

The Benefits of Youth Symphony

What do the rigors of playing an instrument, practicing scales, learning pieces, memorizing pieces and going to auditions develop in students? **How** do participating in music groups and performances enhance one's understanding of and participation in the world?

Many of the benefits of music education are recognized, from enhanced language acquisition to development and refinement of fine motor skills and spatial awareness. Children become well-rounded individuals through music education. Youth Symphony takes this further, producing individuals who are persistent, disciplined, timely, dependable, creative, problem-solving, thoughtful, communicative, mindful, compassionate, tolerant, consistent, flexible, patient, accountable, responsible, honest and have integrity. They understand, and embrace, teamwork and multiple points of view. They pursue excellence and are risk-takers. If you see a successful professional person in our community, chances are she or he has "a little youth symphony" or similar experience in her or his past.

Of the recent college-bound YYSO seniors, 47% planned to major in music as music educators and/or performers. Fifty-three percent planned to major in something else, although many indicated in their senior bios that they planned to continue music in some form, as a minor, or through participation in a school or community orchestra. For these 53%, music and their symphony experience helped develop key characteristics that will serve them in any of their chosen fields.

Benefits Include:

Persistence & Discipline

Calvin Coolidge, former U.S. President, remarked on persistence: "Nothing in the world can take the place of Persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan "Press On" has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race." Symphony musicians practice and learn how to work through the tough sections until they are mastered. Then, they practice some more!

Timeliness & Dependability

Symphony musicians pay attention to pieces and come in at the right time. They show up for rehearsals and performances on time. They know how they contribute to the group experience and that others depend on their presence and contributions.

Creativity & Problem-Solving

Symphony musicians become and are creative. This is a transformative process that is largely experiential, spurred by interactions with others who are creative, steeped in enough opportunities for knowing one's self and couched in an environment where there are no "mistakes," no "bad or wrong ideas" only building blocks for even better ideas. As a result, symphony musicians are excellent problem solvers.

Thoughtfulness

Symphony musicians think. Engaged through the music and with each other, they think in relational ways. Per Margaret Mead, that is a good thing: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Communication & Mindfulness

Symphony musicians have one eye on their music, one eye on the conductor and a heightened awareness of everyone around them. They become excellent communicators and practitioners of mindfulness. They know the best time to do things, what/who is most important at that time and what is the right thing to do.

Compassion & Tolerance

Symphonies bridge gaps and build bridges, the only requirement being "can the music be played?"

Consistency

Any musician can have a wonderful day, a day where all notes are hit and everything is on time and in tune. The mark of a good symphony musician is consistency, and that on most days, most notes are hit and almost everything is on time and in tune.

Flexibility

Sometimes, rehearsals flow easily. Sometimes, nothing seems to work: the tempos, the timing, the tuning or the temperaments. Symphony musicians are flexible with all of this *and* with broken strings, split or cracked reeds and sticking keys.

Patience

Mastery of pieces by an individual takes time. Mastery of pieces by a collection of individuals takes time. Just like at basketball, soccer or football practices, rehearsals have some "seat warming" time. Symphony musicians give their peers the time they need to master their parts in order for the whole piece to be the best it can be.

Accountability & Responsibility

Members of a symphony are members of a group. If one person does not learn her or his part, everyone suffers. Symphony musicians learn their music and come to rehearsals and performances ready to participate.

Honesty & Integrity

Former YYSO Conductor Carol Alexander gave us the phrase "commitment to the composer." This fundamental premise guided her leadership in YYSO. When one is committed to implementing a piece as the composer created it, using all of the instruments, following tempos and embracing dynamics fully, one engages music in a way that both honors past effort and engages experiences that can come only through such commitment and freeing of individual projection or bias.

Teamwork & Perspectives

One instrument does not make a symphony. Symphony musicians learn to work as a team, to support each other and, just like sports teams, to help the group advance as a unit. Symphony musicians have the added benefit of understanding the view of the audience and the musician's role in the performer/audience relationship: first, that a relationship exists; second, that "it is not all about the performers;" and third, that the performance becomes better when the relationship is valued.

