



**SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY**  
FRANCESCO LECCE-CHONG · MUSIC DIRECTOR

Santa Rosa Symphony  
Institute for Music Education  
Youth Ensembles

**Membership  
Handbook**

Simply Strings  
String Orchestra Workshop  
Debut Youth Orchestra  
Aspirante Youth Orchestra  
Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra  
Young People's Chamber Orchestra

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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. Please take the time to read this entire handbook so that you can take advantage of everything our organization has to offer.

We encourage you to speak with SRS Education Department staff if you have questions about the policies, procedures and schedules listed in this handbook and online. Individual staff contact information is located on page 19 under *SRS Education Department Who's Who*.

## 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 Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles (SRSYE) comprises students from elementary through college level who are invited to join one of the groups following a competitive but caring 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 educators motivate students to fulfill their potential and strive for excellence. Participation in an ensemble promotes appreciation of the performing arts in the community and upholds the tradition of classical 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.

## The Ensembles

**Simply Strings** is a special part of the Youth Ensembles. Inspired by Venezuela's acclaimed social action music network, **Simply Strings** is based at Sheppard Accelerated Elementary School in Roseland. Beginning in second grade, Santa Rosa Symphony provides children with daily intensive ensemble instruction that develops musical excellence and promotes social engagement.

The **Simply Strings Chamber Group** is a small, prestigious ensemble of Simply Strings' most advanced musicians. Members of this ensemble perform throughout the community as representatives of this exciting program.

The **String Orchestra Workshop** (SOW) provides beginning musicians ages 5 to adult 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 **Debut Youth Orchestra** (DYO, formerly Preparatory Orchestra) 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 study their instrument with a private teacher and practice their instrument regularly.

The **Aspirante Youth Orchestra** (AYO, formerly Repertory Orchestra) continues the musical experience by providing an opportunity for intermediate to advanced students to perform a wide variety of repertoire within a full orchestra. Aspirante Youth 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 Debut Youth Orchestra or the equivalent. Approximate age range of orchestra members is 12-18 years. Aspirante performs more than Debut, participating in a day tour and a number of outreach performances for local youth.

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 committed to a strict routine of rehearsals, private lessons, and at-home practice.

The **Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra** (SRSYO) comprises advanced students, typically 12-23 years of age, who are studying privately and have had previous orchestral training. Many members started in the Debut Youth Orchestra and earned their position in the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth

Orchestra through growth, experience and skill. The Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra is among the oldest orchestras of its kind in California and has performed in Carnegie Hall and Davies Symphony Hall. The orchestra has toured in Germany, the Czech Republic, China, Austria and Hungary. Members typically have more performing opportunities than students in the Debut and Aspirante Youth Orchestras and must be committed to a strict routine of rehearsals, private lessons, and at-home practice. Music performed is from the standard orchestral repertoire.

## Tuition

As with the great majority of youth orchestras across the country, the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles (SRSYE) depend upon grants, community support, and tuition fees. SRSYE tuition rates are lower than the national average, and are significantly lower than comparable Northern California Youth Orchestras.

Fees include a nonrefundable \$50 administrative fee. The following are annual tuition rates:

### Ensemble

Simply Strings (eligibility required)	\$0
Simply Strings Honor Ensemble	\$0
String Orchestra Workshop Session I (12 wks)	\$175
String Orchestra Workshop Session II (16 wks)	\$275
String Orchestra Workshop Full Year (28 wks)	\$425
Debut Youth Orchestra	\$475
Aspirante Youth Orchestra	\$525
Young People's Chamber Orchestra	\$375
Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra	\$650

**All fees are due at or before the first rehearsal.** You may pay by phone with credit card or by mail with a check. You may also pay in person during regular business hours at our downtown Santa Rosa administrative offices with credit card, check or cash. Only checks are accepted at rehearsal sites.

