MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

Education & Community Engagement
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Mission

The Minnesota Orchestra has been committed to educational programming for over a century.

Today, its Education and Community Engagement Department uses symphonic music as a catalyst to enrich our community by bringing people together, creating meaningful connections to the Minnesota Orchestra, and inspiring exploration and growth through engagements in Orchestra Hall, the community and digital spheres.
Greetings from the Minnesota Orchestra Education & Community Engagement Department!

We hope that you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy in these difficult times. Although the pandemic has brought many changes to the Orchestra, one thing that has not altered is our commitment to serving as a resource for our schools, families and community.

We are excited to share with you our programs planned for the 2020–21 season, including both in-person and digital options. Please note that this season’s program lineup may change if adjustments are deemed necessary to protect the health and safety of our audiences, musicians, staff and partners. Whatever the next year may bring, we will do our best to continue offering opportunities to learn more about music, enhance your personal wellbeing and enjoy orchestral or chamber music together with others.

Thank you for your interest in engaging with the Minnesota Orchestra. We look forward to connecting with you during the 2020–21 season!

Sincerely,

Jessica Ryan

DEPARTMENT STAFF
Jessica Ryan, Director of Education & Community Engagement
Michael Mossaad, Manager of Education Programs
Adam Romey, Education & Community Engagement Coordinator

CONTACT INFORMATION
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Students & Teachers

YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS

Started in 1911 by the Young People’s Symphony Concert Association, Young People’s Concerts have been at the heart of the Minnesota Orchestra’s efforts to engage and inspire young audiences.

Each one-hour concert is developed with interactive elements and themes designed to make the experience fun, accessible and enriching for students.

YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS ARE SUPPORTED BY:

PHOTOS: Courtesy Perry
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YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERT RESOURCES

CURRICULUM: Free curricula are provided for teachers and homeschool groups to prepare their students for the concert experience.

GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA: An online tool that introduces students to the orchestra’s different instruments. It includes photos, instrument descriptions and short videos with Minnesota Orchestra musicians.

WORKSHOPS: For the 2020–21 season, we are offering free, digital workshops prior to select Young People’s Concerts. Workshops will cover curriculum activities and information about the concepts explored during the concert experiences.
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2020–21 YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERT SEASON

MEET THE INSTRUMENTS
November 2020
Grades 1–6
In this collection of videos, get to know the families and instruments of the orchestra.

AMERICAN VOICES
December 2020
Grades 3–6
What is American music? In this online experience, students will learn about many unique voices and experiences as they explore a diverse array of styles of American music.

MUSICAL MENAGERIE
February 2021
Grades 1–6
Go on a musical journey to meet animals and experience their habitats!

INSIDE THE COMPOSER’S MIND
Spring 2021
Grades 3–6
How do composers put together musical building blocks—tonal and rhythmic patterns, combinations of harmonies, melodies, textures and more—to communicate with audiences?
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KINDER KONZERTS ➞
For over 40 years, the FRIENDS of the Minnesota Orchestra Kinder Kことnttracts™ programs have welcomed young guests to Orchestra Hall to experience a narrated musical story based on a children’s book, performed by an ensemble of musicians from the Minnesota Orchestra.

During this time of stay-at-home learning, a program featuring the story One-Dog Canoe has been adapted for free, virtual enjoyment.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS ➞
We offer free in-person musician visits to K–12 schools and colleges/universities within a 25-mile radius of Orchestra Hall. For the 2020–21 season, we are offering free digital musician visits to organizations throughout the state.

Visits are prioritized based on alignment between Orchestra and instructor goals, as well as musician availability. If you would like to request an individual musician or small ensemble visit for your organization, please fill out our inquiry form.
Students & Teachers

OPEN REHEARSALS
You’ve attended Minnesota Orchestra concerts before, but have you ever wondered what it’s like when the musicians are rehearsing together to prepare for the concert? This is an opportunity for teachers to bring their ensembles (grades 6–12) to attend a real working rehearsal with the Minnesota Orchestra! After the rehearsal, we’ll have a Q & A session in the Target Atrium with some orchestra musicians.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Open Rehearsals have been suspended for the 2020–21 season, but we look forward to welcoming students back to Orchestra Hall in future years.

