west virginia
youth symphony

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 4908
Charleston, WV 25364
304-957-9888

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2026-2027 SEASON

WVYS WINTER CONCERT
Monday, December 7, 2026 – 6:30 pm
South Charleston Middle School

WVYS/WVSO Side-by-Side Concert
Saturday, March 20, 2027 – 7:30 pm
Clay Center Maier Theater

WVYS CHAMBER CONCERT
Sunday, April 18, 2027 – 2:00 pm
1st Presbyterian Church

WVYS SPRING CONCERT
Monday, May 10, 2027 – 6:30 pm
South Charleston Middle School

SYMPHONY SUNDAY
Sunday, June 6, 2027
University of Charleston

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A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1949 the Charleston Women's Club saw a need for young musicians to be able to perform in an orchestra to enhance individual and school ensemble playing. At the time, the Women's Club emphasized the need for cooperation between cultural and education groups to make the orchestra successful. The need is still in place today.

The original Kanawha Valley Youth Orchestra has gone through many changes since 1950. The orchestra was incorporated in 1968 and changed its name to the Charleston Symphony Youth Orchestra in 1981 and to the West Virginia Youth Symphony in 1991. While the name has changed, the goal remains constant – to provide opportunities for young people to perform in an orchestra setting. In May of 2010, the Symphony celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a special performance and reception at the Clay Center. The organization has led successful summer European Performance Tours in 2000, 2006, 2012, 2017, and 2025.

MISSION

The West Virginia Youth Symphony (WVYS) seeks to provide the opportunity for individual growth of musically talented and motivated youth through the training and performance of the highest possible quality of orchestral and chamber music literature. The WVYS endeavors to develop pride and self-esteem in young people from all cultural backgrounds through their individual musical achievement and to instill values, discipline and learning abilities that will benefit them throughout their lives. The WVYS aspires to perpetuate support of professional classical music by enriching local culture and to increase the awareness of and participation in such music in under-served communities.

GOALS

- Bring together the finest young musicians in the area to rehearse and performs together under inspiring leadership.
- Enable students to experience elements of a professional environment including competition, responsibility and concert hall performance.
- Develop performers and audiences for the future.
- Offer students opportunities to broaden their repertoire by playing music of varied and differing styles.
- Inspire other students' interest in music as performers or listeners.
- Enrich and encourage local school music programs.

THE PROGRAM

The West Virginia Youth Symphony is a non-profit arts organization that supports four music ensembles and various chamber groups:

1. The full **Youth Orchestra** for advanced student musicians
2. The **Youth Strings Ensemble** for intermediate level string students through grade 12
3. The **Youth Wind Ensemble** for beginning to intermediate brass & woodwind musicians to introduce the concepts of orchestral music
4. The **Cadet Strings** for beginning level string students

Members of all the groups come from schools and colleges throughout West Virginia and surrounding states. The program includes rehearsals, sectionals, chamber groups, and concerts held September through June. Master classes, field trips, run-out concerts and other special events may be included as funding permits. Students are presented challenging music to encourage musical growth and to provide a stimulating and fun learning experience.

REHEARSALS

All regular rehearsals are Monday evenings at Horace Mann Middle School.

Youth Orchestra	rehearsals are conducted by **Mr. Robert Turizziani** 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Youth String Ensemble	rehearsals are conducted by **Mr. Ian Jessee** 6:30 -8:15 pm
Youth Winds	rehearsals are conducted by **Mr. Andrew Winter** 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Cadet Strings	rehearsals are conducted by **Mrs. Sandra Groce** 6:30 - 8:00 pm

*If Kanawha County schools are closed due to inclement weather, rehearsals will be canceled.

CHAMBER ENSEMBLE PROGRAM

Playing in a chamber ensemble is an optional program for students. Through the chamber experience, students receive special teaching and coaching, work in smaller groups, play different repertoire, and have additional learning and performing opportunities. There is **an extra $25 fee** to participate in the Chamber Program.

Students interested in participating in a chamber ensemble can make a request with their conductor during the first four rehearsals. Conductors will determine chamber eligibility based on seating auditions and the student's abilities and progress. Once the ensembles are established, a coaching and rehearsal schedule for each ensemble will be distributed. Chamber ensembles meet on Mondays from 5:30-6:25 P.M. (the hour prior to normal rehearsal) twelve times throughout the season. The general attendance policy for WVYS will apply to chamber ensembles. **It is imperative that each student attend regular rehearsals. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the program or ineligibility for the following year.**

In addition to performing in the Chamber Ensemble Concert in the spring, various ensembles are often asked to represent the WVYS by playing for special events in the community throughout the season.

