2024-2025

MVYSO HANDBOOK

MAPLE VALLEY
YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A UNIQUE PLACE WHERE A STUDENT CAN EXCEL MUSICALLY, CONNECT SOCIALLY, AND GROW PERSONALLY.

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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

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 oneself. 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 multitask and develop a great deal of coordination.

Social – MVYSO is committed to helping students connect socially with their peers and their community. 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

Placement in our intermediate percussion and all orchestra groups is based on audition.

Young Violins Young Violins is a learn-to-play group violin program for students in grades 2-5. Classes will emphasize foundational building blocks to master the violin while working hard and having fun. Students will also use Music Mind Games, Rhythm Cups, and other interactive activities to learn music reading and listening skills to learn to play the violin. Parent involvement is required.
No experience is necessary.

Down Beat Percussion This class is designed for the budding percussionist or the student who is playing another instrument and would like to learn orchestral percussion. Students in 5th grade and up will learn fundamental stick and mallet control and music reading skills. Students will be given professional instruction on orchestral percussion instruments & drum set.
No experience is necessary.

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.

Debut Orchestra This orchestra is open to novice string players. Our string specialist will help students develop skills in playing independent parts in a music ensemble.
Required abilities: Equivalent to ASTA level 1-beginning of level 3/RCM levels 1-3/studies in Suzuki books 1-3. Knowledge of the keys of A, D, and G is expected. Violins/Violas should be able to play Suzuki Book 1, Minuet 1, or a similar piece and understand a low 2nd finger. Cellos should be starting to shift to first position. Basses should be starting to shift to third position.

Philharmonia Orchestra This orchestra is open to string, brass, and woodwind players. Musical goals include learning to play comfortably in sharp and flat key signatures with more complex rhythm patterns. Philharmonia introduces students to playing in a symphony orchestra.
Required abilities: Strings: Comfort with shifting to third position, dotted rhythms, and sixteenth notes, developing intonation, and ability to play in 2 flats/sharps with proper technique is required with preference to the ability to play in 3 sharps/flats. Equivalent to ASTA levels 3-4/RCM levels 3-4/studies in Suzuki books 4-6.
Winds/Brass/Percussion: Developing intonation and rhythmic accuracy, ability to play in 3 sharps/flats, and proper technique are expected.

Concert Orchestra This orchestra is open to string, brass, woodwind and percussion players with advancing abilities. Musical goals include improving pitch and rhythm accuracy in increasingly complex keys and rhythm patterns.
Required abilities: Strings: Comfort with vibrato, fluid shifting to 5th position, fast rhythms, excellent intonation, and the ability to play in 4 sharps/flats with proper technique is required. Equivalent to ASTA Levels late 4-early 6/RCM levels 5-6/studies in Suzuki book 6. Cellos should begin exploring tenor clef.
Winds/Brass/Percussion: Excellent intonation, rhythmic accuracy in complex time signatures and ability to play in 4 sharps/flats in the full range of the instrument with proper technique is expected. All instruments should be knowledgeable of alternate fingerings.

Symphony Orchestra This orchestra is open to highly advanced string, brass, woodwind, and percussion players with excellent abilities who are looking for the challenge of performing college and professional-level music at a high caliber.
Required abilities: Strings: Excellent intonation, rhythmic accuracy in all time signatures, fluency in all key signatures, and fluid shifting in all positions with proper technique are expected; vibrato is used comfortably. Equivalent to ASTA Levels 6 and up/RCM levels late 6 to early 7 and up/studies in Suzuki book 6 and up. Cellos should be comfortable with tenor clef, and violas should be comfortable with treble clef.
Winds/Brass/Percussion: Excellent intonation, rhythmic accuracy in all time signatures, and ability to play all key signatures in the full range of the instrument with proper technique is expected. Clarinets should expect to double on A clarinet and/or transpose from A and/or C clarinet. Trumpets should expect to transpose to C, horns should expect to transpose to any key. All instruments should be knowledgeable of alternate fingerings.

