



Middle Level Festival

Honors Concert

A collaboration with the Minnesota Orchestra

Monday, April 15, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Orchestra Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota

MNSOTA Events

Our events have concluded for this season but check out these events for next season. Click on the links below or talk to your orchestra teacher!

[Mary West Solo Competition](#)

The Mary West Solo Competition is held annually each fall for Minnesota students of the violin, viola, cello, bass, harp and classical guitar. There are prizes in each division, and a grand prize of a performance with the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra. The Mary West Solo Competition is in four age categories for students under the age of 25. Winners receive cash prizes, gift certificates and the honor of performing in the Winners Recital.

[Middle Level All-State Orchestra](#)

The Middle Level All-State Orchestra is for students in grades 7–9. Students submit online auditions in the fall and selected string players from around the state will join together for a day of rehearsals and then perform at the Minneapolis Convention Center as part of the MMEA convention.

[Eclectic Strings Day](#)

The Eclectic Strings Day is a fun and informative day of workshops and performances for violin, viola, cello, and bass. You will have three different classes exploring new styles on your instrument such as gypsy jazz, bluegrass, rock and roll, guided by a master teacher. After lunch, everyone gathers in the auditorium for a jam session playing the material covered in the morning classes. Join us for a fun experience in a relaxed atmosphere!

Middle Level Festival Honors Concert Program

Ordean East Middle School Advanced Orchestra

Laura Kimmes, Director

Oak-Land Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra

Julie Vanderstappen, Director

Minnetonka Philharmonic Orchestra

Daniel Ericksen, Director

Buffalo High School Repertory Orchestra

Kristine Wiese, Director

Moorhead Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra

Brian Cole and Josh Biles, Directors

Chippewa Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra

Brian Larson, Director

Minnetonka High School String Orchestra

Sarah Finn-Sommerfeld, Director

Owatonna Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra

Jennifer Bellefeuille, Director

Concert selections, orchestra profiles, and musician rosters are found in the next pages in the order of the performance. To allow others to have a positive concert experience, we ask that you enter/leave the auditorium quietly only during pauses or transitions.

Ordean East Middle School Advanced Orchestra

Laura Kimmes, Director

Performance Selections

Telemann Sinfonia (Paraphrase from Trio in A minor)

Georg Phillip Telemann
arr. Robert B. Brown

Serenade for Strings

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
arr. Richard Meyer

About the Orchestra

Ordean East Middle School is located in Duluth, overlooking the beautiful Lake Superior. The OEMS Advanced Orchestra includes students in grades six, seven and eight under the direction of Laura Kimmes. Most of the orchestra's members are in eighth grade. They joined orchestra as sixth graders in the fall of 2021. We are so pleased with the amazing progress our students have made in just two and a half years!

Ordean East Middle School is one of two middle schools in the Duluth School District (ISD 709) and has a student population of 1088, led by principal Susan Lehna. The string program includes 135 students in three orchestras: the Advanced Orchestra, the Intermediate Orchestra and the Beginning Orchestra. Due to budget constraints, in-school lessons at OEMS were eliminated for the 2022-2023 school year. However, they were reinstated in March of 2023, with Teresa Aho coming on board at OEMS. This fall, Tami Nelson came on board at OEMS and teaches in-school lessons. Other string teachers in the ISD 709 School District include Byron Klimek at Duluth East High School, Samantha Amys at Lincoln Park Middle School and Denfeld High School, and Grant Karl at Lincoln Park Middle School. A special thank you also, to Kevin Hoeschen who retired from Ordean East Middle School in 2022 and still retains a level of involvement with our stings program.

This year, after a winter without snow, we were all set to travel to the Regional Festival on March 27. Then, the second year in a row, a three day blizzard happened and Duluth schools were closed for three days in a row. With special permission from our principal and the superintendent, we were able to travel the next morning to Minneapolis, even though Duluth and all area schools were still closed. The OEMS Advanced Orchestra ended up qualifying to play today at the April 15 concert at Orchestra Hall. This performance date happens to fall during our Spring Break week and many Orchestra families are traveling. Because of this, we have some OEMS Orchestra members missing this evening. We are excited and honored to be able to be here and to share our music with you this evening!

