



Handbook

2025-2026

WELCOME TO THE SAN BERNARDINO YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS

The San Bernardino Symphony Youth Orchestra (SBSYO) and San Bernardino Symphony Overture Orchestra (SBSOO) are dedicated to advancing the talents of young musicians through quality instrumental music education, the performance of outstanding repertoire, and accessible cultural offerings for the community. These youth orchestras are composed of exceptionally talented and motivated string, woodwind, brass, percussion, harp, and keyboard players from school music programs throughout the Inland Empire region. Members benefit from the personal attention of expert conductors and coaches in a dynamic rehearsal setting that is challenging, nurturing, and educational.

The SBSYO & SBSOO are part of the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra (SBSO) which is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit supported by a combination of sources including tuition, volunteerism, concert admission, grants, sponsorships, donations, special events, and retail revenue.

MISSION STATEMENT

1. To provide familiarity with works from the symphony orchestra repertoire through the study and performance of both masterworks and contemporary literature with an emphasis on the works of underrepresented composers.
2. To establish the highest consistent performance standards and professionalism.
3. To enhance the study and practices encouraged in private lessons and school ensembles.
4. To apply historical context and theoretical principles in the development of expression and interpretation.
5. To encourage each individual's artistic and technical musical development while working toward ensemble goals.
6. To provide an outlet for musical expression and creativity.
7. To bring our community together through a shared enjoyment of music.

MEMBERSHIP

1. Musicians from area schools (public, parochial, private, and homeschool), between the ages fourteen and eighteen (9th-12th grade), are eligible to participate in the San Bernardino Symphony Youth Orchestra, pending a successful audition. Musicians from area schools (public, parochial, private, and homeschool), between the ages eleven and fourteen (6th-9th grade), are eligible to participate in the San Bernardino Symphony Overture Orchestra, pending a successful audition. The placement of 9th grade students in either the SBSOO or SBSYO will be determined in auditions. **Members are encouraged to participate in their school's instrumental music program, if available.** The SBSYO & SBSOO are not a substitute for the school music experience, and we collaborate closely with local school ensemble directors.

2. Acceptance and placement in the SBSYO or SBSOO is a two-semester commitment (September through May). Any student's decision to terminate their membership mid-season will be reviewed by the SBSYO and/or SBSOO staff on a case-by-case basis and may result in ineligibility to re-audition for the following year and loss of tuition paid.
3. Student musicians are expected to:
 - a. Attend all rehearsals, performances, and other SBSYO & SBSOO events.
 - b. Be prepared for all rehearsals, performances, and SBSYO & SBSOO events.
 - c. Respect each member's desire to participate fully without distraction.
 - d. Aspire to the highest musical and professional standards during all SBSYO & SBSOO activities.
4. **All tuition paid is non-refundable.** Families should have a clear understanding of the time and financial commitments required by participation in the SBSYO or SBSOO before accepting and enrolling. A family's account with the SBSYO or SBSOO must be in good financial standing at the time of enrollment and must remain up-to-date for their student to continue to attend. If there are any questions or concerns, or if you would like to discuss scholarship opportunities or establish a payment plan, please contact the sbsyo@sanbernardinosymphony.org as soon as possible.

SCHOOL ENSEMBLE PARTICIPATION POLICY

The SBSYO & SBSOO are committed to partnership with regional public and private schools. Except in rare circumstances where no music program exists, all SBSYO & SBSOO members are encouraged to participate in their respective school music programs, preferably in either the orchestra or band, or both. Additionally, the SBSYO & SBSOO encourage their members to audition for honor orchestras and bands, participate in solo and ensemble festivals, and take private studio lessons.

INSTRUMENT AND EQUIPMENT LIABILITY

1. All SBSYO & SBSOO students are responsible for their own instruments. Lost, stolen, or damaged instruments or accessories are not the responsibility of SBSYO or SBSOO.
2. Percussionists are required to provide their own mallets and sticks.
3. Folders with a copy of the SBSYO & SBSOO handbook, calendar, and music for the term will be given out by the first rehearsal. Certain pieces may be subject to copyright laws and/or rental policies, and must be returned the day of the concert immediately following the performance. The replacement cost for parts for any of these pieces that are lost, or returned damaged, will be the student's financial responsibility.
4. All San Bernardino Valley College and XXXX equipment must be returned to the storage space before leaving rehearsals and concerts.

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

SBSYO: Tuition for the SBSYO for the 2025-2026 season is \$200 per semester for fall and spring, \$400 total for the year (there is a \$50 discount if tuition for the entire year is paid by September 7). Students will not be able to participate in the SBSYO rehearsals before a payment plan has been selected and tuition has been paid.

There are two payment options:

1. Pay the discounted price of \$350 for the year in full by orientation, Sunday, September 7, 2025. Tuition payments for the year in full after Sunday, September 7, 2025 will be \$400.
2. Pay \$200 per semester.
 - Fall tuition due date is Sunday, September 7, 2025.
 - Spring tuition due date is Sunday, January 11, 2025.

