



Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra

A unique place where a student can excel musically, connect socially, and grow personally.

**2019-2020
MVYSO Handbook**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MVYSO Philosophy.....	5
MVYSO Programs/Rehearsal Info.....	6
MVYSO Rules & Expectations.....	7
Auditions/Placement	8
Tuition.....	9
Late Payments & Tuition Assistance.....	10
Parent Involvement.....	11
Communicating with MVYSO	12
Performance Information	13
Supporting MVYSO.....	14
Other MVYSO Programs.....	15
Directions.....	16
What Keeps MVYSO In Business.....	17
Other Important MVYSO Policies	18

MVYSO Mission Statement

Developed by MVYSO students

We enlighten the minds of young musicians, embrace creativity, achieve excellence, and nurture talents while giving back to our community. Throughout this experience, we foster a strong sense of **responsibility and commitment** in a fun and nurturing environment.

MVYSO Philosophy

The MVYSO is a youth music program that is deeply rooted in community. In addition to advancing musically, we recognize the need to help students grow as individuals and connect socially to their peers and the community around them.

Intellectual – Music requires students to employ different areas of their brains simultaneously. The math, language, and creativity areas of the brain are all used at once. Years of research shows that participation in instrumental music programs helps students in their academic performance regardless of their socioeconomic background.

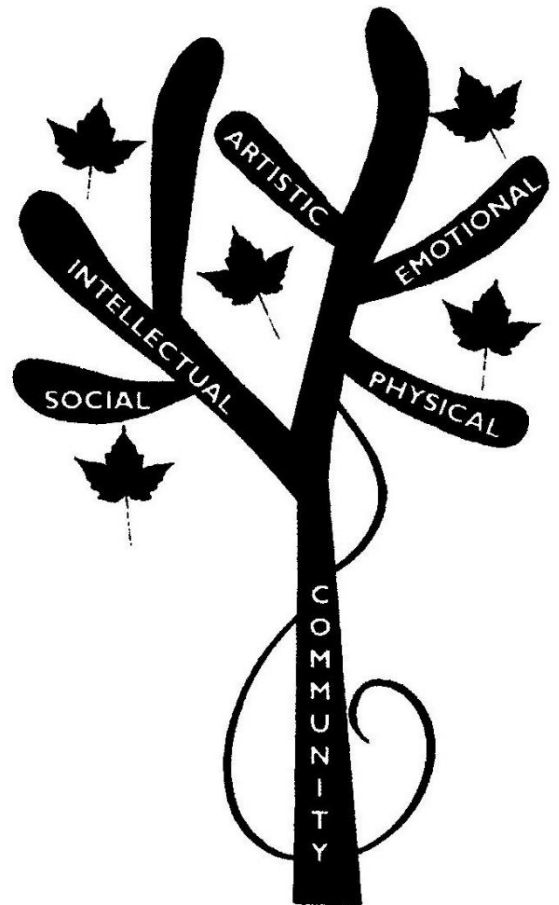
Artistic – Music is a creative way to express one’s self. In a group setting like MVYSO, students work collaboratively to tell a story through music using creative sounds, dynamics, and rhythms.

Physical – Playing a musical instrument, at the very least, requires students to develop their fine motor skills. Woodwind and brass players develop breath control, while percussionists fine tune their ability to multi task and develop a great deal of coordination.

Social – The MVYSO is committed to helping students connect socially with their peers and their community. The MVYSO strives to create a comfortable atmosphere where students have a chance to visit socially at each rehearsal, get together for social activities, and interface with their community through performances and service.

Emotional – Students who are involved in music have a creative outlet through playing their instrument, generating a healthy way of expressing themselves and reducing stress.

All of these skills that are developed through a cooperative music experience, such as participation in MVYSO, help a student achieve balance in their lives and develop real world life skills that can be carried with them throughout their lives. Ongoing research shows that students who are involved in music as youth become creative and productive members of their communities as adults.



“Music can change the world because it can change people.” -Bono

MVYSO Programs

Debut Orchestra is an orchestra for strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. This is a performing ensemble for students who have had at least one year* of playing experience and want to continue their instrument playing skills, as well as develop knowledge of note values, rhythm, and coordinated teamwork of group performance.

Minimum requirements: Ability to read two octaves of music and basic rhythms.

Philharmonia Orchestra is an orchestra for strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. This is a performing ensemble for intermediate student musicians who have at least two years* of playing experience. Musicians refine their performance skills and begin music theory and history lessons.

Minimum requirements: Ability to read at least two octaves of music, play basic rhythms, and play in key signatures with up to three flats or sharps.