Orchestra Members

Violin I

Ethan Adams
Yupeng Chen
Milania Hansen
Torin Marma
Mackenzie Olek
Oscar Thompson
Annabelle Wu
Lance Wyatt

Violin II

Keeley Anderson
Evelyn Ford
Katie Hanka
Gemma Kim
Inara Kruse
Kangchen Liang
Sophie Powell
Bella Rock
Stara Smith
Ave Steffes
Winter Sterling
Cora Stevenson

Viola

Emma Bridges
Anja Harju
Brynn Offerson

Cello

Liv Caine
Callum Richardson
Samira Rydberg
Linus Thompson

Bass

Riejer Klyn
Gabbi McDonald
Katy Neimi
Wesley Schooler

Oak-Land Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra

Julie Vanderstappen, Director

Performance Selections

Midnight Rain

Susan H. Day

Sparta

Todd Parrish

About the Orchestra

The Oak-Land Middle School Eighth Grade Orchestra is comprised of 37 students under the direction of Julie Vanderstappen. These students receive daily orchestra in the large ensemble setting. There are no lessons offered during the school day. Oak-Land Middle School orchestras have performed at numerous previous Middle Level State Festivals, MMEA and various community and school events. Their director, Julie Vanderstappen received the Master Teacher School Orchestra award from MNSOTA in 2011.

Other teachers in the district that have worked with and influenced these students include Lisa St. Ores, Cassandra Herold, Ryan Jensen and Kent Musser. Oak-Land has an enrollment of approximately 1,000 students in grades 6 - 8 under the leadership of Ann Giardino and Kasie Tverberg.

Orchestra Members

Violin

Owen Castona
Eden Fitzgerald
Audrey Goebel
Alex Jansen
Emily Kirchoff
Ava Komorouski
Brayden Lamb
Chaley Andy Lee
Lily Link
Max Meyer
Carter Rivard
Lesly Rosa Hernandez
Violet Pritchard
Sophia Schatt
Kamraan Siddiqui
Anna Thorstad Brune
Bodey Warren
Lorelai Wold
Aerianna Yang
Lauren Yunke

Viola

Grace Begnaud
Annelise Christison
Ryleigh Friberg
Julia Giel
Aubrey Jung
Carter Newman
Orion Peel
AJ Steele

Cello

Adam Allal
Britton Deck
Liam Eriksson
Alex Heintz
Elyza Larson
Porter Shockey
Charlie Stanton
Cody Tran

Bass

Henry Runge

Minnetonka Philharmonic Orchestra

Daniel Ericksen, Director

Performance Selections

Sweet New Moon

Yukiko Nishimura

Boreas: The Cold North Wind

Todd Parrish

About the Orchestra

The Minnetonka Philharmonic Orchestra is a auditioned group of 6th, 7th and 8th graders at the Minnetonka Public Schools. They rehearse once a week on Friday mornings before school. This group is organized and run by Minnetonka Community Ed, administered by Amber Yang and directed by Daniel Ericksen. Along with playing in the Philharmonic orchestra, the students also participate in grade level orchestras in the school day at Minnetonka Middle School East and West. The Principals at these schools are Pete Dymit (East) and Freya Schirmacher (West). The Orchestra program in Minnetonka starts and is taught by the following teachers: Daniel Ericksen, Suzanne Feland, Sarah Finn-Sommerfeld, Jase Ginkel, MaryBeth Huttlin, and Michael Janning.

Orchestra Members

Violin

Tristan Anderson
Milla Broberg
Vedant Chetan
Ike Davidson
Leo Doherty
Ellie Fenske
David Healy
Oliver Hickey
Dawa Holiday
Maggie Kocher
Finn Kohlmyer
Denmark Kroc
Ben Lee
Yelizaveta Levanovich
Emma Lu
Treesa Madakkattu
Alexis Mollema
Leon Paulson-Vu
Ian Parmele

Violin (continued)

Etta Pennington
Ava Pruitt
Olivia Ryu
Annabelle Steiner
Adam Thompson
Fisher Walling
Owen Wang
Caelan Warmuth
Eva Warner
Zoe Wicklund

Viola

Max Bodell
Asher Jeevanathan
Owen Jensen
Tuhina Mattoo
Diya Sajlar
Adam Whitesell
Jayden Xiao
Daniel Zhang

Cello

Cameron Cloutier
Isabella Dong
Donnie Falconer
Madeline Gamble
Thomas Grovendorf
Krithik Moorthy
Lily Nelson
Alyssa Ren
Aina Telintelo
Zachary Wang
Roger Yang
Olivia Zhou

Bass

Vincent Ballsrud
Stephen Wang

Buffalo High School Repertory Orchestra

Kristine Wiese, Director

Performance Selections

Allegro Festivo

Brian Holmes

Autumn Vows

Susan H. Day

About the Orchestra

The Buffalo High School Repertory Orchestra is a non-auditioned group of 52 students, most of whom have been studying their instruments since the 7th grade. Led by their teacher, Kristine Wiese, the group rehearses every day for 63 minutes. Students began their orchestra experience at Buffalo Community Middle School under the direction of Maddie Eicher. Buffalo High School has an enrollment of approximately 1750 students and is under the leadership of Mark Mischke. The Buffalo High School Repertory Orchestra is honored to make their debut at this special event.