SBSOO: Tuition for the SBSOO for the 2025-2026 season is \$100 per semester for fall and spring, \$200 total for the year (there is a \$25 discount if tuition for the entire year is paid by September 7). Students will not be able to participate in the SBSOO rehearsals before a payment plan has been selected and tuition has been paid.

There are two payment options:

1. Pay the discounted price of \$175 for the year in full by orientation, Sunday, September 7, 2025. Tuition payments for the year in full after Sunday, September 7, 2025 will be \$200.
2. Pay \$100 per semester.
 - Fall tuition due date is Sunday, September 7, 2025.
 - Spring tuition due date is Sunday, January 11, 2025.

If a student is given permission to join the SBSYO or SBSOO after the first rehearsal of a semester, the tuition will be prorated to the starting rehearsal date.

Currently, the SBSYO & SBSOO offer very limited need-based financial aid for students who require tuition assistance. Please contact us at sbsyo@sanbernardinosymphony.org for more information.

Please note that there is a \$20 late fee for late tuition payment. To avoid the fee, your tuition payment must be received by no later than four days following the due dates listed above.

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 and repertoire, and the continued development of ensemble skills. **Rehearsal is a musical end in itself; the concert is a by-product of rehearsal, not the reason for it.**

WHAT SBSYO & SBSOO MEMBERS SHOULD EXPECT

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

WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF SBSYO & SBSOO MEMBERS

1. Students will acquire, and be responsible for, their own instruments.
2. Students will check the SBSYO/SBSOO calendar and resolve potential conflicts far in advance. (See the attendance policy in the handbook.)
3. Students will warm up prior to rehearsals and be seated in the rehearsal space fifteen minutes prior to the start of rehearsal.
4. Students will come prepared with the requisite technique to make music at every rehearsal, having practiced their music at home.
5. Students will come to rehearsals, sound checks, and concerts, with all necessary tools, including instruments, sheet music, pencils, mutes, rock stops, straps, and other accessories. Percussionists will provide their own mallets.
6. 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 the set-up and tear down of all percussion equipment before and after rehearsals.
7. Day of concert, students will warm up prior to the sound check and be seated in the concert space thirty minutes prior to the start of the sound check.
8. Immediately following the final concert for a concert cycle, students will return any requested parts immediately.
9. No food or drink (save water) is allowed in the rehearsal space at any time.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance and active participation at all rehearsals and performances is essential to the success of any ensemble. Participating students are required to attend all SBSYO and/or SBSOO 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. The link to this form will be emailed out to all participants, but if you are having a hard time locating that link, you can email Maestra Manzanera (for the SBSYO) or Maestra Felix (for the SBSOO) to receive a link to the form. The form must state the reason for the absence and be submitted for approval. 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. family 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 before the next rehearsal.

Attendance will be taken at each rehearsal and parents/guardians will be notified of all unexcused absences via email.

In the event of illness or last-minute family emergencies, please contact us at sbsyo@sanbernardinosymphony.org immediately. Excessive tardiness or attendance problems will jeopardize future participation in SBSYO or SBSOO.

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 SBSYO or SBSOO, forfeiting tuition and the ability to perform at the concert.

PREPARATION

The Purpose of Practicing: To learn YOUR part.

The main focus of your practicing should be to build optimal playing habits – your warmup routine is of paramount importance. Be sure to slowly warm up both your body and your instrument. The amount of time spent practicing parts will depend upon the student and the repertoire – the goal is to practice something until it becomes comfortable. Practicing is the time to eliminate all technical hindrances to expressive rehearsing.

The Purpose of Sectionals: To blend your part into the SECTION.

The main focus of sectionals is to work on pitch, blend, and balance issues that are not easily addressed in the context of a large ensemble rehearsal. Sectional coaches and/or principal players will assist in the organization of sectional rehearsals as necessary.

The Purpose of Rehearsals: To learn the parts of EVERYONE ELSE.

The purpose of rehearsing as a full ensemble is to become familiar with all of the parts of the work, so that we can understand the composer’s intentions, and perform together expressively.

Rehearsals are successful **ONLY** when *all* students have taken care of their individual preparation responsibilities.

PERFORMANCES

The SBSYO & SBSOO present two concerts during each academic year, one in fall, one in spring, in the San Bernardino Valley College Auditorium located at 701 S. Mt. Vernon Avenue in San Bernardino, California. Please check the published calendar 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.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Option A: Long-sleeved black dress shirt, plain black tie, black dress slacks, black socks, and black dress shoes. 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 nylons or tights are required. Minimum 3/4-sleeve length with a conservative neck for dresses or tops. **NO** bare shoulders or midriffs. Close-toed black shoes.

Please make sure clothes are neatly pressed, and all jewelry and/or hair adornments are unobtrusive.