If you choose to discontinue participation and notify the Education Department by the second rehearsal, you may receive a refund of the tuition less the \$50 administrative fee. There will be no tuition refunds after the second rehearsal.

A 10% discount is available for families with multiple current SRSYE members.

If a musician joins the Preparatory, Repertory or Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra after the first concert, tuition will be half of the amount listed above.

**Piano/ Harp/Saxophone:** Because piano, harp and saxophone are infrequently included in orchestral repertoire, young musicians specializing in these instruments will typically be responsible for half tuition. Openings for harp, piano and/or harpsichord will be at the conductor's discretion. An audition is recommended.

## Financial Aid

Financial Aid is available, depending on availability of donated funds. Eligibility is based upon family income, using criteria created by the State of California Department of Education.

Financial Aid applications and deadlines may be found at [srsymphony.org](http://srsymphony.org), click on Education & Community, then Auditions & Membership.

## Scholarship Awards

All funds for scholarship awards for private lessons or tuition are provided by private donors. Scholarships are awarded based on merit and on need. Scholarships are awarded to current orchestra members only, and they are awarded for specific purposes in all cases. When funds are available, the conductors and staff determine the needs of the orchestras.

## Rehearsals & Coaching

Rehearsals are held weekly September and through May (YPCO through March). Rehearsals are not typically scheduled on major holiday weekends. Rehearsal and coaching times are subject to change, and these are kept up to date on the Google Calendar 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, or call Education staff for further schedule information.

All ensemble members should arrive at least 10 minutes before rehearsal. Our ensembles are based on what happens 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.

Many rehearsal dates include coaching sessions taught by professional musicians. These are a mandatory and regular part of the rehearsal process. The Debut and Aspirante Youth Orchestras have coaching weekly, scheduled by instrument. The Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra also routinely has mandatory coaching that falls within their regularly scheduled rehearsal time, and the Young People's Chamber Orchestra may have occasional mandatory coaching.

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

### **Simply Strings and Simply Strings Chamber Group** (by invitation only)

Sessions I, II, III	Sheppard Accelerated Elementary School, 1777 West Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95407	
M,T,Th,F	3:00 – 5:30	Library, classrooms TBD
W	1:15 – 3:30	

### **String Orchestra Workshop** (open enrollment, two sessions)

Saturdays Santa Rosa Junior College, Forsyth Hall (Rooms 105, 189)  
1501 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa

SOW classes are held between 9am and 12:30pm on Saturdays divided by instrument and skill level. Exact schedule is to be determined seasonally by enrollment, and may change between Sessions. The following class times are common, but others may be scheduled:

9:00am – 9:50am: Level 1 Beginning Violin, Level 2

10:00am – 10:50am: Level 1 Continuing Violin

11:45am – 12:30pm: Level 1 Low Strings (cello & bass)

**Debut Youth Orchestra** (by audition in Fall or mid-season)

Saturdays Santa Rosa Junior College, Forsyth Hall (Room 105)  
1501 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa

9:15 am – 10:45 am Rehearsal

Rehearsal includes a 5-10 minute break, scheduled at the discretion of the conductor.

10:45 am – 11:00 am Break

11:00 am – 11:45 am Coaching by section, various rooms in Forsyth Hall

Coaching is scheduled by section, divided by instrument or instrument family. The schedule of coaching is detailed on the web-based Youth Ensembles calendar. All musicians not involved in coaching on a particular week are excused at 10:45am.

**Aspirante Youth Orchestra** (by audition in Fall or mid-season)

Saturdays Santa Rosa Junior College, Forsyth Hall (Room 105)  
1501 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa

10:00 am – 10:45 am Coaching, various rooms in Forsyth Hall

Coaching is scheduled by section, divided by instrument or instrument family. The schedule of coaching is detailed on the web-based Youth Ensembles calendar. All musicians not involved in coaching on a particular week are not called until 10:45am.