Junior Symphony Orchestra is a symphony orchestra designed for the advancing musician. The music and curriculum help students gain the skills and confidence necessary to tackle advanced music. Students in this group will have at least three years* of playing experience.

Minimum requirements: Ability to read and play in three or more octaves of music, read and perform advancing rhythms, and play in key signatures with up to four flats or sharps.

Symphony Orchestra is a symphony orchestra for advanced musicians with 4+ years* of playing experience. Members participate at the highest level of commitment to home preparation and accountability to the ensemble for their individual part.

Minimum requirements: Ability to read and play in three or more octaves of music, sight read and play music in all key signatures with advanced rhythms, excellent work ethic and practice time management.

Up Beat Percussion is open to percussionists with one school year or more of playing experience. Students will work on technique, be introduced to playing orchestral percussion instruments and perform with our Philharmonia Orchestra.

Minimum requirements: Students who have participated in MVYSO's Down Beat Percussion may enter this group without auditioning. All other students must audition.

**Years required are a guideline. Placement in our orchestra groups is based on audition.*

Elite Ensembles are small instrumental groups who meet weekly before regular rehearsals to prepare music for additional performances in the community, as well as advanced chamber music for MVYSO concerts. This is a program for highly motivated and self-managing advanced Symphony Orchestra players and requires an extra audition.

- Elite Winds (woodwind quartet or quintet) – 1 flute, 1 oboe, 1 clarinet, 1 bassoon, 1 horn
- Elite Strings (string quartet) – 2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello
- Elite Brass (brass choir) – instrumentation dependent on auditions

Minimum requirements: Placement into Symphony Orchestra, excellent practice time management, work ethic, citizenship, and commitment.

Downbeat Percussion is a beginning percussion ensemble for students wishing to learn orchestral percussion or switch to percussion from another instrument. Students will play with our orchestras as they feel comfortable.

Minimum requirements: none.

Jam Club is a music therapy-based music education program designed especially for special needs students to develop both social and musical skills. Jam Club is led by a music therapist. Some group goals include integrating newly learned music skills into our concerts and performing special pieces with the Symphony Orchestra.

REHEARSALS

Debut Orchestra

Conductor: Cherlyn Johnson
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Philharmonia Orchestra

Conductor: Janice Halstead
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Junior Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Daniel Baskins
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Naomi Fanshier
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Elite Ensembles

- Elite Winds
Director: Naomi Fanshier
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 5:45pm – 6:45pm
- Elite Strings
Director: Cherlyn Johnson
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 5:45pm – 6:45pm
- Elite Brass
Director: Matt Clegg
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 5:45pm – 6:45pm

Down Beat & Up Beat Percussion

Director: Nathan Smith
Taylor Creek Church

Down Beat

Mondays: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Up Beat

Mondays: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Jam Club

Music Therapist: Elizabeth Vasant

- Beats – Middle School & HS
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 4:30pm – 5:15pm
- Boogie - Elementary
Taylor Creek Church
Tuesdays: 4:30pm – 5:15pm
- Transitions – ages 17-21
Tuesdays: 7:00pm – 8:00pm
Lake Wilderness Lodge

MVYSO Rules & Expectations

General Guidelines

- Bring all music, a music stand and a pencil to every rehearsal and come musically prepared.
- Arrive 10 minutes before rehearsal begins, instrument ready, music stand out with music in place, and ready to begin.
- Make rehearsals a priority by honoring the attendance policy (see below).
- Becoming a section leader or principal is an honor to earn and with it comes a higher level of responsibility. These musicians must be available for all rehearsals and the Music Director considers them “assistant conductors.” See section leader guidelines on pg. 8.
- Percussionists are required to assist in the moving, setting up, dismantling and putting away of all percussion equipment for rehearsals and concerts. They must arrive to rehearsal at least 15 minutes early to set up the section and plan to stay until all percussion equipment is put away.
- All orchestra members are responsible for setting up their sections and putting away their chairs in a neat and orderly fashion.
- Respect all members’ desire to participate fully without distraction. If your behavior becomes a distraction, you will be asked to leave the rehearsal.
- MVYSO is a guest of rehearsal facilities and all MVYSO members are expected to abide by all of the facility rules and regulations.
- Food or drinks are not allowed in the rehearsal rooms. (Water bottles with a sealable lid are ok.)
- Pick up all trash around the rehearsal room and turn in extra music at the conclusion of each rehearsal, sectional, or concert.
- MVYSO makes available all information about rehearsals, concerts, special events, and changes. It is the responsibility of the parent and/or student to obtain this information and to be aware of any changes. This information will be available through MVYSO’s website and will be communicated through email.
- Electronic devices are NEVER permitted during rehearsal. They may be used only at breaks and before/after rehearsal.
- Illegal substances, alcohol, firearms, and bullying are strictly prohibited. Failure to follow this rule will result in dismissal from MVYSO without a refund.