INDIVIDUAL PROGRESS

The WVYS faculty, through sectionals and full orchestra rehearsal, work to improve the student's performance level. To realize the full benefit of the curriculum the student must participate **fully** in the program. When students become members of the West Virginia Youth Symphony, they agree to:

- Read and abide by all guidelines outlined in the handbook, particularly those that pertain to attendance, tuition, and behavior;
- Be on time to all rehearsals with instrument, music, and a pencil;
- Notify the General Manager prior to rehearsal if an absence is necessary;
- Exhibit proper behavior and respect toward rehearsal/concert facilities;
- Perform in all regularly scheduled concerts during the season;
- Practice on a regular basis;
- Study with a private music teacher and participate in a school music program

PRIVATE and/or SCHOOL STUDY

All WVYS members are expected to advance their musical training with private music lessons. The WVYS staff will be happy to assist students in selecting a teacher.

The WVYS expects all its students to participate in a school instructional music program, should there be one for which they qualify offered at their school, unless they have been granted an exemption. A school instructional music program provides the benefits of daily playing with instruction, a large repertoire, opportunities for leadership, and other opportunities such as All-State ensembles and Solo and Ensemble competitions. The WVYS is a supplement to, and enhancement of, school instructional programs and should not be considered a replacement for them. Should a WVYS student request an exemption from participation in a school instructional music program, they must present the School Participation Exemption Form to an appropriate school official for signature and return it to the WVYS. It is expected that such requests will not be unreasonably denied. Signed exemption forms are due within four weeks of the beginning of WVYS rehearsals. (revised policy as of September 2016)

Home Schooled students are eligible to participate in Kanawha County Schools music programs, and we encourage this.

BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES & STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

We are not just developing good performers in this program. We hope to foster within the young performer skills of LEADERSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY, DISCIPLINE and CARING. The following behaviors are expected of all student musicians:

RESPECT:	Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity. Show your respect for yourself and others. Display good manners. Don't isolate or exclude anyone. Respect includes respect for the staff, fellow students, the facility, and property owned or used by the WVYS.
COOPERATION:	Listen and show appreciation to the conductors, the general manager, and other designated supervisors for what they contribute. Assist with set up or breakdown tasks as needed, and don't always wait to be asked.
RELIABILITY:	Be on time for rehearsals and performances and be prepared to start at the designated time.
COURTESY:	Show your appreciation, be thoughtful, express your gratitude, and offer your thanks. Recognize the achievements of others. Respect the decisions of the staff. Be a good friend and role model to others.
SAFE PRACTICES:	Listen and follow directions. Be aware of your surroundings. Do not disturb what is not yours.

SECURITY/EMERGENCY

Parents should always let their children know where they will be and how they can be reached during rehearsals. Parents must provide an alternative contact name and number in the event the parents cannot be reached during an emergency. Emergency information is to be recorded on the **Student Information Form** to be filled out at the start of each season. **Families are expected to complete the Student Information Form by the second rehearsal.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The following attendance policy will be strictly enforced:

1. Any member who needs to miss all or part of the WVYS rehearsal MUST notify the **General Manager prior** to rehearsal.
2. After each unreported absence families will receive a postcard reminding them of our attendance policy. After three absences (including excused absences) a letter will be sent to the family reminding them of the possible consequences.
3. After four absences, one of the following may happen: a conference with the student, a parent, and a conductor will be scheduled; the student may not be allowed to perform in the concert; the student may be reseated; the student may be dismissed from the WVYS.
4. If a student misses a dress rehearsal for a concert, it is likely that s/he will not be allowed to perform.
5. Lateness, especially habitual lateness, will be counted as an absence, and s/he may be re-seated.
6. Tuition is non-refundable in the case of a dismissal.
7. If a student should be dismissed, s/he may apply for re-admission the following semester, at the discretion of the conductors.
8. All West Virginia Youth Symphony members are **required to attend** all Youth Symphony concerts.

