

Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association

ORCHESTRA PROGRAM CONTINUITY

Prelude String Orchestra (PSO)

This “orchestra on training wheels” provides SFYSA musicians with their first large ensemble orchestra experience. Unlike Elementary Strings, the musicians are grouped into an ensemble with mixed string instrumentation. Most pieces performed in PSO are written in 3 part harmony (violins, viola, cello/bass), providing a stepping-stone to standard string orchestra writing (5 parts). Students will have a chance to improve sight reading skills and practice large ensemble etiquette and procedures (rehearsal responsibilities, relationship with stand partner and conductor, etc.) PSO does not require an audition, however students must be enrolled in private lessons to be eligible for PSO enrollment, and the PSO conductor must receive a written recommendation from the private teacher. Most PSO students have at least 2 years of private lessons prior to joining PSO.

Intermezzo String Orchestra (ISO)

ISO is the intermediate orchestra for string players. Members will sharpen their section and ensemble skills, and experience their first repertoire of consistent 5-part ensemble writing (violin 1, violin 2, viola, cello bass). When exiting ISO, musicians should be fully prepared for the experience of their instrument’s traditional role in a full orchestra. This ensemble largely consists of middle school and advanced elementary musicians.

Youth Philharmonic (YP)

This is the first full orchestra (winds and percussion) experience for SFYSA musicians. The ensemble members are exposed to accessible levels of repertoire with traditional symphonic roles. YP programs arrangements of classical works as well as original works for young, full orchestras. Typically YP musicians are high school and advanced middle school.

Youth Symphony (YSO)

YSO is the premier orchestra in SFYSA programs. The ensemble regularly works with professional musicians, plays side-by-side with Santa Fe Symphony, tours, and hosts workshops for the local music community. YSO performs orchestral classics, new works, and seeks out creative collaborations in the Northern New Mexico community. The ensemble largely consists of advanced high school musicians.

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	Prelude	Intermezzo	Philharmonic	Symphony
Repertoire Grade Level Grade level of most music from each ensemble	.5 – 1	1 – 2.5	2 – 3	3 – 5+
Rhythms Lists of new concepts introduced at each level	Eighth and quarter notes	Sixteenths, dotted rhythms	Combinations of dotted rhythms and syncopation	Frequent use of syncopation and complex subdivision
Meters New meters introduced at each level	Simple meters	Simple meters, introduction to compound	Simple, compound, and introduction to mixed and asymmetrical meters	Fluent use of all meters
Key Signatures	Up to 2 Sharps	Up to 2 sharps and 1 flat	Up to 2 sharps and 2 flats	All key signatures
Typical Musician's Age	Late elementary School	Advanced/late elementary school, and middle school	Advanced/late middle school and early high school	Advanced high school