Elite Ensembles are small invitation-only instrumental groups who meet 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 extra dedication to one's instrument and ensemble.

- Elite Winds (usually a woodwind quartet) – 1 flute, 1 oboe, 1 clarinet, 1 bassoon, 1 horn
- Elite Strings (string quartet) – 2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello

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

Jazz Orchestra offers our Concert Orchestra and Symphony musicians the opportunity to explore a new genre regardless of instrument.
Minimum requirements: At least two years' experience on their instrument, 8th grade and up.

Jam Club is a music therapy-based music education program designed especially for neurodivergent or disabled students to develop both social and musical skills. MVYSO accepts DDA payments for Jam Club.

Orchestra Placement

Orchestra placement is determined based on student ability as demonstrated in an audition. MVYSO staff carefully consider each student's best placement where both the individual and the group will thrive. Students wishing to advance to another orchestra mid-season may reaudition in January, with the understanding that they must exhibit skills at least equal to those of the more advanced orchestra that has already been progressing for half of the season.

Students will be expected to exhibit commitment to the orchestra in which they are placed through preparation and with the attitude of a team player.

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

Chair Placement

Chair placements are collaboratively determined by MVYSO coaches and conductors based on auditions 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.*

Commitment

Being a member of an orchestra is a commitment to your instrument and your fellow orchestra members. Therefore, registration in an MVYSO orchestra is a yearlong commitment! Signing and adhering to the Commitment of Excellence found on mvyso.org is required. Elite ensembles must adhere to both the Commitment of Excellence and the Elite Ensembles Commitment Form.

Principals/Section Leaders

Principals are generally seated in the first chair of each section. These are leadership positions with a higher degree of responsibility for the overall performance of their sections and accountability for excellent musicianship and behavior in the orchestra. If a section leader does not demonstrate these qualities, they will forfeit their chair at the discretion of the conductor. Expected qualities of a section leader are:

- 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 punctuality and attendance
- Shows courtesy and humility to others when making observations or giving advice
- Encourages others
- Enthusiasm and spirit evident in playing

The section leader is responsible for making sure that every student in the section is set up for success. Responsibilities include:

- Maintaining excellent musical and behavior standards as a role model for the section and communicating these standards to the section
- Assisting section when asked to do so by the conductor or coach
- Leading section during transitions in rehearsal
- Leading sectionals if a coach is not available
- Assisting new students entering the section by making sure they feel welcome and have necessary music
- Making sure students who are absent get information about changes to music, new music that is handed out, etc.

Rehearsals

Core Orchestras

Debut Orchestra
Conductor: Cherlyn Johnson
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Concert Orchestra
Conductor: Daniel Baskin
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: Dr. Naomi Fanshier
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Down Beat & Up Beat Percussion
Instructor: TBD
Taylor Creek Church
Down Beat - Mondays: 5:00pm – 6:00pm
Up Beat - Mondays: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Young Violins
Instructor: Hannah Smith
Taylor Creek Church
Beginning - Tuesdays: 5:00pm – 6:00pm
Continuing - Tuesdays: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Jazz Orchestra
Director: Jonathan Urmenita
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Elite Ensembles

Elite Winds
Director: Kelsey Tryon
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 5:45pm – 6:45pm

Elite Strings
Director: Cherlyn Johnson
Taylor Creek Church
Mondays: 5:45pm - 6:45pm