REQUIRED CONCERT ATTIRE

Cadet String and Youth Strings: BLACK & WHITE

- Top: White (not cream) long-sleeved dress shirt
- Bottom: Black dress pants or floor-length black skirt
- Shoes: Closed toe, black dress shoes with black socks or opaque hose

Youth Winds: PIT BLACK

- Top: Black long-sleeved dress shirt or blouse with sweater
- Bottom: Black dress pants or floor-length black skirt
- Shoes: Closed toe, black dress shoes with black socks or opaque hose

Youth Orchestra: CONCERT BLACK

Young ladies: all black

- Top: Long or ¾ sleeve black dress shirt, blouse, or sweater. Hem must be long enough to cover the entire stomach. No translucent/transparent material.
- Bottom: Black dress pants or floor-length black skirt
- Dresses: All black floor-length dress with sleeves or sweater to cover arms
- Shoes: Closed toe, black dress shoes with black socks or opaque hose

Young gentlemen: all black with white shirt

- Top: White dress shirt, black bow tie, black jacket
- Bottom: Black trousers
- Shoes: Closed toe, black dress shoes with black socks
- A tuxedo is appropriate but not necessary.

The following list of attire provides examples of unacceptable concert dress. It is not an exhaustive list but rather offers a guideline for what **NOT** to wear.

- Tops: tank tops, t-shirts, plunging necklines, bare arms
- Bottoms: sweats, leggings, yoga pants, skirt or dress hems above the knee when sitting, bare ankles/legs
- Shoes: tennis shoes, sandals, slippers, very high heels

If the student is unable to acquire a change of clothing before the concert, they will be provided with clothes—fitting or not—from the WVYS.

TUITION and FEES

The WVYS Board of Directors, an entirely volunteer board, works diligently to obtain grants, foundation support and individual donations to provide the conductors, faculty and special events included in the Youth Symphony program. Tuition is a necessary part of our budget. Tuition includes all rehearsals, sectional classes, ensemble experiences, music, auditions, most registration fees, and free admission for the student to West Virginia Symphony Orchestra and Montclaire String Quartet concerts.

Tuition for the academic year is as follows for each ensemble:

Youth Orchestra	**$350**
Youth String Ensemble	**$350**
Cadet String Ensemble	**$300**
Youth Winds	**$250**
Chamber Groups	**$25**

Tuition is for the entire academic year and can be paid in one, two, or three installments. Parents are encouraged to pay the tuition by the end of October. If you are unable to pay the full tuition by October, please submit original invoice with intended payment plan to the General Manager.

Any **cash tuition payments** submitted at rehearsals should be given to the General Manager in a sealed envelope containing the name of the student and the amount enclosed.

Tuition checks should be made out to **West Virginia Youth Symphony (WVYS**) and brought to rehearsal by the deadlines of October 25, December 6, and February 14 or may be mailed to:

West Virginia Youth Symphony
P. O. Box 4908
Charleston, WV 25364

FINANCIAL AID

Donations and grants have been designated to provide financial aid to any students who are unable to meet the tuition requirements. The Financial Aid Application is available on the West Virginia Youth Symphony website under the "For our musicians" tab at wvyouthsymphony.org.

INSTRUMENT RENTALS/ FEES

The WVYS does not rent instruments. However, some instruments may be available for use in rehearsal. A damage deposit may be required before any WVYS instrument is taken home for practice. More information will be provided to those interested.

CONDUCTOR'S ASSISTANTS

Conductor's Assistants will be present at rehearsals and concerts to assist the conductors and the General Manager with many duties: setting up and taking down rehearsal spaces, collecting money and forms, handing out and collecting music, assisting their ensemble at concert warm-ups and concerts, etc. Parent volunteers will serve as assistants.

PARENT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

A parent advisory board member has been established with the following goals:

- canvas parents and students for ideas and feedback regarding programs.
- act as a messenger between the Board and parents.
- assist the General Manager in coordinating parents' network

PARENT MEETINGS

Parent meetings will be scheduled as necessary and will be announced in the newsletters. **Parents are strongly encouraged to attend these meetings as much important information is presented.** Parents may at any time request to have a meeting by calling the General Manager and are welcome to attend WVYS Board Meetings.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

In addition to ensuring that students arrive at rehearsals and concerts prepared and in a timely manner, all parents will be asked to assist our organization in a variety of ways. Recognizing that all families have a variety of gifts, talents and time schedules, the West Virginia Youth symphony offers a wide variety of other volunteer opportunities through the parent volunteer network. Each volunteer position listed below is extremely critical to the smooth operation of the West Virginia Youth Symphony. Please review them and decide which best meets your interest and your family's schedule.