School Participation Policy

MVYSO is committed to an alliance with our public and private schools. MVYSO students are expected to participate in their school music program if one is available. Nonparticipation will be considered on a case by case basis.

Attendance Policy

Each participant will be allowed only two absences during the preparation time for each concert. If a third absence occurs, participation in the upcoming concert is at the discretion of the conductor and may require an audition of the part for the conductor. If a fourth absence occurs or the third absence is the Dress Rehearsal, the conductor will decide whether or not the student will be allowed to play in the concert.

Reporting an Absence

Follow these instructions if you are unable to attend a rehearsal, please adhere to the policies below and submit an absence form on the members page of the MVYSO website:

Planned Absence:

- If the student will be absent for any reason s/he must submit an excuse with the reason for the absence and turn it into his/her conductor AND the Executive Director via email, two weeks prior to the anticipated absence.

For an illness, family emergency, or school performance:

- Notify your conductor and the Executive Director **before** the scheduled rehearsal time by email or text message. (See pg. 12 for contact information.)

Absence from a Dress Rehearsal:

- Missing a scheduled dress rehearsal is unacceptable. Even if the student has not missed any rehearsals for that concert period, missing a dress rehearsal puts participation in the upcoming concert at the discretion of the conductor. If there is an emergency and the student must miss the rehearsal, it is required that they notify the conductor and the Executive Director immediately.

Absence from a Concert Performance:

- Giving less than a month’s notice for an absence from a concert puts remaining participation in the MVYSO program in jeopardy and at the discretion of your conductor and the Executive Director. Prior notification to your conductor and the Executive Director is required.

Tardiness:

- A late arrival to a rehearsal is disruptive. If a student is late to rehearsal it will be counted as a half absence. Being late to rehearsal twice will be counted as one absence. Note: If a student has a planned tardy due to sports or school schedule, he/she should notify the conductor prior to the planned event.

Extended Absences:

- We realize that families have busy schedules and there may be occasions when a student needs to take time off. This is acceptable with significant advance notice. Tuition will be negotiated on a case by case basis.

Auditions

What to prepare for your audition:

Below are the general elements of an MVYSO audition, however, audition requirements may vary by orchestra. Be sure to consult the audition requirements at mvyso.org.

- 1) Scales
- 2) Prepared piece (see mvyso.org for music)
- 3) Solo piece (for elite ensembles)
- 4) Read and sign the commitment form

(Students auditioning for an elite ensemble must bring both the orchestra AND elite ensemble commitment form)

Orchestra Placement

Orchestra placement will be determined by MVYSO staff based on audition. Decisions are made based on student ability and the needs of each orchestra. Students wishing to change orchestras after placement may arrange with their conductor to re-audition.

Orchestras requiring auditions: Philharmonia, Junior Symphony, Symphony, Up Beat Percussion and Elite Ensembles

No audition required for: Downbeat Percussion, Debut, or Jam Club (Special Needs)

Chair Placement

Chair placements are collaboratively determined based on audition by MVYSO coaches and conductors and are subject to change at any time by conductor or coach.

Orchestra and chair placements are determined for the greater good of the group. "Check-ins" will be performed throughout the season to ensure students are preparing adequately. It is up to the discretion of the section coach and conductor whether a check-in will affect chair placement.

Commitment

Playing in a group is a commitment! Therefore, your participation in MVYSO is also a commitment. Signing and adhering to the Commitment of Excellence found on mvyso.org is required. Elite ensembles must both adhere to the Commitment of Excellence and the Elite Ensembles' Commitment Form.

Section Leaders/Principles

Section leaders are the first two chairs in an instrument section. These are leadership positions. They have a higher degree of responsibility for the others in their sections and accountability for excellent playing and behavior in the orchestra. If a section leader does not

express quality citizenship or musicianship, they will forfeit their chair at the discretion of the conductor.

Qualities of a Section Leader

- Exceptional attentiveness and focus during rehearsal
- Excellent playing posture and position
- Consistent habit of writing notes and reminders in their music
- Obvious home preparation with improvement at every rehearsal
- Consistent promptness
- Consistent attendance
- Shows courtesy and humility to others when making observations or giving advice
- Encourages others
- Enthusiasm and spirit evident in playing

In all of these ways, a section leader shows that s/he wants to pursue a high-quality performance and seeks the best interests for everyone involved.

Responsibilities of a Section Leader

The section leader is responsible for the success of his or her section and for making sure that every student in the section is set up for success.

