

AUDITION and APPLICATION INFORMATION

For more than sixty-five years, Sarasota Youth Orchestras has been providing young musicians of Sarasota, Manatee, and surrounding counties with musical instruction, unique performing opportunities, and the chance to study and perform classical music with their peers. Each of the eight ensembles perform three concerts a year, culminating in a final Spring Showcase performance.

Whether striving to be a professional musician or fostering a lifelong love of music, students realize and advance their vision in Sarasota Youth Orchestras. Participants stay in each ensemble for an average of two years. They master the skills and techniques of musical playing in addition to developing self motivation, leadership, and personal growth. All ensembles receive coaching throughout the season from qualified instructors, including Sarasota Orchestra members and local music educators.

All members of the Youth Orchestra Program are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.

YOUTH ORCHESTRA ENSEMBLES:

TUESDAYS 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Chamber Strings – Ages 8-14, with 1 year of experience or completed our Summer Music Camp.

Divertimento Strings – Ages 8-14, with 1-3 years of experience, developing first position.

Camerata Strings – Ages 8-14, with 2-3 years of experience, fluent in first position, starting third position.

Intermezzo Strings – Ages 10-17, with 3 or more years of experience, continuing to develop first and third positions through keys of 3 sharps / 3 flats.

Symphonic Strings – Ages 10-17, with 3 or more years of experience, fluent in first and third positions, developing extended positions. Refining dynamic and articulation skills.

MONDAYS 5:15 PM - 7:45 PM

Symphonic Winds – Ages 11-15, with 1-3 years of experience.

Youth Symphony – Ages 11-18, with more than 3 years of experience and the maturity to participate in a full orchestra. All students demonstrate solid technique. String students are developing extended positions.

Youth Philharmonic – Ages 13-19, comprised of advanced players whose technique level is highly proficient, who show strong musicality and musicianship, and who are capable of the discipline necessary to perform at the highest level.

For full descriptions, visit www.sarasotaorchestra.org/education/youth-orchestra/ensembles or call the Education Department for more information.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION POLICY

Sarasota Orchestra believes that school music programs are vital to the development of young musicians—educationally, artistically, and socially. By participating in school music programs, young musicians can serve as role models, receive leadership training, and share their talents with others. Participation in Sarasota Youth Orchestras is designed to enhance, not replace, school music instruction. School music programs provide essential daily ensemble and rehearsal instruction required for serious musical progress. Students who enroll in the Youth Orchestra Program are required to participate in their school orchestra/band if one exists. Please see our website for policy information.

All students will need to submit a participation form at the beginning of the season.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Fill out the application completely.
2. Return the application with a non-refundable \$25 application fee postmarked by **April 15, 2026** to:
Sarasota Youth Orchestras | 709 N. Tamiami Trail | Sarasota, FL 34236
3. Print Audition Repertoire from the website.
www.sarasotaorchestra.org/education/youth-orchestra/auditions
4. Please visit www.sarasotaorchestra.org/education/youth-orchestra/ensembles for complete description of ensembles. By reviewing the descriptions, examining the audition materials, and talking with your private instructor, you will know which ensemble matches your skills.
5. Prepare materials:
 - Use a metronome
 - Practice slowly
 - Listen to recordings
 - Concentrate on tone quality, intonation, dynamics, and rhythm
 - Practice sight reading (yes, you can practice sight reading! How? Read pieces you have never seen before.)
 - Practice auditioning for family, friends, and music teachers
6. Audition time will be mailed after receipt of application.
7. Arrive at audition at least 30 minutes ahead of scheduled time to warm up before you play.

TUITION

Each participant in the Youth Orchestra Program pays \$370 tuition. This is in addition to the \$25 application fee and is due upon invoice. The \$370 tuition is only a fraction of the actual cost to Sarasota Orchestra per student. We are grateful to the Sarasota Orchestra Friends and the generosity of donors and granting organizations that help keep the costs to students reasonable.

RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE - Do you know a student that would enjoy being a part of our program? Help us spread the word and receive \$25 off your tuition for each new student. For example - talk with 4 new students that meet the requirements below and receive \$100 off your tuition.

How to receive the discount - Talk with students that have never participated in one of our programs (this includes Sarasota Youth Orchestras and Summer Music Camp). Ask the new student to apply and write your name on the space provided on the application. **New students must then audition, be accepted, and participate in Sarasota Youth Orchestras for you to receive the discount.** Incentive discount can only be used for the 2026-2027 season and may only be used to cover the balance of Youth Orchestra tuition. Money may not be applied to private lessons or any other program.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sarasota Orchestra is fortunate to be able to offer several types of scholarships. Through the generosity of many donors and numerous foundations, we are able to off-set tuition expenses. We also strongly believe in the benefit of private lessons and are able to help subsidize students' lesson expenses. In addition, we offer scholarships for summer music camps and college music majors.

TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS - Need-based tuition scholarships are awarded to cover a portion of program cost (between 20% and 100%). Please include a letter of explanation. These letters can greatly help the committee with their decisions.

SIBLING SCHOLARSHIPS - Sarasota Orchestra understands that many families have more than one child in our program. To help off-set these expenses, we offer a reduced tuition rate to families with more than one student participating in the Youth Orchestra Program. These are often 50% scholarships. For example, \$370 for the first child, \$185 for each additional child. **You must request this scholarship on the application.**

FELLOWSHIPS – FULL TUITION - Scholarships (excluding application fee) are awarded based on family need. To be considered for a full tuition scholarship, you must provide full income disclosure (IRS 1040 Form, page one, front, and back) and explanation of scholarship need. **Full scholarships cannot be granted without this documentation.**

PRIVATE LESSON SCHOLARSHIPS - These are awarded to Youth Orchestra participants to help defray a percentage of the cost of private lessons (38 lesson maximum Sept.-June).

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office use only				

STUDENT NAME _____
 Legal Last _____ Legal First _____ Nickname (goes by) _____

Gender ____ Birthday ____/____/____ School (Fall '26) _____ Grade (Fall '26) ____

Home address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____ Home phone _____

Student cell phone _____ Student email _____

Parent/guardian name _____ Parent/guardian cell phone _____

Parent/guardian email _____

Audition instrument _____ Years played _____

Private teacher _____ Total years of lessons _____

(not your school teacher)

I have read and agree to follow the SYO School Participation Policy (see description on cover) _____ Initial _____

How did you hear about Sarasota Youth Orchestras? _____

(For recruitment incentive, please include full name)

Student's FREE T-Shirt Size: (circle one) Youth **YS **YM** **YL** or **Adult** **S** **M** **L** **XL** **2XL** **3XL****

ALL STUDENTS MUST AUDITION

Please check an ensemble:

Tuesday Ensembles 5:30 - 7:30 pm

- Chamber Strings – May 16 (9 am – 5 pm)
- Divertimento Strings – May 16 (9 am – 5 pm)
- Camerata Strings – May 16 (9 am – 5 pm)
- Intermezzo Strings – May 9 (9 am – 5 pm)
- Symphonic Strings – May 9 (9 am – 5 pm)

Monday Ensembles 5:15 - 7:45 pm

- Symphonic Winds - May 16 (9 am – 5 pm)
- Youth Symphony
 - Woodwind and Brass - May 16 (9 am – 5 pm)
 - Percussion - May 16 (9 am – 5 pm)
 - Strings - May 16 (9 am – 5 pm)
- Youth Philharmonic
 - Woodwind and Brass - May 15 (4 pm – 9 pm)
 - Percussion - May 15 (4 pm – 9 pm)
 - Strings - May 9 (9 am – 5 pm)
 - Harp - May 9 (9 am - 5 pm)

Confirmation of audition date and time will be mailed to you within a week of receiving your application.

Each application must be accompanied by a \$25 application fee.

Please indicate payment method: Check made payable to Sarasota Orchestra VISA MC AmEx Discover

CHARGE CARD # _____ EXP DATE ____/____ CVV _____

Billing address _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____ Date _____



SARASOTA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

BY sarasota orchestra

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Must be completed every year: Sarasota Orchestra is fortunate to be able to offer many scholarships through the generosity of donors and grants. Please read the description for scholarships on the previous page and complete the section below to apply for scholarship consideration. Completing the scholarship information below does not guarantee a scholarship will be awarded.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name of Student _____

Parent/Guardian Information: (Please provide information for both legal guardians)

#1 Name _____ #2 Name _____

Relationship _____ Relationship _____

Place of employment _____ Place of employment _____

Occupation _____ Occupation _____

Single parent/guardian

Number of children in college _____ Number of children in Sarasota Youth Orchestras _____

Number of dependent children living at home _____ (including applicant)

Total number of children _____

COMBINED FAMILY INCOME (MUST BE COMPLETED) \$ _____

APPLYING FOR

TUITION FELLOWSHIP (full tuition) TUITION (partial) SIBLING (partial) PRIVATE LESSONS (partial)

For Private Lesson Scholarships only:

Name of private teacher (other than school teacher) _____

Private teacher's phone number _____ Email address _____

How long have you studied with above private teacher? _____

Cost of one lesson _____ 30 minutes, 45 minutes, 1 hour lesson

Number of lessons per month _____

I certify that all information on both sides of this sheet are complete and accurate.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Please use the space below to provide any additional information that you believe is important for the scholarship committee to consider. (Additional pages may be used)



709 North Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-953-4252
SarasotaOrchestra.org

SYO SARASOTA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS
BY sarasota orchestra®

2026-27 SEASON