Concert Stagehands - needed **before the concert to** arrive 30-45 minutes before the musicians and assist with setting up chairs, music stands, etc., and **following the concert** to return chairs, pack stands and carry music cases and stands.

Conductors' Assistants – needed to arrive early for rehearsals to **set up chairs and stands**, and, if necessary, distribute any newsletter, memo, or music which is not mailed directly to the student's home. At the end of rehearsal, they **oversee re-setting the rehearsal rooms**. These individuals also assist the conductor with music. They arrive early on concert dates to direct students and assist the conductor.

Special Event Committee Members – needed to work with the General Manager to plan events for fund-raising purposes.

Ticket Sales Assistants - These individuals sell tickets at the door to both the spring and winter concerts and distribute programs.

THE WEST VIRGINIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Although the WVYS is a separate organization from the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the symphony board has been most generous to the Youth Symphony. In addition to donating office space, they invite Youth Symphony students to attend WVSO concert dress rehearsals and organize a special side-by-side concert where WVYS students play alongside the WVSO in a select concert in the Spring. The WVSO also offers **free tickets** to the WVSO regular symphonic series and the concerts of the Montclaire String Quartet for all Youth Symphony students. The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra has also generously offered all WVYS families a 25% discount on Grand Series season tickets.

WVSO ANDREW & AMY VAUGHAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra has a program designed for serious high school music students with talent and a strong desire for success as a future professional musician or educator. For eligibility requirements and application please contact Betty King with the WVSO or visit the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra's web site at www.wvsymphony.org. Applications are normally due in mid-November in the WVSO offices.

JOHN LAMBROS SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The WVYS Board of Directors will make a sum available to some selected students for on-going music education during the summer. Applications for this scholarship are available at www.wvyouthsymphony.org and will be due in the spring, usually by the end of April.

AUDITIONS

Music and required scales to be used for auditions are available online at www.wvyouthsymphony.org.

Strings - All **new** students wishing to audition will play for all three conductors on the published audition date(s). Auditions will be held in the spring and fall for the upcoming season. Conductors will determine which WVYS ensemble is appropriate for each student. At the discretion of the conductors and as the need arises, new students may be invited to audition at other times of the year.

Strings – Move-Up Auditions - A standard repertoire of move-up music has been established and is available for download at www.wvyouthsymphony.org. **Students wishing to move up to Youth Strings or Youth Orchestra** may **only** audition on the published audition date unless invited to do otherwise. All students are eligible to audition to move up to the next group. Students will be evaluated by the appropriate conductors.

Seating Auditions – Seating auditions will be conducted at least one time per year and will determine where each musician sits within their ensemble. Students **may** be re-seated at the start of the second semester. If the conductor does not choose to re-seat his students at this time, students may use our challenge procedure to try to advance. At the conductor's preference, seating auditions may be taped, held behind a screen or in front of the conductor(s). Taped auditions may be conducted by someone other than the conductor and will be evaluated by the appropriate conductor. The conductor will judge the live auditions. Make-up auditions are at the discretion of the conductors and **if** allowed must take place prior to the next regular rehearsal. **Final seating decisions are at the discretion of the conductor.**

Brass and Woodwinds - All current brass and woodwind players will audition in the spring on the published date. Positions and seating for the next season will be based on this audition; adjustments may be made at any time at the discretion of the conductor. Please remember that participation in the current year does not guarantee a position the following season. New brass and woodwind players may also audition in the spring, fall or at the convenience of the conductor and as the need arises for a particular instrument.

CHALLENGE PROCEDURE

Purpose:

Challenges are in place to provide students with opportunities for advanced seating within their ensemble. The expectation is to foster *healthy competition* among players in the group. Standards of performance are elevated when students must maintain their "chair".