- Maintains excellent musical and behavior standards as a role model for the section
- Helpfully communicates musical and behavior standards to the section
- Assists section when asked to do so by the conductor or coach
- Leads section during transitions in rehearsal
- Leads sectionals if an adult is not present
- Assists new students in entering the section by making sure they have necessary music

Makes sure students who are absent get information about changes to music, new music that is handed out, etc.

Tuition

Program Tuition

Tuition covers program costs directly related to your student. This includes teaching, materials, cost of venue, student entrance fees for performances, etc. Tuition goes up slightly as you progress in the MVYSO program, as the cost to run the program increases as students become more advanced. Tuition will be as follows per season:

- Down Beat Percussion \$550
- Jam Club \$525
- Debut Orchestra \$575
- Up Beat Percussion \$600
- Philharmonia Orchestra \$625
- Jr. Symphony \$650
- Symphony Orchestra \$675
- Elite Ensembles \$150
- *Tour and travel costs will be determined each season, visit mvyso.org for details*

Tuition Collection Policy

The MVYSO is a non-profit organization. We rely on the payment of tuition, individual donations, and grants to bring our program to you. In order to continuously provide you with an excellent program, it is imperative that we receive tuition payments in a timely manner.

Tuition may be paid online at mvyso.org, or at rehearsal by check or credit card. To pay via credit card at rehearsal, please find the Executive Director. Place cash or check payments in the tuition box at rehearsal. For checks, please include your student's name on the memo line. For cash, please place in an envelope with your student's name on it.

Tuition Payment Options

- Pay all at once at the beginning of the season.
- Set up an automatic 9 payment plan online through PayPal on our Members Page at mvyso.org
- Pay 2 or 4 payments (September/October, November, January, March). Use payment coupons or visit mvyso.org to make this automatic via PayPal.

Tuition is due on the day noted on the payment coupons. Invoices will be sent after a four-week grace period and a surcharge of \$15 will be added. Invoices will be sent monthly with a \$15 surcharge added for each month tuition is late. No surcharge will be added for our 9-month automatic payment plan. We will know what payment plan you are planning based on your first payment, the coupon turned in, or the information we receive from PayPal. If you are billed incorrectly, please let us know and we will make changes to your payment plan accordingly in our accounting program.

Late Start Prorated Tuition

Late start students will receive a prorated tuition. The prorated tuition will include a \$25 administrative fee and will be calculated by the number of months left in the season, including the start month.

Early Withdrawal

MVYSO is a 9-month commitment. If the participant decides to withdraw from the program prematurely, you may not be eligible for tuition refund. Contact the Executive Director immediately should you wish to withdraw. Please see the "Early Withdrawal Policy" included at the end of this document.

Late Payments & Tuition Assistance

Late Payments

The MVYSO understands that sometimes life happens. Surcharges can be avoided by sending an email to the Executive Director or calling the MVYSO office. In any communication about a late tuition payment, please include the following information:

- Name of student
- Valid reason for late payment
- When we can expect payment

Communication must be received prior to the due date of an invoice. It is your responsibility to ensure arrival of email or communication. Late payments must be current by the following month or with a signed payment plan on file with the MVYSO bookkeeper.

If an account falls more than 90 days past due, the student will not be able to participate until payments are current or the board approves. If no payment is made on or before 120 days of your initial invoice, you will be sent to collections with additional fees added for the full amount of tuition. If you are tuition assisted, tuition assistance will be revoked without a copayment within 120 days.

Tuition Assistance

Partial tuition assistance is available to students in need. If you are unable to fully pay tuition, please let the Executive Director know via email or phone call AND fill out a Tuition Assistance Application. This packet and form are available on the MVYSO website (mvysso.org) under the Members tab.

All outstanding balances and payment plans must be paid in full prior to participation in our summer camp or the next season.

Policy for Voluntary Withdrawal from MVYSO Participation

Out of courtesy to our organization, parents should provide the MVYSO with at least a two-week notice prior to withdrawal from our programs. Or, if appropriate, wait until after the nearest concert or performance so that the work of other students is not hindered by your student dropping out of the program.

There will be no refunds given for termination. For students on monthly payment plans, families will be charged for the full month that the student withdrew and the month after. For students on 2 or 4 payment plans, they will be charged for the full billing period that they are in.

No payment plans will be stopped, and you will be responsible for all payments until you have filled out the Early Withdrawal Form on our website (members page).

Information on Early Withdrawal Form Includes:

- Name of Student withdrawing
- Reason for withdrawal
- Plans to return to the MVYSO, if any

Parent Involvement

Parents and MVYSO

To be successful, MVYSO operates much like a school and it needs and expects the cooperation of parents and guardians who understand and embrace MVYSO's mission, core values, and who fully support its curriculum, faculty and staff. When joined by a common set of beliefs and purposes, MVYSO and its parents form a powerful team with far-reaching positive effects on children and the broader community. Since we began, our students have gone on to have a positive impact all over the globe and we hope to continue to inspire another generation of students and their families.