10:45 am – 11:00 am Break

11:00 am – 1:00 pm Rehearsal

Rehearsal includes a 5-10 minute break, scheduled at the discretion of the conductor.

**Young People's Chamber Orchestra** (by invitation based on audition in Fall or mid-season)

Mondays 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm Summerfield Waldorf School  
655 Willowside Rd., Santa Rosa

**Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra** (by audition in Fall or mid-season)

Sundays 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm Sonoma Country Day School  
4400 Day School Place, Santa Rosa  
DATES WITH COACHING END AT 9PM

## Attendance

**This is the SRSYE cell phone for absences. Please program it into your cell phone: 707-800-2912.**

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.**

### Punctuality

**All orchestra members should arrive at rehearsal 10 minutes before the starting time.** Members should be in their assigned sections with their instrument(s), music, and pencil – ready to play before the rehearsal starts to allow for warming-up, tuning and the taking of attendance. **Members may be marked late if they are not ready to play at the scheduled rehearsal time.** Leaving mid-rehearsal is disruptive to the entire orchestra and should be avoided. Members should be picked up promptly at the end of rehearsals and performances.



## Absences

### Tell Us If You're Going to Be Absent

All absences must be cleared in advance through the SRS Education Department staff, not the conductor/director.

**Please call the SRSYE cell phone (707-800-2912) to notify us of an absence within 24 hours of rehearsal/performance. All other absences must be reported with a minimum of two weeks' notice via online absence request at <http://goo.gl/forms/Z212PsEmVr>.**

### **Exceptions:**

- IF YOU HAVE AN UNAVOIDABLE CONFLICT WITH A CONCERT: Notify the Music Director/Conductor and orchestra manager in writing **no later than the 4<sup>th</sup> rehearsal of a set.**
- Family events and school functions: as soon as you know about the conflict via online absence request.
- Illness/Emergency: for absences within 24 hours of a rehearsal/performance, call the orchestra manager *as soon as possible*. Text or leave a message on the SRSYE cell phone: 707-800-2912.

For all **Simply Strings** ensemble absences, please notify:

Stefan Bialosiewicz, Simply Strings Manager

[sbialosiewicz@srsymphony.org](mailto:sbialosiewicz@srsymphony.org)

or call or text the SRSYE cell phone: 707-800-2912

### Simply Strings

Good attendance is a key component of a quality educational experience. Members of Simply Strings are allowed no more than 4 absences per session. If this number is exceeded by a member, the conductor has the right to exclude the member from performances, change seating, etc. Absence from a dress rehearsal or concert requires advanced notice at the beginning of the session.

### DYO, AYO, and SRSYO

Good attendance is a key component of a quality educational experience. Members of Debut, Aspirante, and Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestras are allowed 2 absences per concert set. If this number is exceeded, the conductor will determine consequences. Possible consequences include exclusion from a performance. Absence from a dress rehearsal or concert requires advance notice at the beginning of the set. In some cases, the absentee will be expected to pay for a substitute.

### YPCO

Due to the intensive pre-professional nature of the 10-week Young People's Chamber Orchestra, unexcused absences are unacceptable, except in extreme situations. The Young People's Chamber Orchestra director will determine consequences for member absences. The last rehearsal before a concert is a dress rehearsal. There are no excused absences for a dress rehearsal - if you miss the dress rehearsal, you will not be allowed to play in the concert.

### For ALL Groups

All attendance policies apply to coaching, as well as rehearsals. The Education Department hires professional musicians from the Santa Rosa Symphony and local music professionals to coach on technique and interpretation. These coaching sessions are very valuable to the musician, and members are required to attend all coaching 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). Any musician who misses a dress rehearsal or a mandatory coaching may be excluded from the following performance. Any missed performance may be grounds for dismissal.

## Performances

Each of the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles (SRSYE) presents at least two main concerts per season. The Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra presents three main concerts per season. In addition, all the orchestras usually schedule special-event performances in the community, which are generally free admission. Please consult your orchestra calendar on our website, and call SRS Education staff with any questions.