Guidelines:

1. First stands of sections are set for the semester. Challenges may occur within the first stand between the principal and assistant principal. All others may challenge up to third chair. In cases of less than four players in a section, this does not apply. In the case of first and second violin sections, the third chair second violin may challenge the last chair first violin.
2. The student wishing to challenge must ask the conductor's permission. The conductor will choose the challenge music with both students present. They will determine a mutually agreeable time for the challenge.
3. The same student may not be challenged more than once in a single semester. This is to avoid an unnecessary strain on the same student.
4. The conductor will listen to both players. The challenger must play first. A decision will be made that day and students will be notified.
5. To maintain continuity in an ensemble, challenges may not happen within two weeks of a concert.
6. All involved should remember that chair placement is only one aspect of the total orchestra experience. Both winner and loser of a challenge should maintain a cordial and sportsmanlike attitude after the result. Remember—we are a team!

CONCERTO COMPETITION

A competition among students for a concerto performance at the spring concert will be held at mid-year and are open to Youth Orchestra members only. Due to rehearsal restrictions, pianists are not eligible. This is an incredible opportunity for a student to play a solo in front of a student orchestra and is a friendly competitive process. Applications are available online at wvyouthsymphony.org/documents-and-forms/.

The application, a $20.00 fee, and a copy of the student's audition music approved by the Youth Orchestra conductor will be due by **September 28, 2026.** The General Manager and Youth Orchestra conductor will confirm receipt of required items via signatures on the application. No late applications will be accepted. Applications will be reviewed and students will receive feedback from their conductor within one week. All contestants must be present for the competition–no recordings will be accepted.

The competition is judged by professional musicians and Youth Orchestra conductor. Students will receive an email notification of competition results within 24 hours of the event. Following, announcements will be published online. Students not selected for the concerto performance *may* be invited by the YO conductor to play in the Chamber Ensemble Concert.

MASTER CLASSES

During the instructional season, the WVYS in cooperation with the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra will present Master Classes with guest musicians of the WVSO. These Master Classes will be open for all students to attend and observe. Students playing at the highest levels will be chosen to participate. We highly encourage all students to attend these events and benefit from the instruction and inspiration these professionals bring.

OFFICE

The WVYS has space in the offices of the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, in Kanawha City at 4700 MacCorkle Ave, Suite. 101. The WVYS is staffed on a part-time basis by Natalie Wehrle, the General Manager, reachable at 304-957-9888. If the General Manager is not in the office at the time of your call, please leave a message or e-mail her at **wvyouthsymphony@gmail.com**. A good time to speak with her is during weekly rehearsals, after rehearsals are underway.

Information and a calendar is available on our web site at **www.wvyouthsymphony.org**



West Virginia Youth Symphony Conductors

YOUTH ORCHESTRA



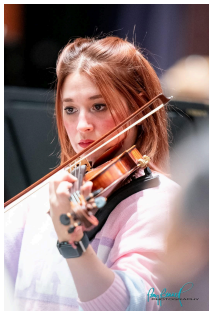
Robert Turizziani – In addition to his work with the West Virginia Youth Orchestra, Mr. Turizziani founded and led the Seneca Chamber Orchestra and is currently the Music Director of both the Chicago Chamber Orchestra and the River Cities Symphony. He is the principal clarinet of the West Virginia Symphony and graduated from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music with a degree in clarinet performance. He has performed with the orchestras of Cincinnati, Columbus, Louisville, as well as the Cincinnati Pops and Opera. Under his direction, the West Virginia Youth Orchestra has made five international tours, Prague and Central Europe (2000), Italy and Austria (2006), and Hungary, Slovakia, and Austria (2012) and Hungary, Slovakia and Czech Republic (2017, 2025). Mr. Turizziani teaches at West Virginia Wesleyan College and West Virginia State University.

YOUTH STRINGS ENSEMBLE



Ian Jessee, an Ohio native, came to West Virginia to participate in the West Virginia Symphony Artist-in Residence program as a string instructor for the Kanawha County Schools. Mr. Jessee earned a bachelor's degree in violin performance from Ohio State University. He performs with the WVSO, Ohio Valley Symphony, and is concertmaster of the River Cities Symphony Orchestra. He spends summers in Austria as a violinist in the Classical Music Festival, in the Kismarton Quartet. He has participated in the New Hampshire Music Festival, and the Bach and Beyond Baroque Music Festival. In 2007 and 2008, Mr. Jessee served on the faculty of the International Music Festival Akademi Datça in Turkey. He is executive Director of the Huntington Symphony Orchestra. As an educator, Mr. Jesse's public school programs have received superior ratings and highest honors in regional and state competitions and in 2011 placed 1st in the prestigious National Orchestra Festival, part of the American String Teachers Association Conference. He served from 2006-2008 as president of the West Virginia Chapter of ASTA.