MVYSO needs YOU!

Parent support is key to the success of a developing musician and to making the MVYSO possible. The MVYSO requires that a parent or guardian for each student sign and turn in a Parent Commitment to Excellence as well as volunteer for at least one event per trimester or a one-year volunteer position. Volunteer job descriptions are listed in your membership packet in a document entitled, "Volunteer Opportunities with the MVYSO." Please see our volunteer binder in the lobby to sign up and log your hours. If you need any documentation of your volunteer hours, please let us know.

Company Support for your Volunteer Work with MVYSO

Some companies will donate to the MVYSO for a certain number of volunteer hours worked. For instance, if a Boeing employee volunteers 25 hours, Boeing will donate \$250 to the MVYSO. Check with your employer! You could doubly benefit the MVYSO!

Families and MVYSO Rehearsals

Parents and siblings are welcome to quietly observe rehearsals or wait in the lobby for their student musician. Should your observing become a distraction to rehearsal, we'll ask you wait for your student in the lobby. We ask that younger siblings be supervised by their parents at all times. It is not up to the MVYSO staff to care for, supervise, or clean up after younger siblings. Family members must respect our rehearsal venue just as we ask our students to do.

PARENT VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT

The MVYSO is a non-profit organization which relies heavily on our volunteers to get jobs done. Parents are required to volunteer for at least one volunteer job per semester per family. Volunteer jobs are varied with the needs of our organization. They range from hauling equipment to our performances at a concert to serving on a committee. Please see the document entitled, "Volunteer Opportunities with the MVYSO" in your parent packet. Should you decide to join an ongoing committee, this will be your volunteer job for the season. We encourage you to utilize your strengths and talents in helping the MVYSO. If you don't find a job listed that you'd like to do, please contact our Executive Director or a board member. If you are really too busy to volunteer, you may make a \$100 volunteer buy out donation.

Communicating with MVYSO

Email

To save time and paper, our primary form of communication is email. Please add the MVYSO to your email address book and set your email so that MVYSO email is not blocked. Often there is detailed information in an email, especially when there is an MVYSO event coming up. **Please be sure to read your email thoroughly, THE ENTIRE EMAIL.** If your email address changes, please notify the MVYSO at elisa@mvysso.org. We also have a general email list that will include e-newsletters and e-flyers for concerts and events. Please sign up for these by filling out the email list form on our contact page at mvysso.org. This is a very inexpensive way for us to advertise our events. These opt-in emails are forward-able, tweet-able, and can be shared on Facebook. It's an easy way for you to share what is going on and invite your friends and family to MVYSO concerts and events!

Deadlines

The MVYSO is a non-profit organization with unusual staffing and hours. We rely heavily on parents and students to respond to deadlines, communicate in a timely manner and be aware of calendar events. You will be notified by email if there is a calendar change. The Member Calendar is available under the Members tab on our website (mvysso.org). It is more detailed than our events page, which is intended for our general public.

Social Media

Facebook groups

Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra
Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra Alumni
MVYSO Jam Club

Facebook page:

Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra
Like us! Follow us! Share us!

Also check us out on Instagram and YouTube. Just search "MVYSO".

Contact Information

MVYSO Mailing Address

PO Box 1261
Maple Valley, WA 98038

MVYSO Office Address

23220 Maple Valley HWY SE, Suite 201
Maple Valley, WA 98038

Contact information for our staff and Board of Directors may be found on our website at www.MVYSO.org

Performance Information

Concert Attire

Debut and Philharmonia Orchestras:

Females:

- White long-sleeved blouse or shirt. It does not need to be fancy, just clean and unwrinkled.
- Full length black skirt or black pants (no jeans, skinny jeans, leggings, athletic or yoga pants)
- Black dress shoes – peep toed shoes are ok. No flip flops or sandals.
- Black socks or tights
- No dangling earrings
- Only black hair accessories
- No stripes, logos, writing, or pictures on your clothes
- No bling

Males:

- White long-sleeved shirt with a collar and buttons down the front (no polo shirts)
- Black pants (no jeans, skinny jeans, or athletic pants). Must fit at the waist and not be overly baggy or tight.
- Black tie (if wearing a tie)
- Black dress shoes (entirely black, no stripes or logos. No flip flops)
- Black socks
- Make sure there are no stripes, logos, writing or pictures on your clothes
- No bling

Jr Symphony & Symphony Orchestras:

Females:

- Black short or long-sleeved blouse or shirt (it does not have to be fancy, just clean and pressed)
- Full length black skirt or black pants (no jeans, skinny jeans, leggings, athletic or yoga pants)
- Black dress shoes. Peep toed shoes are ok. No flip flops/sandals.
- Black socks or tights
- No dangling earrings
- Black hair accessories only
- Make sure there are no stripes, logos, or pictures on your clothes
- No bling

Males:

- Black tuxedo or matching black suit coat and slacks (no pinstripes, tweed, etc. Solid black only)
- White or black dress shirt
- Black tie
- Black dress shoes (no stripes, logos, or flip flops. Must be entirely black.)
- Black socks
- No bling

CONCERT NOTES

MVYSO concerts are key to our success as a performing organization. We invite the public to come hear our students which give them the incentive to practice and pull off an excellent performance. Additionally, this provides our community with a low-cost opportunity to engage in the performing arts.

We generally have a \$10 suggested donation for our concerts. This donation helps us cover the many costs of putting on a concert, including renting the concert space, programs, our famous MVYSO punch, etc. Any donations families can give at concerts are very much appreciated.

Our concerts are a great way for our students to meet and greet their “fans”. As a way to make our concerts more of a celebration and have our “fans” stick around awhile, we have a reception following each concert. MVYSO supplies the punch, table clothes, napkins, etc. We ask that parents or students bring a treat to share. Sometimes there are leftovers and we end up having a little cookie exchange after the concerts. It just adds to the fun!

Concerts venues are posted on our website and in the members calendar prior to each performance.

Supporting MVYSO

The MVYSO is a non-profit organization. We make it a goal to keep our tuition affordable so that each student who wishes to participate will be able to do so. We do our best to keep our costs down, but even a non-profit business has costs such as rent, staff, office supplies, insurance, etc. Our concerts are open to the community and admission is a “suggest donation” of \$10 per person. You can help increase our donation results at the concert by donating and by inviting friends and family. We regularly apply for grants and have received funding from 4 Culture, the City of Maple Valley, Maple Valley Rotary, and several others. In order to offset our low tuition, we also have a few fundraisers throughout the year. It is expected that families participate in our fundraisers. Should you be uncomfortable with fundraising, you may opt out by donating \$100 to the MVYSO at some point during our regular season (September – May).

Scheduled Fundraisers

February: The Gala – This is a catered dinner with live music by the MVYSO, silent auction, and more. You may help with this, our biggest and most fun fundraiser, by attending, being a table captain, participating on the Gala Committee, donating auction items, or volunteering at the event. Please plan to come and invite your friends! Come early, stay late! The hotel usually offers a discounted rate to stay that night and a complimentary breakfast the next morning. Tickets will go on sale in October. Watch for early bird discounts and see our website for details on date and venue.

February: Taco Time Coupons – We sell Taco Time Coupon books for \$1 each. MVYSO gets to keep 100% of the profits. All funds raised by the students can be put toward travel discounts with the MVYSO.

March: Benefit Breakfast – We offer a “for donation only” breakfast featuring live music by our elite ensembles at Lake Wilderness Lodge. Generally, \$15 covers the breakfast. This is a great time to invite friends and family to support the MVYSO. This is the official kick off to our Sponsorship Drive.

Ongoing: Sponsorship Asks – Students write letters asking people and businesses to sponsor the MVYSO with a donation. Each student’s solicited donations are tracked by our MVYSO office staff. 25% of funds up to \$250 per donation raised by a student can be discounted from their MVYSO travel costs. All sponsors who donate \$50 or more are listed in our programs. *Letter writing materials are available in parent packets. Families have permission to photocopy these materials. Sponsorship letters are available to download from our website under the Forms tab on our Members page. Should you need more brochures or supplies, contact the MVYSO Office.*

Concessions at the Park – We host the concessions stand at an event in Lake Wilderness Park. MVYSO gets to keep a percentage of the proceeds less a small fee paid to the park. This is a fun family event! We are hoping to do this on the 4th of July again this year.

Throughout the season: Corporate Sponsorships & Matching Funds Donations – We constantly are looking for corporate business sponsorships. You can help! Does your company have a grant program? Does your company want to sponsor a great youth organization? We have sponsorship programs that we can tailor to your company. We also receive matching funds from Microsoft, Boeing, and Starbucks. Many companies offer matching funds programs for donors. Generally, all it takes for us to get on a matching funds program is for an employee to ask and for our Executive Director to fill out the proper forms. Just ask!

Volunteer Matching Programs – Many employers such as Boeing, Microsoft, and Starbucks offer a gift match program for volunteer hours. You can help the MVYSO financially by donating your time and filling out your company’s volunteer matching form. Please advise the Executive Director of any paperwork, phone calls, etc. needed to make this happen at your company.