MVYSO Expectations

General Expectations

- Arrive 10 minutes before rehearsal begins in order to have your instrument ready, music stand out with music in place and a pencil for making notes, and be ready to begin rehearsal at the designated start time.
- Come to every rehearsal musically prepared.
- Please label all of your belongings so that we may easily return them to you if they ever get left behind.
- Make rehearsals a priority by honoring the attendance policy (see page 9). **Rehearsal is your "prior commitment."**
- 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 page 5.
- 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 at 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 in a closed container is allowed.
- 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 through email and/or on the MVYSO website (mvyso.org). It is the responsibility of the parent and/or student to check for this information and to be aware of any changes.
- 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 and provides programs that are supplemental to school music courses, not a substitute. MVYSO students are expected to participate in their school music program if one is available. MVYSO programs are built on the expectation that students are playing during the week in a school band or orchestra. Students not participating in a school band or orchestra program may not develop as quickly as anticipated. If you cannot fit band or orchestra into your schedule, please contact your counselor or school band/orchestra teacher as they should have solutions for you. Nonparticipation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory except in the case of contagious illness. Missing two or more rehearsals in a concert cycle will result in the student's participation in the upcoming concert being at the conductor's discretion and may require an audition of the part before a decision is made.

Reporting an Absence

If you are unable to attend a rehearsal, or plan to arrive late or leave early, please submit an absence form on the Members page of the MVYSO website (mvyso.org/forms). *Tuition is not prorated or refunded for absences.*

Planned absence from a rehearsal, including for school performances:

- Please notify your conductor and submit the absence form two weeks prior to the anticipated absence.

For an illness or family emergency:

- Notify your conductor and fill out the absence form as soon as possible.

Absence from a dress rehearsal:

- A dress rehearsal is the last rehearsal before a concert and is required. Missing a dress rehearsal puts participation in the upcoming concert at the discretion of the conductor.

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 is imperative.

Tardiness:

- Late arrival to rehearsal is disruptive and should be avoided. If a student has a planned tardy, please use the absence form and give as much advance notice (up to two weeks) as possible. *Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable.*

Extended Absences:

- We realize that families have busy schedules and there may be occasions when a student needs to miss multiple rehearsals. We request as much advance notice as possible in such a case.

Tuition

Program Tuition

Tuition helps to cover program costs directly related to your student. This includes conductors and coaches, materials, rehearsal space, etc. Tuition goes up as you progress in MVYSO's programs, as the cost to run the program increases as students become more advanced. There is a discount for paying in full at the start of the season for most programs, which is reflected in the following tuition amounts for 2024-2025:

September – Early July programs
(monthly payments are due Sep-May)

- Concert Orchestra $945 or $110.00/mo
- Symphony Orchestra $995 or $115.55/mo
  - Elite Ensembles $300
  - Jazz Orchestra $300 *(Jan-May)*
- *Tour and travel costs will be determined each season; visit mvyso.org for details.*

October – May Programs
(monthly payments are due Oct-May)

- Young Violins $825 or $108/mo
- Down Beat/Up Beat Percussion $725 or $95.62/mo
- Debut Orchestra $700 or $92.50/mo

Tuition Collection Policy

MVYSO is a non-profit organization. We rely on the payment of tuition (which covers only about half of our annual expenses), individual donations, grants, and fundraising to bring our programs 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 www.mvyso.org/store. Check payments may be made at rehearsal by depositing them in the tuition box on the table in the lobby or by mailing to our PO Box (see page 13). For checks, please include your student's name on the memo line. While we prefer check or credit card payments, you may pay with cash by placing it in an envelope with your student's name on it and depositing the envelope in the tuition box at rehearsal.

Late Start Prorated Tuition

Late start students who join MVYSO three weeks or more after the season begins 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 full season commitment. We plan our music and staffing based on the number of students enrolled and which instruments they play. Consequently, there will be no refunds given for early withdrawal.

Tuition Payment Options and Due Dates

- *Pay in full* at the beginning of the season

  - or -

- Pay monthly; tuition is due at the first rehearsal of each month. The monthly payment option is not offered for Jazz or Elite Ensembles.