CADET STRINGS ENSEMBLE



Mariya Krastanova Gutman is a Bulgarian-born professional violinist and strings educator whose career has taken her across Europe, Brazil, and the United States. She pursued advanced musical studies at Duquesne University and has established herself as both an orchestral performer and dedicated educator. She has performed with ensembles including the Pittsburgh Opera, West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and Erie Philharmonic. As an educator, she is passionate about inspiring young musicians through engaging, supportive, and high-quality music education, helping students develop confidence, strong musical foundations, and a lifelong appreciation for music.

YOUTH WINDS



Andrew Martin – A native of St. Albans, WV, Andrew Martin is an active educator and performer. He is an alumnus of the WV Youth Symphony, and is excited to return as Conductor of Youth Winds. Mr. Martin earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from WVU. While there he was principal chair of the Wind Symphony and Principal Tubist for the Symphony Orchestra. He was active in the marching arts at WVU and with the Capital Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps from Columbus, OH. His teaching positions include Director of Bands at South Charleston Middle School and St. Albans High School.

GENERAL MANAGER

Natalie Wehrle performed as a clarinetist with the West Virginia Youth Symphony from 1996-2000. She was the winner of the 1998 concerto competition and performed as a soloist during the orchestra's first European tour in 2000. Natalie is a graduate of WVU, where she obtained a Bachelor of Music degree for clarinet performance and studied piano technology. Her education in piano technology also includes studies with Steinway and Sons in New York. She currently resides in Charleston and has served as piano technician for the Clay Center, Culture Center, Kanawha County Schools, West Virginia State University, Marshall University, the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the Light Opera Guild, and numerous churches and private clients throughout the tristate region.

For your convenience, a directory of contact people has been provided below. If you have questions or concerns during the year, these are the people to contact:

President	Board of Directors	Julie Serafin	304-545-4483
Parent Advisory Rep	Board of Directors	Jessica Davis	304-419-0231
Youth Orchestra	Conductor	Robert Turizziani	304-552-7567
Youth Strings	Conductor	Ian Jessee	304-550-3078
Cadet Strings	Conductor	Mariya Krastanova Gutman	412-807-0591
Youth Winds	Conductor	Andrew Martin	304-543-0783
General Manager		Natalie Wehrle	304-957-9888
Conductor's Assistant	Cadet Strings	TBD	304-444-5990
Conductor's Assistant	Youth Strings	Julie Serafin	304-357-4934
Conductor's Assistant	Youth Orchestra	Kerri Smith	

Driving Directions

Directions to Horace Mann Middle School:

<u>If you are traveling on I-64 E —</u>Take Exit 98 (35th Street Bridge Exit) After crossing the bridge, stay on 35th street until you reach the traffic light. Turn left at the light onto MacCorkle Avenue and proceed to 43rd Street. Horace Mann is a beige brick building that takes up the block between 43rd and 44th streets) Turn left on 43rd , proceed one block to Noyes Avenue, turn right onto Noyes Avenue. (Use the Noyes Avenue entrance.)

<u>If you are traveling on I-64 W –</u> Take the MacCorkle Avenue Exit. There are two ramps on this exit. Get in the left lane and take the ramp going west. At the bottom of the ramp you will go right onto MacCorkle. Stay on MacCorkle until you reach 44th Street Horace Mann is a beige brick building that takes up the block between 43rd and 44th streets.) Turn left onto 43rd, proceed one block to Noyes Avenue, turn right onto Noyes and use the Noyes Avenue entrance to the school.

Directions to University of Charleston:

From the North: Travel I-77 South or I-79 South into Charleston. Follow the signs to I-64 West. Take Oakwood Road Exit 58A and follow the signs to State Route 61 South (MacCorkle Avenue). Once on State Route 61 South (MacCorkle Avenue), travel approximately 1.5 miles. The campus is on the left.

From the South: Travel I-77 North (West Virginia Turnpike). Go through downtown Charleston (ignore the UC sign at MacCorkle Avenue) to I-64 West. Take Oakwood Road Exit 58A and follow the signs toward State Route 61 South. Once on State Route 61 South (MacCorkle Avenue), travel approximately 1.5 miles. The campus is on the left.