Orchestra Members

Violin

Dania Algebory
Mackenzie
Amacher-White
Logan Borden
Haden Bursch
Lydia Carlisle
Liliana Coppes
Ty DuBois
Sophia Eisenzimmer
Tyler Gabrielson
Abbigail Grant
Gus Grotte
Brady Heinz
Alex Jendro
Mallory Johnson
Sienna Karvonen
Lily Kinches
Connor Kisner

Violin (continued)

Ailie Krueger
Charlotte Lamberts
Karly Larsen
Anna Larson
Claire Martin
Brielle McLaughlin Sebey
Margot Miller
Lucy Mills
Vanessa Perez
Elise Plocher
Mira Prell
Desirae Smith
Harlow Tierney
Kaden Xiong

Viola

Averi Hausladen
Stone Hoel
Kelsey Koodie
Laura Kuerten
Elsee Rausch
Kailynn Rousselange
Cora Smiglewski
Liam Tabbut
Kellen Warne

Cello

Maya Allen
Anna Baumgard
Briana Bieniek
Chloe Carnoy
Isaac Gustafson
Sophia Haapala
Elizabeth Kelly
Tolu Oyewole
Bridgette Sturgeon

Bass

Kaylee Anderson

Moorhead Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra

Brian Cole and Josh Biles, Directors

Performance Selections

On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss

David Holsinger

Fire in the Forge

Ted Allen

About the Orchestra

The Moorhead Middle School Orchestra was founded in 1928 by Minnesota Music Educator Association Hall of Fame charter member Margaret Newton. Currently there are 580 students enrolled in the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade orchestras. There are four seventh grade orchestras and three eighth grade orchestras that meet every day for 42 minutes. Orchestra students in fifth and sixth grade receive 120 minutes of instruction each week.

Moorhead's middle school orchestra students maintain an active performance schedule during the year. These include: four formal concerts, marching in the Moorhead homecoming parade, performing the National Anthem for sporting events and outreach performances in rural schools and nursing homes.

There are 2,100 students in Moorhead's Middle School and they are led by principals Tera Sistad, Amanda Henry, Jeremy Lapka and Cory Holtan. Brian Cole and Josh Biles are the orchestra teachers at the middle school. Anthony Eddleston and KC Thompson are the teachers at the high school.

Orchestra Members

Violin

Moussa Al
Mandalawi
Aubrey Arel
Barbara Arroyo
Rodriguez
Chistian Badillo
Ashton Baker
Zach Bertie
Kena Bjerken
Jett Blankenship
Reace Boll
Brea Borjas-Olds
Treyvon Carroll
Madi Dahl
Lily Damico
Claire Danuser
Nadia Davis
Kennady Fuentes
Callie Gast
Noah Hansen
Allie Haskins

Violin (continued)

Riley Heath
Samara Hendrickson
Sophia Johnson
Gabbi Kaluza
Lexi Kennedy
Ruddy Kermee
Stephen Kirugu
Liv Klinnert
Victoria Krabbenhoft
Jaxon Kreps
Leah Loegering
Sara Lundberg
Lizzie Mackowick
Carina Mario
Zoe Martin
Flora Nelson
Kelsea Noomon
Dylan O'Toole
Caitlyn Price

Violin (continued)

Zarah Rauch
Keegan Rausch
Macy Roaldson
Kyra Swanson
Owen Thomas
Anderson Vogt
Mara Waldron
Ellie Wallace
Kenley Weum

Viola

Nadia Adedokun
Reese Astrup
Elise Frosli
Mia Hagen
Ella Heinrich
Maddy Jerger
Jack Kanuch
Graeme Kulish
Briella Kvamme

Viola (continued)

Trenton Lussier
Amber Maki
Lyam Nelson
Lauren Palmer
Cullen Pink
Grace Rieniets
Ellie Rosslund
Sinda Sambo
Barrett Sokness
Kellen Sundet
Tenley Tollerud

Cello

Matilda Bergeson
Micah Blake
Maggie Burns
Elliot Culkins
Jameson Dombeck
Reese Goerd
Ella Haneca
Sawyer Herman

Cello (continued)

Ryan Houdek
Caleb Hovis
Taylor Hubert
Nathan Krogen
Kasey Kuipers
Isaac Leiseth
Ryan Mauritsen
Cassidy Moore
Rebekah Moran
Griffin Ogaard
Sophia Ramage
Jack Saarion
Mason Tourangeau
Micah Zimmerman

Bass

Evan Adams
Grace Israel
Griffin Jackson
Timothy Kreps
Makayla Rosenfeldt

Chippewa Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra

Brian Larson, Director

Performance Selections

Declarations

Jeffrey Bishop

Variations on a Well-Known Sea Chantey

Richard Stephan

About the Orchestra

The Chippewa Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra is composed of 81 students under the direction of Brian Larson. There are two sections of this orchestra that rehearse daily for 48 minutes. Students also receive lessons or sectionals taught by Daniel Keeler three days a week.