### **Build Awareness, Bring Audience, Buy Tickets!**

Each family is expected to purchase at least **six tickets to each of the concerts that are presented by SRS in which your musician is performing.** You are welcome to use all six tickets or to re-sell or distribute them to friends and family. This not only generates vital revenue but ensures that the students play to a great audience.

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. (Please enter through the lobby doors, at the rear of the building.) The Patron Services phone number is 707-54-MUSIC (707-546-8742).

### **Admission and Admission prices**

SRSYE student musicians do not need to purchase a ticket for any SRSYE concert, and we encourage our young musicians to attend concerts by the other orchestras. General admission tickets may be purchased online at the SRS website. Tickets purchased 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 10:30am – 5:30pm during the concert season.

SRSYE musicians

- free; no tickets or reservations are required for any SRSYE concert

Children three years of age and under

- free; no tickets or reservations are required for any SRSYE concert

Simply Strings concerts and String Orchestra Workshop recitals

- free; no tickets or reservations are required

Youth Ensemble concerts:

- adults \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door
- kids \$5 in advance; \$10 at the door
- group (10 or more) \$10 in advance only

### **Program Ads**

This season, eight concert program books will be 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 \$165; 1/2 page is \$250; a full-page is \$450, and the back page or inside cover is \$675.

### **Recordings**

A professional audio recording (CD format) is made for most concerts. Sometimes video (DVD) recordings are made also. 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.

### **Photographs**

We are fortunate to have professional photographers Neil and Susan Silverman at many of our concerts. They take group shots, and they do their best to photograph every single musician – a challenge, given the short time and restricted space available during rehearsals and warm-ups. Following the concert, we will send a link so you can purchase the photographs.

## **Concert Dress**

A concert dress code allows an orchestra to visually display a unity and professionalism to match the level of artistic accomplishment in their collective music making. 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 19 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.

**Dress Rehearsal:** A dress rehearsal is the last rehearsal prior to a concert. The first dress rehearsal of the season is also “Photo Day”. Students should arrive at the first dress rehearsal in full concert dress. Unless otherwise announced, musicians do not have to wear their concert dress clothing to other dress rehearsals.

**Warm Ups and Sound Checks:** Musicians should wear full concert dress for all rehearsals on the day of a concert. Every time a musician is onstage on the day of a concert is a photo opportunity, so be prepared!

**CONCERT DRESS FOR SIMPLY STRINGS ENSEMBLES**

Black and white are preferred, but not required. Shoes should be dress shoes, and socks should be coordinated with pants (same color).

**CONCERT DRESS FOR DEBUT AND ASPIRANTE YOUTH ORCHESTRAS**

All ensemble members' concert dress should be selected from the following:

- white dress shirt or blouse
- black bow tie
- all-black dress which covers your knees when seated; long or  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeves
- black dress slacks
- black skirt which covers your knees when seated
- black dress shoes and black socks or stockings (**no bare legs or sandals**)
- black suit or jacket is optional

**CONCERT DRESS FOR SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA & YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

The typical "all black" dress for ensemble members should be selected from the following:

- FORMAL: solid black long-sleeved collared shirt or long or  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeve blouse
- CASUAL: jewel-tone solid color top
- black tie
- all-black ankle length dress; long or  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeves
- black dress slacks
- black ankle length skirt
- black dress shoes and black socks or stockings (**no bare legs or sandals**)
- black suit or jacket

**Using the Green Music Center (GMC)**

*The GMC* is a world class, professional venue which we, as an education program are extremely privileged to have access to. Part of the experience of having access to this fabulous venue is to understand and comply with the rules of the facility. Each year, every one of our ensembles performs at this venue at least once, so please review these procedures in advance.