From the East: Travel I-64 West or I-79 South. From I-64, go through downtown Charleston (ignore the UC sign at MacCorkle Avenue), continuing West. Take Oakwood Road Exit 58A and follow the signs toward State Route 61 South. Once on State Route 61 South (MacCorkle Avenue) travel approximately 1.5 miles. The campus is on the left.

From the West: Travel I-64 East to Charleston. Take the Oakwood Road Exit 58A and follow the signs to State Route 61 South. Once on State Route 61 South (MacCorkle Avenue), travel approximately 1.5 miles. The campus is on the left.

West Virginia Youth Symphony
2026-2027 Season Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location	Special Notes
AUGUST				
Wednesday, August 19		First Day of School		
Tuesday, August 25	4:00 pm	New Student Auditions	Horace Mann Middle School (HMMS)	
Monday, August 31	6:30 pm	First Rehearsal	HMMS	Parent Meeting!
SEPTEMBER				
Monday, September 7	-------	NO REHEARSAL	----------	Labor Day
Monday, September 14	6:30 pm	Rehearsal	HMMS	DUE: Student Information Forms
Monday, September 21	6:30 pm	Rehearsal	HMMS	DUE: Chamber Sign-ups
Monday, September 28	6:30 pm	Rehearsal	HMMS	DUE: School Participation Exemption Forms DUE: Financial Aid Request Form DUE: Concerto Competition Application; feedback received next week.
OCTOBER				
Monday, October 5	---------	NO REHEARSAL	---------	KCS Schools Closed
Monday, October 12	6:30 pm	WVYS Rehearsal	HMMS	
Monday, October `19	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Chamber Rehearsal WVYS Rehearsal	HMMS	Chamber Starts!
Saturday, October 24	7:30 pm	WVSO: Ode to Joy	Clay Center	Attendance strongly encouraged! Student Musician Cards accepted!
Monday, October 26	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Chamber Rehearsal WVYS Rehearsal	HMMS	DUE: Tuition Payment 1
NOVEMBER				
Monday, November 2	----------	NO REHEARSAL	----------	Election Day Preparation at HMMS
Saturday, November 7	7:30 pm	WVSO: Timeless Melodies	Clay Center	Student Musician Cards accepted! Attendance strongly encouraged!
Monday, November 9	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Chamber Rehearsal WVYS Rehearsal	HMMS	DUE: Program Ads
Monday, November 16	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Chamber Rehearsal WVYS Rehearsal	HMMS	
Saturday, November 21	7:30 pm	WVSO: Music Under the Stars	Clay Center	Student Musician Cards accepted! Attendance strongly encouraged!
Monday, November 23	----------	NO REHEARSAL	----------	Thanksgiving Break
Monday, November 30	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Chamber Rehearsal WVYS Rehearsal	HMMS	

DECEMBER				
Saturday, December 5	**2-3:30 pm**	**Cadets Dress Rehearsal**	**So. Chas. Middle School**	
Saturday, December 5	7:30 pm	WVSO: Sounds of the Season	Clay Center	Student Musician Cards accepted! Attendance strongly encouraged!
Monday, December 7	**4:30-5 pm** **5-5:30 pm** **5:30-6 pm** **6:30 pm**	**YS Dress Rehearsal** **YW Dress Rehearsal** **YO Dress Rehearsal** **WINTER CONCERT**	**So. Chas. Middle School**	
Tuesday, December 8	**4:00 pm**	**New Student Auditions**	**HMMS**	
Saturday, December 12	**9:00 am**	**Concerto Competition**	**Kanawha United Presby.**	**Youth Orchestra students eligible only**
Saturday, December 12	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	WVSO Concert: Nutcracker	Clay Center	Attendance strongly encouraged! Student Musician Cards not eligible for this concert!
Monday, December 14	**----------**	**NO REHEARSAL**	**----------**	
Saturday, December 19	7:30 pm	WVSO Concert: Home Alone	Clay Center	Attendance strongly encouraged! Student Musician Cards are eligible for this concert!

