

Welcome to the
Santa Cruz County Youth Symphony

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SCCYS

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Overview

❖ **The Santa Cruz County Youth Symphony** provides high quality orchestral instruction and performance opportunities to young musicians. We ask for a full school-year's commitment from each family in order to develop the most fulfilling experience for the musician and for the orchestra as a whole.

❖ **The Santa Cruz County Youth Symphony** is dedicated to educating a diverse student body. SCCYS affirms our commitment to a community in which all members and staff are accepted and judged as individuals, independent of ancestry, social background, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, physical characteristics, or personal beliefs.

❖ **Code of Conduct:** SCCYS members shall show consideration for fellow musicians, the SCCYS staff, parents, and community members at all times. Please share any concerns or problems with staff or board members, so that a resolution can be found. Use of drugs, tobacco, or alcoholic beverages at any time during SCCYS activities will result in immediate dismissal from SCCYS.

Auditions

❖ **Students wishing to join the orchestra** should contact the Music Director for an audition. Audition information is available on our website. All returning musicians also audition for seating in late August. Auditions include:

1. Major scales of three octaves for strings and two octaves for winds, with up to two sharps and flats
2. A solo piece or étude of less than three minutes that demonstrates skill level, tone quality, and musicality

Concerts

❖ **The Santa Cruz County Youth Symphony** performs three concert sets each school year. A holiday collaboration may be added. Each concert set will be in a different venue with a schedule specific to that location. You will receive more details by email as the date approaches. SCCYS families should plan to devote most of the concert day to the orchestra, because each concert will be preceded by a rehearsal.

❖ **Dress Code:** Concert black. Be sure to plan your outfit ahead of time so you are comfortable and prepared on concert day. No bare middles, please.

- Black shirt or blouse

- Black tie and/or jacket (optional)
- Black, dressy trousers (no jeans) or black dress or skirt
- Black socks or stockings
- Black dress shoes (no athletic shoes)

❖ **Tickets:** To cover concert production costs, SCCYS charges admission to concerts. To promote accessibility to students, youth 18 and under are admitted for a nominal charge. Tickets will be available through the SCCYS website. Any unsold tickets will be available at the door. All families are asked to generate the sale of five tickets per concert through family and friends. A word of caution: concerts at Cabrillo's Samper Hall are likely to sell out online. Get your tickets early!

Rehearsals

❖ **Location:** VHM Christian School, Multipurpose Room, 427 Capitola Road Extension, Santa Cruz 95062.

❖ **Time:** Sundays, 6:15–8:30. Please arrive at 6 p.m. to sign in, ready your instrument, and warm up. Parents, please pick up your musicians on time after rehearsal.

❖ **Preparation:** Please come to rehearsals musically prepared! Learn your music at home and take it to your private teacher for help. Rehearsal time is for developing musical interpretation and orchestral technique, for bringing the parts together into a whole.

❖ **Snack:** A snack is provided by parent volunteers during a 15-minute break at the mid-point of each rehearsal. All food and drink must remain in the dining area. Students should clean up after themselves. We ask all families to provide snacks or drinks at least once during the school year, using our online signup form.

❖ **Musicians, please bring to every rehearsal:**

- Your instrument
- Instrument accessories (e.g., reeds, bow, rosin, mute, rock stop, extra strings)
- A pencil (music is never to be marked in ink)
- Your music folder, labeled with your name and instrument

❖ **Property:**

- Please silence and put away your cell phones during rehearsals and concerts. No texting during rehearsals.
- Equipment and others' personal belongings should at all times be respected and left alone.

- When not in use, please keep your instrument in its case. Be careful not to bump or handle others' instruments.
- At the end of rehearsals, chairs must be put away and rooms returned to their previous set-up.

Musician Expectations

❖ **Attendance:** Each musician's participation is important to the success of the orchestra as a whole. Please plan carefully to avoid scheduling conflicts. You are expected to be present at all rehearsals and concerts. Plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to the starting times of all SCCYS events to allow for warm-up, tuning, attendance sign-in, and announcements. Players should be in their seats and ready to play at the starting time. Exceptions must be arranged through prior communication with the Music Director and Operations Manager. If you are have to miss a rehearsal, please email attendance@sccys.org to let us know.

❖ **Private Instruction:** Musicians are expected to take private lessons on their instrument to attain the skill level necessary to grow with the orchestra. Speak to the Music Director if you need help finding a teacher.

❖ **School Music Programs:** School programs play an essential role in making this organization possible. To maintain our good relations with school music teachers, we strongly encourage our musicians to participate in school music programs that include their instrument.

❖ **Library:** At the end of each concert period, music must be returned in good condition to the Operations Manager. It will be returned to our music library for future use. Make your marks in pencil!

Parent Responsibilities

❖ **Parents and Guardians** of orchestra members are automatically members of the Santa Cruz County Youth Symphony (SCCYS) organization. We ask parents to attend our annual all-parent meeting, held before the first rehearsal in September, and to help students fulfill their musical responsibilities by encouraging at-home practice, 100% attendance, punctuality, and courtesy.

❖ **Registration:** An online registration form must be completed for every student, new and returning, before the first rehearsal in September. Registration forms for students starting later in the season must be completed before the student joins the orchestra.

❖ **Tuition:** The Youth Symphony is a school-year program. Members are expected to commit to the full school year. Payment (please wait for your invoice) is due at the

beginning of the fall set. Parents of students who join mid-year will receive a pro-rated invoice. Payment is non-refundable, except under extenuating circumstances. If your child needs to leave the orchestra before the end of the school year, please contact our board president, Ruth Updegraff, at ruth.updegraff@sccys.org. She can recharacterize the balance of your tuition as a donation and send you a letter acknowledging your donation. In cases of hardship, we may be able to refund up to 50% of your remaining pro-rated tuition. No refunds will be given for students who leave after the first two weeks of the spring set.

Tuition for the Youth Symphony goes toward the costs of running the organization, including rental of our rehearsal space, library storage space, concert venues, and audition rooms; insurance; compensation for the Music Director and Operations Manager; hiring professional musicians to coach sectionals three or four times a year; maintenance of our music library; purchasing or renting new music as needed; copying and preparing music booklets for our students in fall, winter, and spring; and the occasional purchase and maintenance of instruments and supplies (such as music stands). Board members and families contribute countless hours of their time as well on a volunteer basis to help the orchestra run smoothly.

❖ **Please read and respond** to all SCCYS communications in a timely manner.

❖ **Fundraising and Volunteering:** Participation by SCCYS families in our fundraising activities is essential to the financial well-being of the orchestra, and it helps keep tuition to a minimum for each family. Each family is expected either to raise \$200 or to contribute 20 hours of volunteer time during the season. For those who are not able to volunteer, we offer a \$200 opt-out option on the registration form.

❖ **Volunteer opportunities:**

- Board membership
- Snacks for rehearsals (watch for signup sheet)
- Concert helpers (watch for signup sheet)
- Soliciting donations of any amount
- Soliciting concert sponsors (donations of \$1,000 or greater, up to \$3,000 per concert)

If a family prefers to opt out of the above options, payment of \$200 will satisfy the entire season requirement.

Thank you for participating in the Santa Cruz County Youth Symphony.

We look forward to the coming season with you!