**ARTIST ENTRANCE** – there is an artist entrance which all performing musicians must use to enter and exit. Volunteers also enter and exit from this spot. Once a parent drops off a musician, that parent becomes a patron and must use the patron entrance (lobby) to access the concert hall. This is not an arbitrary rule – it is specifically designed for the safety and security of the musicians and the facility.

**PARKING** – the area around the artist entrance (AKA tent pad) is NOT a parking lot, it is a loading zone and fire lane: NEVER leave your car there unattended. Much like at an airport, please park in the general parking and wait for a text from your musician that they are at the artist entrance before going to pick them up. Musicians with large instruments may be picked up at the artist entrance. This also applies to staff members and volunteers, as we are also not allowed to leave our cars unattended there.

## 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.

### 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. If lost or damaged, the student is responsible for the cost of replacement.
- 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.

## Family Involvement & Volunteer Opportunities

We are so grateful to you for enrolling your young musician in our music education program! As a parent, you play a big role in their success. Below we outline some ways that you can actively support this musical adventure. Most importantly, let us know if you – or your young musician – have any questions or concerns. We want you to have a wonderful experience!

To ensure SRSYE operates in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner, we ask your help in generating revenues in three ways:

- Make a personally significant, tax deductible, contribution to your child's orchestra.
- Purchase 6 tickets to each of the concerts and re-sell or distribute to friends and family. This helps build awareness and bring audience while producing much needed revenue.

We rely on the volunteer spirit of our families to help get the many tasks accomplished that help our programs thrive. This support helps us to keep our tuition lower than most other youth orchestras.

We ask that each family volunteer at least once in each of the following categories:

- Rehearsal Parent (see description below)
- Fundraiser : Practice-a-thon October 13-November 17
- Music Around Town April 25, 2020, 2:00-5:00 pm
- Event support/office support/mentoring
- Snack (SRSYO and YPCO only)

**Anyone can fulfill the volunteer requirement**—it doesn't have to be a parent. A grandparent or friend can help you volunteer. If you have a special skill you would like to share, please let us know – we are always looking for new ideas!

**What is a Rehearsal Parent?** This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the program from your child's perspective, and to get to know the conductor of your child's orchestra. You may be asked to assist with set-up and tear-down, or to run simple errands for the conductor or the orchestra manager.

## **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 fundraising projects. Information about the various fundraising events will be provided throughout the season.

## **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 approved 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.

## **Free Santa Rosa Symphony Tickets**

Attending performances by professional music ensembles is an important part of music training. The SRSYE are fortunate to be associated with a high caliber symphony orchestra. In support of the training of SRSYE musicians, free tickets to the Santa Rosa Symphony's *Discovery Series* are available. 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 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, many of which may qualify toward fulfilling school requirements of student community service:

### Free Concerts For Youth

For many years the Santa Rosa Symphony, Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra, and Aspirante Youth 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 Green Music Center's Weill Hall.

### It's Elementary

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

- Participation in the *Elementary School Listening Program*, using the acclaimed Brummitt-Taylor curriculum
- Professional development opportunities 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 Debut Youth Orchestra and Aspirante Youth Orchestra. 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 Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra and Young People's Chamber Orchestra have been invited to perform at Spring Lake Village, a retirement community in Santa Rosa, and other senior residences. Concerts in the winter and spring are given to appreciative audiences who might not have the ability to leave their homes to attend concerts.

### Free Public Concerts and Benefits

Our performing groups, including chamber ensembles, frequently give 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 concerts give our members valuable performance opportunities and provide great exposure for music education in the community.

### Free Tickets

Complimentary tickets to attend Debut Youth Orchestra, Aspirante Youth Orchestra, Santa Rosa Symphony 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 formed a youth orchestra to further enhance the musical training 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.

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, an alumnus of the Junior Symphony, then led the Preparatory Orchestra until 2011. Its current conductor, Tristan Arnold, is also an alumnus of the SRSYE. The Preparatory Orchestra's purpose is to prepare the younger, less experienced musicians for advancement to more advanced orchestras.