CONCERT TICKETS

SBSYO & SBSOO concert tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased online at www.sanbernardinosymphony.org. Children under age twelve may attend for free.

SBSYO & SBSOO families may attend San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra concerts at no cost, but must register at rehearsal by clearly completing the ticket sign-up sheet provided prior to each performance. Electronic tickets will be provided via email to each family properly registered at rehearsal.

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

The SBSYO & SBSOO are educational organizations and strive 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.

San Bernardino Valley College is a smoke-free campus. Smoking is prohibited in all buildings, or within twenty-five feet of any doors or windows.

No food or drink is allowed in the San Bernardino Valley College Auditorium.

STATEMENT OF SBSYO & SBSOO MEDIA RIGHTS

By performing in these ensembles, you acknowledge that SBSYO & SBSOO have the right to record, broadcast, and distribute photos and audio/video recordings of rehearsals, performances, and any additional events in which you may be a participant.

2025-2026 CALENDAR

Fall 2025

August 24	Auditions, 12:00 - 6:00 p.m., San Bernardino Valley College, North Hall 164
August 29	Auditions, 3:30 - 7:30 p.m., Location TBA
September 3	Auditions, 3:30 - 7:30 p.m., Location TBA
September 5	Auditions, 3:30 - 7:30 p.m., Location TBA
September 7	Welcome & Orientation, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., San Bernardino Valley College, North Hall 164
September 14	Rehearsal
September 21	Rehearsal
September 28	Rehearsal
October 5	<i>SBCUSD Holiday/No Rehearsal</i>
October 12	Rehearsal
October 19	Sectionals, Locations TBA
October 26	Rehearsal
November 2	Rehearsal
November 9	<i>Veteran's Day/No Rehearsal</i>
November 16	Rehearsal
November 23	Rehearsal
November 30	<i>Thanksgiving Break/No Rehearsal</i>
December 7	Dress Rehearsal

December 12	Dress Rehearsal for San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra Concert “A Christmas Festival,” Time TBA , California Theatre (SBSYO ONLY)
December 13	Performance for San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra Concert “A Christmas Festival,” 3:00 p.m., California Theatre (SBSYO ONLY)
December 14	Fall Concert, 3:00 p.m., SBVC Auditorium, Sound Check @ 11:30 a.m.

Spring 2026

January 11	Rehearsal
January 18	<i>Martin Luther King Day/No Rehearsal</i>
January 25	Winter Workshop, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m., Locations TBA
February 1	Rehearsal
February 8	<i>SBCUSD Holiday/No Rehearsal</i>
February 15	<i>SBCUSD Holiday/No Rehearsal</i>
February 22	Rehearsal
March 1	Rehearsal
March 8	Sectionals, Locations TBA
March 15	Rehearsal
March 22	<i>Spring Break/No Rehearsal</i>
March 29	<i>Spring Break/No Rehearsal</i>
April 5	<i>Easter/No Rehearsal</i>
April 12	Rehearsal
April 19	Rehearsal
April 26	Rehearsal
May 3	Dress Rehearsal
May 10	<i>Mother’s Day/No Rehearsal</i>
May 17	Spring Concert, 3:00 p.m., SBVC Auditorium, Sound Check @ 11:30 a.m.
June 29-July 3	CSUSB-SBSO Summer Youth Music Camp, Locations TBA
July 3	Dress Rehearsal for San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra Concert “America the Beautiful,” Time TBA , San Bernardino Valley College Football Field
July 4	Performance for San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra Concert “America, the Beautiful,” 7:30 p.m., San Bernardino Valley College Football Field

CONTACT INFORMATION

By Mail:

San Bernardino Symphony Youth Orchestra
PO Box 109
San Bernardino, CA 92402

By Email:

General Email
sbsyo@sanbernardinosymphony.org

San Bernardino Symphony Youth Orchestra Director and Conductor
Dr. Lucy Lewis
lucy.lewis@sanbernardinosymphony.org

San Bernardino Symphony Youth Orchestra Assistant Conductor
Ms. Veronica Manzanera
veronica.manzanera@sanbernardinosymphony.org

San Bernardino Symphony Overture Orchestra Director and Conductor
Dr. Susan Barnes
susan.barnes@sanbernardinosymphony.org

San Bernardino Symphony Overture Orchestra Assistant Conductor
Ms. Susan Felix
susan.felix@sanbernardinosymphony.org

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As an initiative of the San Bernardino Symphony Association, the SBYSO program is overseen by Symphony leadership.

Dr. Kevin Zhang, *Chair, San Bernardino Symphony Association Board Member*
Dr. Jessica Getman, *San Bernardino Symphony Association Board Member*
Dr. Kenneth Lane, *San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra Board Member*
Dr. Margaret Worsley, *San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra Principal Clarinet*
Maestro Anthony Parnter, *San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra Artistic Director*
Maestra Raphaela Lacerda, *San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra Resident Conductor*