Payment Due Dates

Symphony/Concert Orchestra

September 16 – *Pay in full* or 1st payment
October 7 – 2nd payment
November 4 – 3rd payment
December 2 – 4th payment
January 6 – 5th payment
February 3 – 6th payment
March 3 – 7th payment
April 7 – 8th payment
May 5 – 9th payment

Philharmonia/Debut/Percussion

October 7 – *Pay in full* or 1st payment
November 4 – 2nd payment
December 2 – 3rd payment
January 6 – 4th payment
February 3 – 5th payment
March 3 – 6th payment
April 7 – 7th payment
May 5 – 8th payment

Young Violins

October 8 – *Pay in full* or 1st payment
November 5 – 2nd payment
December 3 – 3rd payment
January 7 – 4th payment
February 4 – 5th payment
March 4 – 6th payment
April 1 – 7th payment
May 6 – 8th payment

Jazz/Elite Ensembles

First rehearsal – *Pay in full*

Late Payments, Tuition Assistance, and DDA Billing

Late Payments

At MVYSO, we understands that life happens. A late payment surcharge of $15 per month can be avoided by sending an email in advance of the payment due date to executive@mvyso.org. In any communication about a late tuition payment, please include the following information:

- Name of student
- Valid reason for late payment
- When you anticipate being able to submit payment

Late payments must be current by the following month.

Accounts more than 60 days past due may be sent to collections with additional fees added for the full remaining amount of tuition. Students who are on tuition assistance will have assistance revoked without a copayment within 30 days.

Tuition Assistance

Partial tuition assistance is available to students in need. If you are unable to pay MVYSO's full tuition, please fill out a Tuition Assistance Application. This form is available by request from MVYSO staff.

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

Parent Involvement and Volunteering

To be successful, MVYSO 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 MVYSO possible. We require that a parent or guardian for each student sign and turn in a Parent Commitment to Excellence as well as sign up for one or more volunteer jobs.

Family Volunteer Requirement

MVYSO is a non-profit organization which relies heavily on our volunteers to get jobs done. Families are required to volunteer for at least 10 hours per season/year per family. Volunteer jobs vary with the needs of our organization and can range from hauling equipment to our performances to serving on a committee. Please see the document entitled "2024-2025 MVYSO Volunteer Opportunities" in your parent packet. Should you decide to join an ongoing or long-term committee (such as the Gala), this will fulfill your volunteer commitment for the season. We encourage you to utilize your strengths and talents in helping MVYSO. If you don't find a job listed that you think would benefit our organization, please contact our Executive Director or a board member. If you are truly unable to fit a volunteer job into your schedule, you may make a one-time $250 volunteer buy out donation.

Company Support for your Volunteer Work with MVYSO

Many larger companies, such as Verizon, Microsoft, and Boeing, will make monetary donations to non-profits where their employees volunteer. Please check with your employer to see if they offer such a program. You could doubly benefit 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 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.

Communicating with MVYSO

Email

MVYSO's primary form of communication is email. Please add MVYSO (My Music Office) to your email address book and set your email so that MVYSO email is not blocked. Our communications include important, detailed information that you'll need to know, especially when there is an MVYSO event coming up. **Please be sure to read your email thoroughly – THE ENTIRE EMAIL.** Email messages and information are considered read once sent. If your email address changes, please notify us at office.mvyso@gmail.com.

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 mvyso.org. These opt-in emails are a very inexpensive way for us to advertise our events, plus they can be forwarded or shared on social media. It's an easy way for you to share what is going on and invite your friends and family to MVYSO concerts and events!

Schedule Changes

MVYSO depends on parents and students to respond to deadlines, communicate in a timely manner, and be aware of calendar events. We will notify you via email if there is a calendar change. If you are ever in doubt, please reach out to us – we're happy to help make sure you're kept in the loop.

Social Media

Like us! Follow us! Share us!