About Us

Youth Symphony Orchestra (YYSO) was founded to give student musicians an opportunity to play music in a full symphony orchestra. Participation is by audition and students pay tuition to support operational expenses including conductor salaries, instrument coaching, rehearsal space, performance space and sheet music copyrights. Students from throughout the Yakima Valley, from Naches to the Tri-Cities, rehearse weekly under the direction of **Bruce Walker**. Musical rigor is high as symphony arrangements are of a caliber exceeding that which most students would experience at school. Indeed, school orchestras are rare; only two of the fifteen districts in Yakima County have high school orchestras. Moreover, these high school orchestras are strings only, with no percussion or woodwinds. Musicianship expectations are high with strict attendance requirements and adherence to professional standards of conduct. Additionally, the YYSO facilitates the function of the Yakima Ensemble for Strings (YES!), under the direction of **Christy Baisinger**, to provide younger string players a similar symphonic opportunity. Many YES! players advance to the YYSO.

Over the years, significant community support has positioned the groups to be far-reaching in their inclusion of students spanning the Valley, in sharing their gifts through community concerts and in giving back through a free, outreach KinderKonzert. Said support has included financial gifts to fund specific instrument purchases, to defray concert expenses and to fund student tuition; the YYSO is committed to providing equitable access for all students and endeavors to provide assistance in the event of financial hardship. The KinderKonzert is held in an authentic concert hall and introduces young children, students and their families to orchestral music in a relaxed and nurturing environment. After the concert, the YYSO opens an "instrument petting zoo" where children are given the opportunity to try out real instruments.

Annually, including the KinderKonzert, the YYSO and YES! perform three times at the Capitol Theatre, once at the Yakima Valley Museum and once at the Harman Center for Waltzing with the Youth Symphony. This variety of venues and audiences provides a diversity of performance experiences for these young musicians and keeps us closely connected with our community.

YYSO & YES! by the Numbers

- 1 Very special community, the Yakima Valley
- 2 Conductors on staff for YYSO and YES!
- 3 Percussion musicians in YYSO
- 4 Years performing at the Capitol Theatre
- 5 Public performances in 2011-2012
- 7 Sectional Coaches supporting students
- 13 Instruments represented in YYSO and YES!
- 14 Current YES! enrollment
- 17 Woodwind musicians in YYSO
- 18 Years YES! has been in existence
- 20 Desired YES! enrollment
- 22 Private teachers with YYSO/YES! students
- 34 String musicians in YYSO and YES!
- 39 Years as a Yakima Symphony Orchestra subsidiary
- 40 Current YYSO enrollment
- 46 Years YYSO has been in existence
- 47 % of recent YYSO college-bound seniors planning to major in music
- 53 % of recent YYSO college-bound seniors planning to major in non-music fields
- 80 Desired YYSO enrollment
- 300 Annual tuition in dollars for YES!
- 400 Annual tuition in dollars for YYSO
- 1,500 Seating capacity at the Capitol Theatre

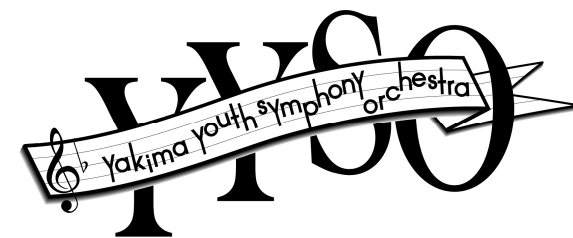
We welcome your donations!

The YYSO is a subsidiary of the Yakima Symphony Orchestra (YSO), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations for the YYSO and YES! through the YSO are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Please send donations to us at:

Yakima Youth Symphony Orchestra
P.O. Box 10613
Yakima, WA 98909

To learn more about the YYSO and YES!,
please visit us at www.yyso.org



*Established in 1965, the
Yakima Youth Symphony
Orchestra endeavors to
provide a stimulating
environment that
encourages, challenges and
develops the students' fullest
musical potential.*



2011-2012 Concerts

♪ December 3, 2011 at 12:00 p.m.
at the Yakima Valley Museum

♪ December 4, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.
Winter Concert at the Capitol Theatre

♪ February 26, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
KinderKonzert at the Capitol Theatre

♪ April 29, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
Spring Concert at the Capitol Theatre