whenever possible.

Snack Sign-Up

We appreciate our parent volunteers signing up to bring snacks to rehearsals. We can tell you from student surveys that the snacks are very important to the students. 🙂

We have a student who has a life-threatening food allergy to peanuts, tree nuts, and dairy/milk.

Here is a guide to what snacks are safe to bring to rehearsal at NDSU (for Attacca Strings and Symphony Orchestra): Food Allergy Safety Guide.

Do NOT bring snacks to rehearsal that are not on this approved list. This guide is also posted on our website under the Resources tab, Snack Sign-Ups.

Here are the sign-up links. They are also on the resources page of our website (Resources)

Concert Strings Snack Sign-up
Attacca Strings Snack Sign-up
Symphony Orchestra Snack Sign-up

To know how many snacks to bring, these are the number of students in each ensemble:
Concert Strings about 50 students
Attacca Strings about 41 students
Symphony Orchestra about 75 students

Music Originals

- Attacca Strings and Symphony Orchestra students will be receiving originals of music. Music must be returned or you will be charged for the part.
- Students may only write in pencil
- Please avoid excessive marking, drawing pictures, etc.
- When returning music, make sure it is in a folder so we know who is turning in the music

Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers to help at concerts collecting tickets, directing ticket lines, handing out programs, etc. We will send out a call for volunteers a week before concerts. We appreciate your involvement and need your help!

Communication

Weekly emails will be sent out to all emails provided on the audition registration form. If you would like another email address added, please email us at fmays@fmays.org

You can contact Laura Kellogg in the following ways:
Email: fmays@fmays.org (email preferred)
Phone: (701) 929-1814

The phone number listed above is our cell phone (we do not have a landline office phone). Therefore, you can call or text the number above.

Laura Kellogg teaches flute at NDSU, MSUM, and in her private studio. Because of this, she cannot always respond immediately by phone, making email the preferred method of contacting her.

Please use fmays@fmays.org instead of our old email address (fmaysrrv@gmail.com)

Sometimes my emails go to Spam. Please add fmays@fmays.org as a safe sender from your end so this doesn't happen.

Donations

https://www.fmays.org/donate
We are a 501c(3) organization, so donations are tax deductible. Businesses and individual donors receive a tax substantiation letter in January. A great way to donate is through employee match programs (we are listed on Benevity) You can be a chair sponsor for a student for only $50 (have name or business listed under student's name on program)

Giving Hearts Day

Social Media

We have social media accounts with Facebook and Instagram.

Here are the links:
https://www.facebook.com/fmaysrrv/
https://www.instagram.com/fmaysymphony/

Please like or follow us on Facebook or Instagram!

We post information and reminders on social media, as well as over email.

We are always so proud of our FMAYS members' many accomplishments. If you would like to share an accomplishment of your child and would like us to share on social media, we would be thrilled! You may email me the information.

Our Facebook and Instagram are public pages, so if you don't have social media accounts, you can still access and see the posts.

Thank You

We are deeply grateful for the many ways our FMAYS families support their students and our program. Behind every student who walks into rehearsal is a family making it possible—driving to rehearsals and concerts, providing instruments and private lessons, encouraging practice, attending performances, volunteering, and making countless other commitments of time and resources. Your support allows students to pursue their passion for music, challenge themselves, build lasting friendships, and experience the joy of performing as part of an ensemble. We know that supporting a young musician requires dedication, and we do not take that commitment for granted. Thank you for believing in your students, supporting their musical journeys, and helping make the FMAYS experience possible.