In October of 1994 the Junior Symphony was renamed the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra, and two new youth ensembles were formed: the Discovery Orchestra, conducted by William R. Williams until 2011, and the Youth Wind Ensemble, conducted by Andy Collinsworth, which was incorporated into the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra in 2000. In 1998, the Young People's Chamber Orchestra was formed, led by Linda Ghidossi-DeLuca until 2008, George Thompson until 2010, and Dawn Dover until 2011. Aaron Westman, an alumnus of SRSYE, is the current director.

In 2011, Tristan Arnold, also an alumnus, became conductor of the entry level Preparatory Orchestra, and Bobby Rogers became conductor of the intermediate level Repertory Orchestra (formerly Discovery Orchestra).

In 2018, the SRS Board of Directors voted to brand all education programs as The Santa Rosa Symphony Institute for Music Education. At the same time, some conductors and names of the youth ensembles changed: Alan Aníbal became conductor of Debut Youth Orchestra (formerly Preparatory Orchestra), and Dana Sadava became conductor of Aspirante Youth Orchestra (formerly Repertory Orchestra). Bobby Rogers became conductor of the advanced level Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra. Since 1994, conductors for SRSYO have included Asher Raboy, Bundit Ungrangsee, Leanna Sterios, Semyon Lohss, Shenye, and, from 2005-2018, Dr. Richard Loheyde. The Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra has performed in some of the finest concert halls in the world, including Carnegie Hall and Davies Symphony Hall, and toured to Germany, the Czech Republic, China, and, most recently, to Salzburg, Vienna and Budapest.

## 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 \$4 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 88 year history.

The SRS concert season consists of 21 classical set performances (7 triple sets) on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Pops Concerts, and Family Concerts, reaching a broad audience of over 30,000. 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 12 full-time and 4 part-time administrative staff led by Executive Director, Alan Silow, and is directed by an elected 39-member volunteer board. The Executive Committee and various board committees conduct the activities of the Association. The Symphony League, a separate organization 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 three full-time and one part-time position 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, IGNITE!, in-school performances and the Summer Music Academy. The Education Department staff can answer questions in regard to logistics, policies, scheduling, tuition, financial aid, fundraising activities, as well as refer you to the appropriate person to speak with on other subjects.

**Phone: 707-546-7097**

**Cell phone (for attendance reporting within 24 hours of absence): 707-800-2912**

**Fax: 707-546-0460**

**Department Hours: Monday – Friday • 9:00am – 5:00pm (Office hours for individual staff vary.)**

Wendy Cilman, Director of Education  
ext. 220, [wcilman@srsymphony.org](mailto:wcilman@srsymphony.org)

Jane Shelly, Education Outreach and SRSYO Manager  
ext. 225, [jshelly@srsymphony.org](mailto:jshelly@srsymphony.org)

Matt Payne, Youth Ensembles Manager – also manages auditions and instrument library  
ext. 216, [mpayne@srsymphony.org](mailto:mpayne@srsymphony.org)

Stefan Bialosiewicz, Simply Strings Manager  
ext. 219, [sbialosiewicz@srsymphony.org](mailto:sbialosiewicz@srsymphony.org)

**Education Department Cell Phone to reach us on-site: 707-800-2912**

### ***Artistic Staff***

The artistic staff includes four orchestra conductors and director of the SRSYE. They guide decisions having to do with musical 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* • Ivy Zenobi & Karen Zimmerman, instructors

*Debut Youth Orchestra* • Luis Zuniga, conductor

*Aspirante Youth Orchestra* • conductor TBA

*Young People's Chamber Orchestra* • Aaron Westman, director

*Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra* • Bobby Rogers, conductor

### ***Coaches***

In order to improve the overall experience and performance of the ensembles, we have regularly scheduled coaching. 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. Our 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.

### ***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.