Facebook groups:	Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra Alumni
Facebook page:	Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra (@mvysofficial)
Instagram:	@mvyso
YouTube:	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

Admin Assistant: office.mvyso@gmail.com

Executive Director: executive@mvyso.org

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

Performance Information

MVYSO concerts provide our community with a low-cost, local opportunity to engage in the performing arts and are a fantastic opportunity for students to show off their incredible talent and advancing skills.

Our $10 suggested donation for concerts helps cover the many costs of putting on a concert, including renting the concert space and printing programs. Any donations families can give at concerts are very much appreciated and help keep our quality programs running.

Our post-concert receptions are a great way for MVYSO musicians to meet and greet their fans. MVYSO supplies the punch, tablecloths, napkins, etc. and we ask that parents or students bring a treat to share.

Concerts venues are posted on our website prior to each performance.

Concert Attire

All groups: Clothing should be clean and pressed. No stripes, logos, writing, pictures, or prints on any clothes except as noted. No t-shirts, low-cut or cropped, or sleeveless tops. No jeans, shorts, leggings, athletic, holey or poorly fitting (saggy/baggy) pants. No sandals, flip flops, or athletic shoes; no visible white soles. No hats.

Young Violins, Debut, Up Beat, Down Beat:

- White blouse or collared dress shirt.
- Well-fitting black slacks or black skirt that is knee-length or longer when sitting and playing.
- All black dress shoes.
- Black socks or tights. Hosiery is required if wearing a dress or skirt (no bare legs).
- Modest accessories – black ties/bowties (may have a black-based, non-distracting print), black cummerbund/vest, non-distracting hair accessories or jewelry.

Elite Ensembles, Jazz, Concert, and Symphony Orchestras:

- All black or black with white shirt, semi-formal or business casual attire, such as a black or white blouse with black slacks or skirt, black suit with black or white shirt, or a black dress with short or long sleeves (not sleeveless).
- Tops should be well-fitted. A black blouse or collared dress shirt are appropriate, as is a black blazer or suit jacket over a black or white top.
- Bottoms should be well-fitted. Slacks, tuxedo pants, skirts, or dresses are appropriate. Skirts/dresses must be knee-length or longer when sitting and playing.
- Black socks or hosiery. Hosiery is required if wearing a dress or skirt (no bare legs).
- All black dress shoes.
- Modest accessories – black ties/bowties (may have a black-based, non-distracting print), black cummerbund/vest, non-distracting hair accessories or jewelry.

If you need help finding appropriate clothing for performances, there are online stores that specialize in concert attire in both youth and teen sizes.

Cousin's Concert Attire – www.concertattire.com
Southeastern Performance Apparel – https://sepapparel.com

Supporting MVYSO

Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra is a non-profit organization. We make it a goal to keep our tuition affordable so that every student who wishes to participate is able to do so. While we do our best to keep costs down, even a non-profit business has expenses such as rent, insurance, and utilities.

We regularly apply for grants and have received funding from 4Culture, the City of Maple Valley, Maple Valley Rotary, and several other organizations. We also offer numerous fundraisers throughout the year to appeal to a variety of interests; each family is expected to pick a few of their favorites to participate in. Should you wish to opt out of fundraising, you may buy out your fundraising requirement with a suggested $250 donation to MVYSO at some point during our regular season (September – May).

Our concerts are open to the community and admission is a suggested donation of $10 per person. You can help increase our donation results at concerts by inviting friends, family, teachers, and neighbors to attend.

Scheduled Fundraisers

February: The Gala – 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, and/or volunteering at the event. Plan to come and invite your friends, too! This is a catered dinner with live music by the Symphony and Concert Orchestras, a silent auction, live auction, dessert dash, and more. Tickets will go on sale in October. Watch for early bird discounts. Our 2025 Gala will be February 8 at the Green River Event Center.

Ongoing (monthly-ish): Restaurant nights – Eat in or carry out on your own schedule during a set window of time at favorites like MOD Pizza, Panera, and Panda Express. Just show the flyer you'll get in your email or that's posted on our Facebook or Instagram and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to MVYSO. Easy, delicious, and no dishes!

