

COMMUNITY ORCHESTRAS IN MINNESOTA

compiled by Max Clifford

We hope this list of community orchestras will help teachers find an ensemble for themselves or for their adult students. The information is correct as far as we know at time of printing; however there are bound to be errors and omissions. Please send additions and corrections to stringnotes@mnsota.org for future publication. [ed.]

Twin Cities Organizations

Bethel Philharmonic Community Orchestra: Angela Hanson, cond.; reh. Mondays 7-10 P.M. Bethel University, Roseville. A full symphonic orchestra, open to members of all ages, both from Bethel (students, staff, faculty, and alumni) and the general public who share a passion for exploring great symphonic music in a meaningful, challenging, and supportive atmosphere. Auditions are open at the beginning of the fall semester or by arrangement. Contact Angela Hanson adh68496@bethel.edu

Bloomington Symphony Orchestra: Manny Laureano, cond.; reh. Sundays 6:15-9:00 P.M.; placement by audition and recruitment; personnel must contribute financially to the organization; 952-563-8573; info@bloomingtonsymphony.org; www.bloomingtonsymphony.org

Century Chamber Orchestra: Eric Graham, cond.; reh. Mondays 7:00-9:30 P.M., Century College, 3300 Century Ave., White Bear Lake; intermediate to advanced musicians; open to college students and other adult players; contact cond. to audition: eric.graham@century.edu

Chapel Strings: string orchestra with piano and flute; reh. Mondays 7:00-8:30 Sept. to May; Shalom Home East, 740 Kay Ave., St. Paul; contact pegthomas@gmail.com

Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis: conductor search ongoing; reh. Tuesdays 6:45-9:00 P.M., Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd: 4801 France Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN, 55410; advanced community/semi-pro orchestra; schedule auditions online; www.civicorchestramppls.org

Dakota Valley Symphony: Steven J. Ramsey, cond.; contact orchestra@dakotavalleysymphony.org for more information; www.dakotavalleysymphony.org

East Metro Symphony Orchestra: Craig Hara, cond.; reh. Tuesdays 6-8:30, Sept.-June, reh. locations vary; adult orchestra; www.emsorch.org

Golden Valley Orchestra: David Carillo, cond.; reh. Mondays 6:45-9:30 P.M., Brookview Community Center, 316 Brookview Parkway, Golden Valley; auditions scheduled for each concert cycle; email auditions@gvomusic.org or info@gvomusic.org; www.gvomusic.org

Jewish Community Center Symphony Orchestra: Chi-Chi Lin Bestmann, cond.; reh. Wednesdays 6:30-9:00 P.M.; dues: member \$50/non-Member \$90; <https://minnesotajcc.org/art-culture/symphony-orchestra/>

Kenwood Symphony Orchestra: Yuri Ivan cond.; reh. Mondays 6:45-9:15 P.M., Washburn High School, South Minneapolis; intermediate to advanced community orchestra with audition process and \$110 annual dues for membership, scholarships available. The KSO mission is to play, share, and inspire great music by: offering performance opportunities; programming appealing repertoire; performing free concerts; including underserved communities. Auditions email kenwoodsymphonyorchestra@gmail.com and include phone number. www.kenwoodsymphonyorchestra.org. Phone inquiries can be directed to Julie Pronovici, Treasurer 763-535-9824

Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra: Yuri Ivan, cond.; reh. Thursdays 7:00-9:00 P.M., Southwest HS band room, 4717 W. 47th St., Minneapolis; no audition, dues \$100 per semester; www.lhco.org

Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra: Steven Amundson, cond.; reh. Tuesdays 7:00-9:30 P.M., Central Lutheran Church, 333 S. 12th St., Minneapolis; advanced community orchestra; 5-6 performances per year (usually on Sunday afternoons); annual contributions (dues) are expected by members of the orchestra. Email auditions@msomn.org or call 612-567-6724 for auditions; executive.director@msomn.org; www.msomn.org

Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra: Brian Edward Dowdy, cond.; reh. Tuesdays 7-9:30, Lake of the Isles Episcopal Church: 1917 Logan Ave S, Minneapolis; LGBTQIA+ orchestra, open to all; come to a rehearsal to see if it's a good fit; member dues \$75; 612- 656-5676 or fill out online form; www.mnphil.org

Minnetonka Chamber Orchestra: Lara MacLean, cond.; reh. Mondays 7:00-9:00 P.M., Arts Center, Minnetonka High School, 18285 Highway 7, Minnetonka; no audition required; 952-401-5954; info@musicassociation.org; www.musicassociation.org

Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra: Jeffrey Sterling, cond.; reh. Sundays 6:30 P.M., Arts Center, Minnetonka High School, 18285 Highway 7, Minnetonka; advanced to semi-professional; 952-401-5954; info@musicassociation.org; www.musicassociation.org

Mississippi Valley Chamber Orchestra: conductor search ongoing; reh. Tuesday evenings, Inver Grove Heights Middle School, 8167 Cahill Ave E, Inver Grove Heights; advanced community adult orchestra; rolling auditions; www.mississippivalleyorchestra.com

Northeast Orchestra: Jeffrey Stirling, cond.; reh. Fridays, 9:30-11:30 A.M., St. Williams Church, Fridley; no audition, adult orchestra; interest form on website; www.neorch.org/our-openings

Northern Symphony Orchestra: conductor search, with guest conductors in '24-25 (see website); rehearsals: Sundays, 6:30-9:00 P.M. at Anoka HS. Community orchestra. Auditions: yes, but not stressful (an orchestra excerpt or two, and a conversation about experience in orchestras); no dues but many musicians donate through Give to the Max Day. Contact: Ed Schaeffe, NSO orchestra manager 763-300-0087, northernsymphonyorchestra@gmail.com; northernsymphonyorchestra.org

Roseville String Ensemble: Amir Kats, artistic director; reh. schedule posted on website; amateur players, intermediate level to advanced; info@rosevillestrings.org; www.rosevillestrings.org

St. Anthony Civic Orchestra: Carol Jensen, cond.; reh. Thursday evenings, St. Anthony Community Center, 3301 Silver Lake Rd. NE, St. Anthony; no audition; \$110 annual dues; cmj01a@msn.com

St. Paul Civic Symphony: Jeffrey Stirling, music dir.; for audition information email music-director@spcsmusic.org; www.spcsmusic.org/contact

Wayzata Symphony Orchestra: Hannah Schendel, cond.; reh. Sun. 1:00-3:30 P.M.; placement by audition and recruitment; annual dues req.; rehearsals and performances at various venues in the West Metro; wso.exec.dir@gmail.com, www.thewso.org

Woodbury Chorus and Orchestra: Cindy Martinson and Richard Alton, cond.; reh. Sat. 9:00 A.M. to noon, New Life Academy, Woodbury; adult orchestra, no audition necessary; wco@w-c-o.org, www.w-c-o.org

Out-State Organizations

Austin Symphony Orchestra: Stephen J. Ramsey, cond.; reh. Mondays 7-9:30; paid positions. 507-460-3678, www.austinmnsymphony.org

Bemidji Symphony Orchestra: Dr. Beverly Everett, cond.; email gretchrusch@yahoo.com for audition information; www.bemidjisymphony.org

Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra: Paul Niemisto, cond.; interested musicians email paul.niemisto@gmail.com for more information; <http://northfieldartsguild.org/arts/music/cvro-2/>

Central MN Community Orchestra: St. Cloud Public Library; Michael Zellgert cond.; reh. most Thursdays 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. The CMCO is for adults who are looking to continue playing after graduating high school, or return to their string instrument after not playing for years. We are free to join, and don't audition, but our requirements are proficiency in reading music of your instrument, and orchestral experience. Current schedule at: <https://www.thecmco.org/schedule>.

Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra: Dirk Meyer, cond.; 218-623-3776; visit www.dsso.com for current openings

Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra: Christopher Zimmerman, cond.; 701-478-3676; visit www.fmsymphony.org for current openings

Fergus Falls Civic Orchestra: Community orchestra, no audition, no dues. Rehearsals two Sundays and the weekend before the performance. Conductor: Craig Peterson. Contact: [Facebook.com/FFCivicOrch](https://www.facebook.com/FFCivicOrch), 218-736-5453, c_peterson@fergusotters.org

Heartland Symphony Orchestra, Brainerd/Little Falls: HSO is a community orchestra with no player dues. No audition needed for adults. High school students do audition. Rehearsal/concert info: 3 concert cycles per year (October, December, March/April), 6-7 Thursday night rehearsals per cycle, 7:00-9:30 P.M.; concerts and rehearsals take place in both Brainerd and Little Falls. Conductor: Ryan Webber. Contact: 800-826-1997, heartlandsymphony@gmail.com, heartlandsymphony.com

Itasca Symphony Orchestra: Pedro Oviedo, cond.; 218-327-5781; contact info@itascaorchestra.org for audition information; www.itascaorchestra.org

Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra: 218-461-8669; lscoduluthinfo@gmail.com, www.lakesuperiorchamberorchestra.com

Mankato Symphony Orchestra: Ernesto Estigarribia, cond.;

507-625-8880; visit www.mankatosymphony.org/auditions for audition info.

Mesabi Symphony Orchestra, Virginia MN: 501(c)3; semi-professional; no audition required, unless you seek a paid principal position; no yearly dues, but members are asked to make a donation they can afford on Give to the Max Day. Artistic Director and Conductor is Benjamin Nilles. Rehearsals take place at Rock Ridge High School in Virginia, MN on Mondays from 7-9 P.M., with occasional rehearsals on Thursdays. 3-4 Performances per season take place on weekends. Contact: 218-290-9877, board@mesabisymphonyorchestra.org, www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org

Mesabi Chamber Orchestra, Virginia MN: Offshoot of Mesabi Symphony; primarily adult beginners and some school aged students who do not have an orchestra at their school. Meets Mondays from 5:30-6:30 P.M. at Rock Ridge High School in Virginia, MN. Same contact info as above.

Rochester Symphony Orchestra: Chia-Hsuan Lin, cond.; 507-286-8742; info@rochestersymphony.org; <https://rochestersymphony.org>

St. Cloud Symphony: Hisham Bravo Groover, cond. 320-252-7276; email jpattock@stcloudsymphony.com to request repertoire lists or schedule and audition; www.stcloudsymphony.com

St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra: Dr. Kristin Tjornehoj, cond. info@scvsymphony.org, <https://scvsymphony.org>

Southwest Minnesota Orchestra, Marshall, MN: Dr. Daniel Rieppel, cond. Reh. Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:30 P.M. in the SMSU Fine Arts Building. We are a community orchestra supported by Southwest Minnesota State University; college students and community members welcome. Contact: Daniel.rieppel@smsu.edu, 507-537-7139, southwestminnesotaorchestra.org

Summer Symphony, Fairmont MN (1 hour south of Mankato). Directed by Katie Hoaglund hoaglund.katie@apps.fairmont.k12.mn.us. Register through the Community Education Website (listed under "community events" when summer offerings are posted) <https://fairmont.revtrak.net/Community-Education-1002/>. Rehearsals M/Th in June & July, concert in mid-July. Community orchestra, no audition, adults & students welcome. Free to participate. This is a very collaborative, welcoming group. We are diverse in age, instrumentation, and repertoire selection.

Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra: Paula A. Ulicsni Halvorson, cond.; to join: Strings: suterm@willmar.k12.mn.us, Woodwinds: clarinet4fun@gmail.com, Brass: karno23@yahoo.com, Percussion: KLBen-son@protonmail.com

Max Clifford teaches in the Wayzata School District and serves MNSOTA as Membership Coordinator. ‡