



SAN BERNARDINO SYMPHONY YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

HANDBOOK 2022-2023

SBSYWE – Musical Enrichment for Inland Empire Youth

San Bernardino Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble is dedicated to advancing the talents of young musicians through the performance of outstanding repertoire, quality instrumental music education for students, and accessible cultural offerings for the community. SBSYWE is composed of exceptionally talented and motivated wind and percussion players from school music programs throughout the Inland Empire region, ages 14 to 21. Members benefit from the personal attention of expert conductors and coaches in a dynamic rehearsal setting that is challenging, nurturing, and educational.

Our organization is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit supported by a combination of sources including tuition, volunteerism, concert admission, grants, sponsorships, and donations.

MISSION STATEMENT

- To provide familiarity with outstanding wind repertoire through performance of masterworks and contemporary literature.
- To establish the highest consistent performance standard and professionalism.

- To enhance the study and practices encouraged in private lessons and school ensembles.
- To apply historical context and theoretical principles in the development of expression and interpretation.
- To encourage each individual's artistic and technical musical development while working toward group goals.
- To provide an outlet for musical expression and creativity.

MEMBERSHIP

- Musicians from area schools (public, parochial, private, and homeschool) and colleges between the ages 14 to 21 are eligible to participate in the San Bernardino Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble. **Members are encouraged to participate in their school's instrumental music program, if available.** SBSYWE is not a substitute for the school music experience, and we work with local directors.
- Acceptance and placement in San Bernardino Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble is a season-long commitment (September through May). Any student's decision to terminate their membership mid-season will be reviewed by the SBSYWE staff on a case-by-case basis and may result in ineligibility to re-audition for the following year.
- Student musicians are expected to:
 - Attend all rehearsals and performances.
 - Be prepared for all rehearsals
 - Respect each member's desire to participate fully without distraction.
 - Aspire to the highest professional and musical standards during all SBSYWE activities.
- **All tuition paid is non-refundable.** A family's account with SBSYWE must be in good financial standing before enrolling. Families should have a clear understanding of the time and financial commitments required by participation in San Bernardino Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble before accepting and enrolling. If there are any questions or concerns, or if you would like to discuss scholarship opportunities or our payment plan, please contact our office at ywe@sanbernardinosymphony.org.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance and active participation at all rehearsals and performances is essential to the success of any ensemble. Participating students are required to attend all SBSYWE events. Excused absences for illness, family emergencies, or unavoidable conflicts with school commitments or major life events are permitted, provided that the student follows the outline below:

To request an absence for a known school or major life event, please submit an "Absence Request Form" a minimum of two weeks prior to absence. Forms are available on the SBSYWE website. The form must state the reason for the absence and be submitted to the Program Manager for approval. The Program Manager will discuss the absence request with the conductor, and students and parents will be notified if the request is not approved, or if the

number of absences is excessive. While two weeks advance notice is the minimum requirement for the absence requests, students are encouraged to submit forms for all known conflicts at the beginning of each season (i.e. weddings, Bar-Mitzvahs, etc.).

If a student is absent or late and did not submit an “Absence Request Form” before the absence, they must submit an email to the Program Manager before the next rehearsal. In the event of illness or last-minute family emergencies, please contact our office at ywe@sanbernardinosymphony.org immediately.

Please note: an email of explanation from a parent/guardian for participants under the age of 17 MUST follow all unanticipated absences and must be submitted before the next rehearsal. Attendance will be taken at each rehearsal and parents/guardians will be notified of all unexcused absences via email.

Excessive tardiness or attendance problems will jeopardize future participation in SBSYWE.

Students with an unexcused absence for the dress rehearsal or concert, or who have more than one unexcused absence, may be subject to immediate removal from the ensemble, forfeiting tuition.

INSTRUMENT AND EQUIPMENT LIABILITY

- All SBSYWE students are responsible for their own instruments. Lost, stolen, or damaged instruments or accessories are not the responsibility of SBSYWE.
- Sheet music and folders will be collected at the end of each concert, and students will be held financially responsible for any lost or damaged music folders.
- Percussionists are required to provide their own mallets and sticks. All San Bernardino Valley College equipment must be returned to the storage space before leaving rehearsals and concerts.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION POLICY

SBSYWE is committed to a partnership with regional public and private schools. Except in rare circumstances where no music program exists, all SBSYWE members are encouraged to participate in their respective school music programs, preferably in the concert band. SBSYWE encourages its members to audition for honor bands, participate in solo and ensemble festival, and take private studio lessons.

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

- SBSYWE is an educational organization and strives to provide the most professional atmosphere possible while maintaining the excitement of live concerts. We would like your family to enjoy music together. Keep in mind that arriving late disrupts not

only fellow audience members, but also the musicians on stage. Please wait for a pause between pieces before entering the auditorium.

- Please place all cell phones and noise making devices on silent mode, or turn them off. Small biological noise-makers, such as children, should be taken into the lobby if they become disruptive.
- The use of camera and recording equipment is not permitted in the concert hall during performances. Photographs of your participant may be taken after a performance only. A group photograph may be taken of the band in full concert dress by a professional photographer, and notification will be sent when copies are available.
- San Bernardino Valley College is a smoke-free campus. Smoking is prohibited in all buildings, or within 25 feet of any doors or windows.
- No food or drink is allowed in the San Bernardino Valley College Auditorium.

CONCERT TICKETS

Tickets for all SBSYWE concerts are available for purchase at \$10.00 per ticket. Children under 12 may attend for free.