Passive Fundraising – There are loyalty programs that support the MVYSO! Be sure to sign your cards up! We are currently partnered with Fred Meyer Rewards Cards (organization number NP907), Amazon Smiles, Bartells, and Escrip. Go to mvyso.org and click on “How You Can Help” for more information.

Car Donation – We are now partnered with a car donation program. Visit mvyso.org and click on “How You Can Help” for more information.

Other MVYSO programs

Student Service Team

The MVYSO is dedicated to helping students grow as leaders and productive members of their community. The MVYSO has developed a Student Service Program which is different from section leadership. Student Service Team members are selected by our Student Service Team Executive Board and approved by our Executive Director. Student Service Team members have displayed excellent work ethic as well as exemplary social leadership skills. Student Service Team members are responsible for social leadership of the MVYSO and receive special training for this. Special training includes team building, making others feel included, music leadership, confidentiality, and much more. The Student Service Team is student led under MVYSO staff leadership. Student Service Team members can be found helping MVYSO staff with set up and clean up, helping MVYSO staff with things such as filing music, “directing traffic” at rehearsals, planning social activities, and more. Some of the Student Service Team responsibilities include looking out for the welfare and comfort of other MVYSO students. If you or your student is feeling socially disconnected at MVYSO, please let one of the staff or Student Service Team members know. We will do our best to help!

Music Buddies

Music Buddies are a team of students especially trained to work with our Special Needs students in Jam Club. Music Buddies must be 14 years or older. Attributes of Music Buddies are different from Student Service Team Members, although many Student Service Team Members also serve as Music Buddies. Music Buddies are responsible and committed. They must be flexible and display a willingness to learn about students with special needs. Students who are Music Buddies do not necessarily need to be outgoing or extroverted. Some of our most effective Music Buddies have been quiet types with a heart for service. Students wanting to become a Music Buddy may fill out an application on our website.

Note: Students involved in MVYSO service programs such as Student Service Team can receive volunteer hours for school.

Endangered Instruments Program

THESE SPECIAL instruments have a rich history dating back centuries and are beloved by composers for their sound. Because of their unusual qualities, young musicians often shy away from trying them or do not have the opportunity to play them due to a lack of availability and qualified teachers.

STUDENTS who have discovered the joy of playing and mastering these instruments often find they have more solo opportunities, a higher chance for competition placement, and higher probability of college scholarships.

For MVYSO’s Purposes, Endangered Instruments include: Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn, and Bass.

COACHES IN SCHOOLS

Beginning in our 2018-2019 Season, we began offering local school band and orchestra teachers an opportunity to ask for help from MVYSO’s coaches. If you have a specific instrument section in your school band or orchestra, have your teacher contact MVYSO. We may be able to send in a coach to help lead a sectional!

Music After High School

Our goal at MVYSO is for our students to participate in music in some way, long after High School. There are so many different ways to do it, from taking college music courses, to playing in community bands and orchestras, to music therapy, to becoming an instrument repair technician. The sky is the limit! The question is, what avenue best suits the student and his or her future goals? On our Music After High School night, the student will have the opportunity to meet people from colleges, community-based orchestras and bands, and more. It's free and well worth your time!

MVYSO Summer Camps

Each year, MVYSO hosts 2 summer camps. The first is a full orchestra camp for students grades 4 and up. The camp is a week-long camp and runs from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. daily. The second is a Music Therapy based Music Education camp for students with special needs called Jam Club Camp. Each camp is themed. Watch for camp dates to come out. They are generally the first two weeks in August, so mark your calendar! You won’t want to miss it.

Directions

Taylor Creek Church: 21110 244th Ave SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038 (rehearsals)

From Highway 18:
Take the 244th Ave SE exit
Turn right onto 244th Ave SE
TCC will be on the left

From Maple Valley:
Take SR 169 North
Turn right on SE 216th Way
Turn left on 244th Ave SE
TCC will be on the right