Ongoing: Passive Fundraising – Earn money for MVYSO while doing your everyday shopping at Fred Meyer. Link your Fred Meyer Rewards card at https://www.fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards and use organization NP907.

Ongoing: Corporate Sponsorships & Matching Funds Donations – We are always on the lookout 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 when their employees donate to MVYSO. 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!

Ongoing: Volunteer Matching Programs – Many employers such as Boeing, Microsoft, and Starbucks offer a gift match program for volunteer hours. You can help MVYSO financially by donating your time and filling out your company's volunteer matching form. Please let us know if there's any paperwork, phone calls, or emails needed to make this happen at your company.

Ongoing: Stadium Concessions – Sell concessions at big sporting events and concerts! This fun, fast-paced fundraiser requires more preparation and bigger chunks of time, but it also counts toward your family's volunteer commitment. Shifts are generally 7 to 8 hours and workers require a food handler's permit and MAST card (for serving alcohol), as well as black pants and black slip resistant shoes. Meals and parking are provided for events at Lumen Field.

Ongoing: RaiseRight Gift Cards – Purchase gift cards to use yourself or to give as gifts and MVYSO will benefit. If you get into the habit of using these cards for your everyday shopping, you can make a big difference! Sign up at www.raiseright.com and enter code GIBS3QUWH5D4 to start supporting MVYSO. You'll find hundreds of companies supporting non-profits, including grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, and online retailers.

Ongoing: Sponsorship Asks – Students can make a big impact by writing letters asking people they know and businesses to sponsor the MVYSO with a donation. All sponsors who donate $50 or more are acknowledged in our programs.
Letter writing materials are available by request. 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.

Watch for other fundraisers throughout the year. Past events that have benefited our organization include wine sales from Drum Roll Wine (a local company owned by a former MVYSO family!) and a picture day with proceeds being returned to MVYSO.

If you own a business or work for a company that would like to work with MVYSO on a fundraiser, please let us know!

Other MVYSO programs

Student Service Team

MVYSO is dedicated to helping students grow as leaders and productive members of their community. 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 an excellent work ethic as well as exemplary social leadership skills. Student Service Team members are responsible for social leadership of 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 specially trained to work with our friends in Jam Club -- students who are neurodivergent or have disabilities. 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 needs that differ from their own. 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 should watch for more information as we get the program up and running again.

Note: Students involved in MVYSO service programs such as Student Service Team and/or Music Buddies 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

During 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 that could use some extra help, have your teacher contact MVYSO. We may be able to send in a coach to help lead a sectional!

MVYSO Summer Camps

Each year, MVYSO hosts a themed summer camp in early August. During the first week of August, we hold a full orchestra camp for students grades 4 and up who play strings, percussion, and orchestral wind instruments. This week-long day camp runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily.

When resources allow, we also have a music therapy-based Jam Club camp for students who are neurodivergent or who have disabilities.

Mark your calendar -- you won't want to miss this fun experience! It's also a great introduction to participation in a youth symphony, so invite your musician friends!

Directions/Inclement Weather

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

From Highway 18:

Take the 244th Ave SE exit in Maple Valley

Turn south onto 244th Ave SE (Coming from Covington, turn right; coming from I-90, turn left)

TCC will be on the left

From Maple Valley/Four Corners:

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 concert venue locations and directions.

Inclement Weather

In the case of an inclement weather situation or power failure, rehearsal may be cancelled. 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.

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.

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. 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 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. 4Culture and the City of Maple Valley have been our two big funders through grants. MVYSO is always in search of assistance through grants and appreciates any tips from parents and families who may be familiar with a funding source we haven't yet accessed. Grant funding is dependent on a variety of factors, including the economy. Therefore, 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.

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 at www.mvyso.org.
- Any time a member asks that a photo or video not be used by MVYSO, 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.