The Chippewa Middle School Eighth Grade Orchestra has performed at the MNSOTA State Middle Level Festival several times in previous years. Chippewa has 1,162 students in grades 6-8 led by principal Molly Hollihan. Other orchestra faculty in the Mounds View school district include Emily Anderson, Rosa Glade Arnold, Janet Elliott, Alex Hummel, Lucas Shogren, Kimberly Tura, and Juli Vig.

Orchestra Members

Violin

Mariam Ali
Nicole Anderson
Adrian Aranda
Brynn Arnholt
Adeline Bauer
Finley Boswell
Katelyn Centanni
Sophia Christopher
Julia Comnick
Sabrina Gage
Brooke Greaves
Jasper Hartzell
Savanah Hastreiter
Madelyn Howard
Lauren Hultgren
Noah Johnson
Shiven Kharidehal
Kadence Leopold
Elvis Machhar
Adelaide Miller
Nandana Nambiar
Lucy Neiwert
Callisto Nguyen
Lauren Oertel
Whitney Olsen
Grace Olson
Tiger Pan

Violin (continued)

Adeline Peterson
Hadley Powers
Malavika Prabhu
Sophia Romero Melgarejo
Jemmimah Rufus-Okomhanru
Rowan Sartori
Summer Saukko
Liang Sorman
Luna Spann-Crespo
Michael Stenlund
Annika Swanson
Sarah Tran
Diya Venugopal
Samuel Wahlberg
Avery Westerlund
Christopher Xu
Jessica Yu

Viola

Sampada Agarwal
Cora Gentry
Shreyasi Gupta
Ahnna Johansen
Christine Kim
Adeline Kohorst
Elsa Mazuelas
Jacob Moore
Reid Perkins
Liliana Peterson
Gavin Ratfield
Claire Secord
Giada Swan
Anders Swanson
Grayson Zimmermann

Cello

Elaina Crego
Anna Douglass
Elin Erickson
Maya Henderson
Riley Holly Wells
Juyoung Kim
Liam Landin
Eric Li
Remy Mills
Titus Moua
Addison Parker
Einar Settergren
Victoria Smiricinski
Johnrry Thao
Holden Then
Mitchell Wentink
Ariel Yu

Bass

Micah Prindle
Luca Sterk-Ciresi
Jacob Vanscoy

Minnetonka High School String Orchestra

Sarah Finn-Sommerfeld, Director

Performance Selection

Ghosts of Brandenburg

Richard Meyer

About the Orchestra

The Minnetonka School Orchestra program has been a part of the Minnetonka School district for over 30 years. The high school orchestra program currently has 5 orchestras, and all of our classes meet every day. The high school has approximately 3100 students enrolled under the leadership of our head principal, Jeffrey Erickson.

In the Minnetonka district, there are six elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. The orchestra teachers in the Minnetonka school district are Lissa Thomas (elementary), Mary Beth Huttlin (elementary), Jase Ginkel (elementary), Suzanne Feland (elementary), Daniel Ericksen (middle school), Michael Janning (middle school and high school), and Sarah Finn-Sommerfeld (high school).

Highlights of our program include our international tours for our upperclassmen orchestra and bands, participation in the MNSOTA Orchestra Festival, participation in the MSHSL Solo/Ensemble festivals, Lake Conference Orchestra Festival, and we have had several students accepted into both the Middle Level All State Orchestra, and the MMEA All State Orchestra programs each year.

Orchestra Members

Violin

Kendal Anderson
Hallie Bradshaw
Elsa Brashear
Sarah Duffey
Natalie Fitch
Charlie Gohman
Annika Graham
Audrey Hauser
Maeve Henderleiter
Mira Jayant
Stella Kelliher
Ruby Kirk
Kellen O'Connell
Alex Piant
Becca Rauen
Mila Sloan
Blake Sommerfeld
Zander Volby-Flor
Grace Zhou

Viola

Aydan Duong
Megan Eisenmann
Sophia Kronzer
Allison Lei
James Savage
Dani Sommer
Zachary Stellpflug

Cello

Larah Colon-Ortiz
Anna Hartwell
Leonidas Hawks
Adam Klobe
Rebecca Moss
Afton Murtha
Anh Nguyen
Andrew Ramaker
Fina Wagner

Bass

Sophie Bleser
Nadia Chose
Anais Froberg-Martinez
Evie Malec
William Martin
Luke Soneral

Owatonna Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra

Jennifer Bellefeuille, Director

Performance Selections

Conquistador!