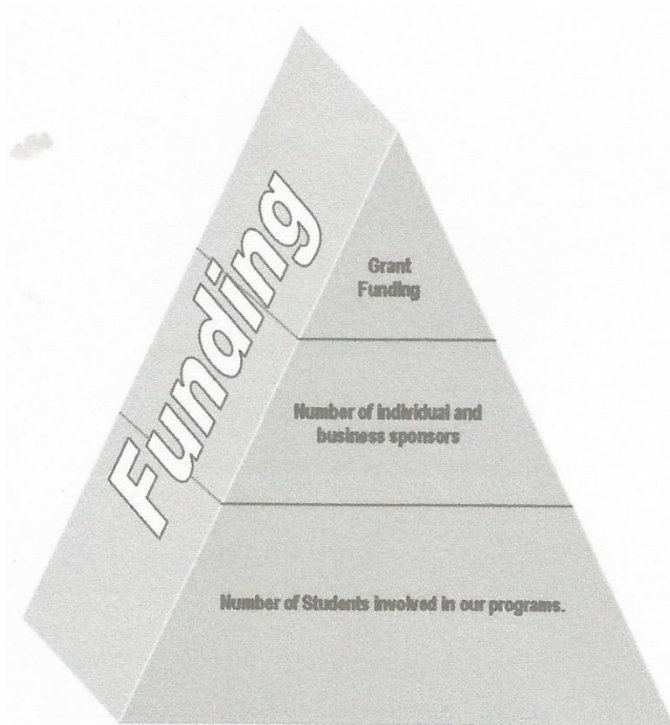


Please check our website for the location and directions to concert venues

Inclement Weather

In the case of an inclement weather situation or power failure, rehearsal may be cancelled. We will notify you by email when possible. We will also have a message to this effect on the MVYSO phone line (425-433-6009). When in doubt, don't drive! The driveway to TCC is steep and can be very icy! We generally go and check it out and send an email that says either "Rehearsal Cancelled" or "Yes! We have rehearsal." Please try to check your email before you go out the door. We will also try to send a robo-call to your phone.

Our Economic Engine - What Keeps MVYSO In Business



Number of Students

The MVYSO relies on a wide student base to keep us in business. This is why we offer a variety of programs for students at a variety of levels. We hope to continue to expand our programs into an academy model, offering more and more programs throughout the week. Along with students comes a broader base for fundraising as we have more students and families involved. We try to keep our programs affordable. In doing so, we rely on some fundraising and individual donations.

Number of Individual and Business Sponsors

As we have more students and families involved in our programs, we have a broader base of donors. Individual donors combined contribute more to our organization than business donations or grants. Individual donations at concerts and individual sponsorships are a very important part of our funding and help us keep tuition

low. For more information about individual and business sponsorships, please visit the support page of our website or pick up a sponsorship brochure. Your employer may match your donations. Please let your employer know of your generosity to the MVYSO. We will do anything necessary on our end to help make matching funds work. Our Gala Fundraiser is considered part of our Individual and Business Sponsors section because the success of the event depends on donations and sponsorships from Individuals and Businesses. It is our biggest and most fun fundraiser of the year!

Grant Funding

Grant funding is a small part of MVYSO's funding. 4 Culture and the City of Maple Valley have been our two big funders through grants. The MVYSO is always in search of assistance through grand and appreciates any tips from parents and families that they have heard about. Grant funding is dependent on a variety of factors, including the economy. Therefore, the MVYSO has made it a policy to rely minimally on grants for our operations.

OTHER IMPORTANT MVYSO POLICIES

Policy for use of Film, Photography, and Video

General Policy

Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra is an independent non-profit organization. Our policy is designed to protect our members' privacy and the mission and reputation of our organization. The express written permission of Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra is required for any filming or photography in our office, studio, or at any MVYSO sponsored events by:

- News professionals
- Professional or commercial photographers or filmmakers
- Visitors taking pictures or filming for commercial or promotional purposes or using a commercial or professional photographer or filmmaker.

Personal photos, videos, and films may be taken by students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni and other visitors so long as they are used exclusively for personal non-commercial purposes and is authorized as long as it doesn't interfere with the programs and events of MVYSO.

The Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra reserves the right to prohibit any filming or photography in our office, studio, or at any MVYSO sponsored event for any reason if the filming or photography creates the potential disruption of programs and events, damage to, or alteration of, property being used by MVYSO, inappropriate use of MVYSO name or logo, safety hazards, violates privacy of our members, or violates any other MVYSO policies.

Additional Policies

- Members wishing to NOT have photos or videos of them used for MVYSO promotional purposes, must fill out our *Promotional Exclusion Form* found on the Members Page of our website www.mvysso.org.
- Any time a member asks that a photo or video not be used by MVYSO, the MVYSO will respect the wishes of the member and not use the photo or video. In cases where the photo or video has already been used, it will be removed from wherever it has been used (i.e. Facebook, website, etc.). Other members should exercise the same courtesy when posting or sharing images of our MVYSO members.
- Use of photo or video images of our members, staff, or volunteers for purposes other than promotion of MVYSO activities and programs requires written permission from the member and parent (if the member is under the age of 18), staff member, or volunteer.

Nondiscrimination Policy

It shall be the policy of this organization that no person will be subjected to unlawful discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, marital status, national or ethnic origin, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or any other basis prohibited by law so long as the student is able to perform at minimal skill level as required by MVYSO.