Date	Time	Event	Location	Special Notes
Monday, December 21	**----------**	**NO REHEARSAL**	**----------**	**Winter Break**
Monday, December 28	**----------**	**NO REHEARSAL**	**----------**	**Winter Break**
JANUARY 2023				
Monday, January 4	**5:30 pm** **6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal** **WVYS Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	**DUE: Tuition Payment 2**
Monday, January 11	**5:30 pm** **6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal** **WVYS Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
Monday, January 18	**-------**	**NO REHEARSAL**	**----------**	**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
Monday, January 25	**5:30 pm** **6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal** **WVYS Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
FEBRUARY				
Monday, February 1	**5:30 pm** **6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal** **WVYS Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
Monday, February 8	**5:30 pm** **6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal** **WVYS Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
Saturday, February 13	7:30 pm	WVSO: Beer, Brats, and Brahms	Clay Center	Attendance strongly encouraged! Student Musician cards not eligible for this concert.
Monday, February 15	**5:30 pm** **6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal** **WVYS Rehearsal**	**5:30 pm** **6:30 pm**	
Monday, February 22	**5:30 pm** **6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal** **WVYS Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	**DUE: Tuition Payment 3**

Saturday, February 27	7:30 pm	WVSO: Music in Motion	Clay Center	Attendance strongly encouraged! Student Musician cards accepted!
MARCH				
Monday, March 1	**5:30 pm 6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
March 4-6		All State Convention		
Monday, March 8	**5:30 pm 6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
Monday, March 15	**5:30 pm 6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
Saturday, March 20	**TBA**	**Side by Side rehearsal**	**Clay Center**	**Youth Orchestra only**
Saturday, March 20	**6:45 pm**	**WVSO/WVYS SidebySide**	**Clay Center**	**Youth Orchestra only**
Saturday, March 20	7:30 pm	WVSO: Music for Spring	Clay Center	Student Musician Cards accepted! Attendance strongly encouraged!
Monday, March 22	**5:30 pm 6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
Monday, March 29	**5:30 pm 6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
APRIL				
Saturday, April 3	4:00 pm	WVSO: Community Side-by-Side	Clay Center	Attendance strongly encouraged! Student Musician Cards accepted!
Monday, April 5	**----------**	**NO REHEARSAL**	**----------**	**Spring Break**
Saturday, April 10	7:30 pm	WVSO: Opera in Concert - The Marriage of Figaro	Clay Center	Attendance strongly encouraged! Student Musician Cards accepted!
Monday, April 12	**5:30 pm 6:30 pm**	**Chamber Rehearsal Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
Sunday, April 18	**2:00 pm**	**CHAMBER CONCERT**	**Kanawha United Presbyterian Church**	1009 Virginia Street East Charleston, WV 25301
Monday, April 19	**6:30 pm**	**Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	**No more chamber!**
April 21-22	TBD	All County Band		
Saturday, April 24	7:30 pm	WVSO: Tony DeSare - Music of Billy Joel	Clay Center	Attendance strongly encouraged! Student Musician Cards not eligible for this concert!
Monday, April 26	**6:30 pm**	**Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	**DUE: Lambros Scholarship Application**
Tuesday, April 27	TBD	All-County Strings	Clay Center	
MAY				
Monday, May 3	**6:30 pm**	**Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
Saturday, May 8	7:30 pm	WVSO: Season Finale!	Clay Center	Attendance strongly encouraged! Student Musician Cards accepted!
Saturday, May 8	**2-3:15 pm**	**Cadets Dress Rehearsal**	**TBD**	

Monday, May 10	**4:30-5 pm** **5-5:30 pm** **5:30-6 pm** **6:30 pm**	**YS Dress Rehearsal** **YW Dress Rehearsal** **YO Dress Rehearsal** **SPRING CONCERT**	**TBD**	
Tuesday, May 11	**4:00 pm**	**New Winds, Brass, and Percussion Auditions**	**HMMS**	
Wednesday, May 12	**4:00 pm**	**New Strings/Move-Up Student Auditions**	**HMMS**	**Students wishing to move up to Youth Strings or Youth Orchestra may only audition on this published audition date unless invited to do otherwise. All students are eligible to audition to move up to the next group.**
Monday, May 17	**6:30 pm**	**Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
Monday, May 24	**6:30 pm**	**Rehearsal**	**HMMS**	
Monday, May 31	**-------**	**NO REHEARSAL**	**----------**	**Memorial Day**
JUNE				
Sunday, June 6	**TBD**	**Symphony Sunday**	**University of Charleston**	

Rehearsal times are as follows:

- Cadet Strings (CS): 6:30pm – 8:00pm
- Youth Strings (YS): 6:30pm – 8:15pm
- Youth Winds (YW): 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- Youth Orchestra (YO): 6:30pm – 9:00pm
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