Deborah Baker Monday

Fantasia for Strings

Elliot Del Borgo

About the Orchestra

Owatonna's instrumental instruction begins the summer before 4th grade for strings and the summer before 5th grade for winds and percussion. Students receive weekly pull-out group lessons in grades 4 - 9. This Owatonna 8th Grade Orchestra is comprised of 33 students. These students meet daily for 40 minutes as a large group and receive one 20 minute small group lesson weekly. Other string teachers in the district include Lisa Revier, who works with our youngest elementary string students and Sandra Justice who works with our high school students. This fall Owatonna was awarded the MNSOTA Meritorious string program award.

Orchestra Members

Violin

Miles Aase
Cayden Cahoon
Ingrid Demars
Thor Dotson
Nataly Fisher
Delaney Gomez
Jackson Holder
Leah Leckner
Clara Meier
Carter Ratcliff
Marlowe Rhodes
Maisy Sanford
Kailyn Voracek
Aubree Weber
Annika Wilke
Tayden Zimmerman

Viola

Jacob Gleason
Charlie Hansen
Grace Mazariego
Sofia Medina
Ian Proft
John Rivers
Maya Schiltz

Cello

Abigail Bassett
Anna Hagenson
Easton Korbel
Joash Packard
Jocelyn Rick
Zachary Roesner
Max Van Binsbergen

Bass

Kaelin Hernandez
Samantha Meier
Megan Wright

About MNSOTA and Middle Level Festival

The Minnesota String and Orchestra Teachers Association (MNSOTA) is the Minnesota Chapter of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). MNSOTA's Regional Middle Level Orchestra Festival events, held in March, offer young string students and their orchestra teachers the opportunity to play for and learn from each other, their adjudicators and clinicians in a non-competitive atmosphere.

A huge thanks goes to the Festival hosts, judges, and clinicians who shared their expertise at the three Regional Festival sites. This year's hosts were **Sarah Finn-Sommerfeld, Dan Ericksen, and Michael Janning** (Minnetonka High School), **Andrew Towsey-Grishaw** (College of St. Benedict) and **Rosa Glade Arnold** (Irondale High School). The judges this year were **Gary Wolfman** (retired) and **Emily Heuschele** (University of Minnesota). Our clinicians this year were **Andrew Towsey-Grishaw** (College of St. Benedict), **Jim Bartsch** (Minnesota Youth Symphonies), **Patricia Kelly** (Minnesota Youth Symphonies), **Mary Sorlie** (Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies), and **Laura Hebert** (Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies). Dan Mollick coordinated this year's Regional Festivals and Honors Concert at Orchestra Hall.

The Festival has been a two tier event for over twenty years. We are delighted that 28 orchestras from around the state participated in the Regional festivals. A long-time collaboration between MNSOTA and the Minnesota Orchestra, the Middle Level Festival Honors Concert seeks to honor, inspire and recognize groups whose performances received Superior with Distinction ratings from both judges at the Regional Middle Level Festival events.

Thank you to the Minnesota Orchestra and Orchestra Hall for partnering with MNSOTA for this event. During the day, each group was able to work with members of the Minnesota Orchestra for a 45-minute sectional. Each orchestra also had the opportunity to rehearse on stage prior to tonight's performance.

We would like to thank the many teachers, schools, administrators, parents, friends, family and community members who support and inspire these students every day! Special thanks to the Minnesota Orchestral Association for embracing this Festival and providing meaningful, intelligent and insightful leadership to the educators in the orchestra community. Thanks to the Minnesota Orchestra and staff members Sarah Flake and Jessica Lowry, Nick Peter, and Cassandra Swan for making the logistics of today run smoothly!

Minnesota String and Orchestra Teachers Association

Board of Directors

Christopher Jannings

President

Becky Plachy

President Elect

Faith Farr

String Notes Editor

Dan Mollick

Treasurer

Daniel Keeler

Secretary

David Kozamchak

Collegiate Chair & Mentorship Coordinator

Cristina Seaborn

Eclectic Styles Chair

Emily Heuschele

Membership Coordinator

Ray Shows

Chamber Music Chair

Deborah Sittko

Advisor Emeritus