STATEMENT OF SBSYWE RIGHTS

- By performing in this ensemble, you acknowledge that SBSYWE has the right to record, broadcast, and distribute photos and audio/video recordings of rehearsals and performances in which you may be a participant.
- Concert recordings are available to download from the website. Notification will be sent when they are available.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Tuition & Financial Aid

Tuition for the 2022–2023 season is \$250. Students may pay in full or \$125 each semester. Payment in full (or payment plan) is due by the first rehearsal. If you need to set up a payment plan, a request may be made to our office at ywe@sanbernardinosymphony.org. You can also email us for more information.

Need-based financial aid is available to students who require financial assistance. Please contact us for further information.

Full payment, payment plan setup, or scholarship approval needs to be received by the first rehearsal of each concert cycle. Up-to-date financial status is a requirement for participation in the Youth Wind Ensemble.

REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

The purpose of rehearsal should be to experience great music making while in a community of musicians. This includes the exploration of new concepts, exploration of the composer's creation, and development of ensemble skills. **Rehearsal is a musical end in itself: the concert is a by-product of rehearsal, not the reason for it.**

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS OF THE CONDUCTOR

- The conductor will respect the time and musicianship of the students, providing a schedule for every rehearsal and adhering to it as closely as possible.
- The conductor will be prepared for every rehearsal. Each score will be studied to a level of making music in rehearsal, not simply eliminating errors.
- The conductor will choose repertoire with musical and educational value at an appropriate level of technical demand.
- The conductor will function as the advocate of the composer, setting the highest achievable standards.

CONDUCTOR EXPECTATIONS OF THE STUDENTS

- Students will check rehearsal and performance schedules and resolve potential conflicts in advance.
- Students will warm-up prior to rehearsal and be seated in the rehearsal or concert hall 15 minutes prior to all engagements.
- Students will be prepared with the requisite technique to **MAKE MUSIC** at every rehearsal.
- Students will be prepared for rehearsal with all necessary rehearsal tools, including: instruments, sheet music, pencils, mutes, and other accessories. Percussionists will provide their own variety of mallets.
- Students will keep the rehearsal room clean, organized, and secure. All chairs and stands will be returned to the racks after rehearsal. Percussionists will be responsible for set-up and tear down of all percussion equipment before and after rehearsals and performances. No food is allowed in the rehearsal room or concert hall at any time.

PREPARATION

- **Purpose of Practicing: To learn YOUR part.**
 - The main focus of your practicing should be to build optimal playing habits – your warm up routine should be of paramount concern. The amount of time spent practicing parts will depend upon the student and the repertoire – you are the judge. Practicing is the time to eliminate ALL technical and rhythmic hindrances to expressive rehearsing.
- **Purpose of Sectionals: To blend your part into the SECTION.**

- The main focus of sectionals is to work on blend, balance, and pitch issues that are not easily addressed in the context of large ensemble rehearsal. Section coaches and/or principal players will assist in the organization of sectional rehearsals as necessary.
- **Purpose of Rehearsals: To learn the parts of EVERYONE ELSE.**
 - The purpose of full rehearsing is to learn ALL of the parts of the work, so that we can understand the composer's intention and perform expressively. Rehearsals are successful musically and expressively ONLY when all students have taken care of their individual preparation responsibilities to the ensemble. Rehearsals that are built around the acquisition of technique through drilling do a disservice to players, conductors, and composers.

PERFORMANCES

The SBSYWE presents two concerts during each academic year in the San Bernardino Valley College Auditorium in San Bernardino, California. Please check the website for specific dates and times. Concert information will be distributed the week before each concert. Percussionists will be expected to assist with set-up and tear down of equipment and will be notified of these responsibilities.

WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT ATTIRE

Option A: Black dress slacks, black dress shoes, black socks, long-sleeved black dress shirt, plain black tie. Athletic shoes, track shoes, and jeans (or jean-like trousers) are NOT acceptable.

Option B: Long black dress or skirt (at or below the knee) or black dress pants. Mini-skirts and jean-like pants are NOT acceptable. If wearing a skirt, black/off-black nylons are required, along with a minimum 3/4-sleeved black blouse with conservative neck, neatly pressed and tucked in. NO sweaters, bare shoulders, or midriffs. Black shoes. NO sandals, open-toed, tennis, or track shoes. Please make all jewelry selections and hair adornments unobtrusive. Check out concertblack.com for ideas!

WIND ENSEMBLE CALENDAR

Rehearsals will take place in the San Bernardino Valley College Band Rehearsal Hall. Rehearsals will begin at 2:00PM and end at 5:00PM. The 2022-2023 Rehearsal calendar is as follows:

| Fall 2022 | Spring 2023 |
|------------------|--------------------|
| September 11 | March 12 |
| September 18 | March 19 |
| October 2 | April 2 |
| October 23 | April 16 |
| October 30 | April 23 |

The concert dates are Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022 (Fall) at 2:00 PM, and Sunday, April 30, 2023

(Spring). Call time for students is 12:00 PM.

CONTACT INFORMATION

San Bernardino Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble

PO Box 109
San Bernardino, CA 92402
ywe@sanbernardinosymphony.org

Wind Ensemble Conductor

Dr. Nicholas Bratcher, Director of Bands
California State University, San Bernardino

YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE COMMITTEE

Dr. Kevin Zhang, Committee Chair
Sonietta Brown
Matt Fell
Dr. Jessica Getman
Arwen Hernandez
Brian Hollett
Marisol Inzunza
Matt Matthews
Dr. Anne Viricel
Margaret Worsley