

Program Overview

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NYSO is comprised of the following orchestras, choirs and ensembles:

- Senior Orchestra
- Advanced Wind Ensemble
- NYSO Chorale
- Intermezzo Orchestra
- Prelude String Ensemble
- Select Flute Choir
- Senior Flute Choir
- Junior Flute Choir
- Clarinet Choir (dependant on membership numbers)
- Lawrence Youth String Ensemble

Gerald Dolan serves as NYSO's Music Director and also conducts the Wind Ensemble.

Membership in all ensembles is by audition. (See audition requirements page.)

Senior Orchestra

Walter Pavasaris conducts the Senior Orchestra. Weekly rehearsals are held Mondays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Masconomet High School in Topsfield. In addition to practicing as a full orchestra, members of the Senior Orchestra will have the opportunity to perform in chamber ensembles during the winter term. During an eight-week period in January and February, the orchestra will be broken down into approximately 15 small ensembles and given the opportunity to learn chamber music, with the occasion to perform in various outreach concerts during the remainder of the year.

The winds in Senior Orchestra are also members of the Wind Ensemble. Winds rehearse from 6:00 – 7:00 with Senior Orchestra (arriving by 5:50) and then join the Wind Ensemble from 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Strings rehearse from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Advanced Wind Ensemble

Gerald Dolan will direct the Advanced Wind Ensemble, which rehearses on Mondays at Masconomet High School from 6:15 – 8:15 p.m. The top students of the Wind Ensemble will also play in Senior Orchestra. (see paragraph above)

NYSO Chorale

Sandra Doneski and Liana Bishop will share conducting the NYSO Chorale. Chorale will meet on Tuesday afternoons 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Masconomet High School.

Intermezzo Orchestra

Walter O'Keefe directs the Intermezzo Orchestra. Weekly rehearsals are held on Mondays from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at Masconomet High School in Topsfield.

Prelude String Ensemble

Abby Haynes will conduct Prelude String Ensemble with Marissa Scarano assisting with the beginning Prelude Strings. Weekly rehearsals are held Mondays from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. at Masconomet High School in Topsfield.

Prelude String Ensemble students enter NYSO by a recommendation of their private teacher and a short audition. Members of Prelude will generally have taken two years of private lessons and will be able to noteread well in first position on all strings.

Flute Choirs

A flute choir is a wonderful place to fine-tune individual flute skills in preparation for upcoming auditions, i.e., Northeast District, All-State or college. The confidence level we build with our Flute Choir members goes a long way toward presentation in any setting and at any level.

Heather Kent conducts all Senior and Select Flute Choirs; Judy Braude conducts Junior Flute.

Senior and Select flute choirs meet on Sunday afternoons at Trinity Episcopal Church, 124 River Road in Topsfield. Senior Flute Choir meets from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. and Select Flute Choir meets on Sundays from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Junior Flute meets from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Masconomet High School on Mondays.

Flute choir members are expected to own their own Korg tuner for their home practice.

Clarinet Choir (At the time of printing, this ensemble is not yet definite.)

Nalani Fujiwara, an outstanding clarinet teacher and conductor of clarinet ensembles, directs our Clarinet Choir. The choir provides intermediate to more advanced clarinet players with an opportunity to grow and to perform. The group meets at Masconomet High School on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Lawrence Youth String Ensemble

The Lawrence Youth String Ensemble is a string orchestra for the more advanced string students in the Lawrence violin program. The ensemble is conducted by Trudy Larson on Friday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. The Ensemble is open to any string player in Lawrence. (See Lawrence program page.)

NYSO students who play any instrument are invited to become mentors for the Lawrence string program on Friday or Tuesday afternoons. This can count toward their school commitment for community service.

Please speak to Trudy Larson if you are interested in this opportunity.