SIDE-BY-SIDES
Each year, a side-by-side rehearsal is held with one of our partner youth ensembles. Students from MMEA All-State Orchestra, Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies, Minnesota Youth Symphonies and the University of Minnesota Symphony Orchestra receive mentorship from their Minnesota Orchestra stand partner while playing onstage at Orchestra Hall.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our 2020–21 Side-by-Side rehearsal has been canceled, but we look forward to making music alongside students again in future years.
Students & Teachers

STUDENT AND EDUCATOR DISCOUNTS

Various discounted offers are available for students and educators.

SYMPHONIC ADVENTURES FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Symphonic Adventures bring the entire Orchestra to Twin Cities metro-area high schools for dynamic, one-hour concerts designed for secondary students. Each program is hosted by Orchestra violist Sam Bergman, who will introduce students to the music, musicians and key concepts before the symphonic work is performed.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Symphonic Adventures has been suspended for the 2020-21 season, but we look forward to visiting local high schools again in future years. In the meantime, please visit our website and learn how you can request a Symphonic Adventures program for your school.
Minnesota Orchestra at Home

OUR NEW DIGITAL HOME >>

Visit our new resource hub for educators, students and families for at-home performances, playlists, activities and more.

We are adding new content each week, so be sure to bookmark this page and visit it often.
Families

SENSORY-FRIENDLY AND RELAXED FAMILY CONCERTS

We offer Sensory-Friendly and Relaxed Family Concerts for audiences of all ages and abilities, including individuals on the autism spectrum and those with sensory sensitivities. Each concert takes place in a relaxed environment where audience members are welcome to be who they are as they enjoy music together with family and friends.

Our Sensory-Friendly Concerts feature individual musicians or small ensembles. Relaxed Family Concerts feature the Minnesota Orchestra in Orchestra Hall’s main auditorium, plus a variety of pre- and post-concert activities.

SUPPORTED BY:

Additional support provided by OneNet Global

PHOTOS: Joseph Scheller, Greg Helgeson
PRE/POST-CONCERT PROGRAMS

We collaborate with partners to curate pre- and post-concert experiences that create and deepen connections between the Minnesota Orchestra and the community, including free concert preview discussions with musicians and guest artists, performances, interactive exhibits and more.

See what’s happening at your concert, or learn how you can partner to present an event at minnesotaorchestra.org/experiences.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We offer free in-person musician visits to arts organizations, afterschool programs, community centers, healthcare facilities and other nonprofits within a 25-mile radius of Orchestra Hall. For the 2020-21 season, we are offering free, digital musician visits to organizations throughout the state.

Visits are prioritized based on alignment between Orchestra and community goals, as well as musician availability. Please complete our inquiry form if you would like to request an individual musician or small ensemble visit.
COMMUNITY

MUSIC & MINDFULNESS

Become more present, grounded and in the moment—with music. Our Yoga Class series offers opportunities to practice yoga with a local instructor while a Minnesota Orchestra musician or duo plays musical selections that inspire body and soul.

We also offer guided Meditation & Music, presented in collaboration with the University of Minnesota’s Earl E. Bakken Center for Spirituality and Healing.

Each session features a musician or small ensemble from the Minnesota Orchestra and is led by University of Minnesota mindfulness faculty member Mariann Johnson.
FANTASY CAMP
The Minnesota Orchestra Fantasy Camp provides the opportunity for talented amateur musicians in the community to live the Minnesota Orchestra experience—from backstage to onstage. Started in 2011, this camp gives attendees the opportunity to perform with Minnesota Orchestra musicians, and experience first-hand how concerts go from idea to reality.

ROSEMARY & DAVID GOOD FELLOWSHIP
The Rosemary and David Good Fellowship is a two-year program intended to enhance opportunities for African American, Latin American and Native American professional orchestral musicians early in their careers and to encourage greater diversity in the orchestral field. The program includes performance opportunities in the Orchestra, lessons with Minnesota Orchestra musicians, mock auditions and more.
Community

COMMON CHORDS ➤

Through the Common Chords program, the Orchestra immerses itself in a single Minnesota community for a week. Orchestra staff develop goals and activities with a steering committee of community volunteers.

Musical activities take place in a variety of settings ranging from concert halls and schools to coffee shops, pubs and community centers. Previous host communities have included Grand Rapids, Willmar, Hibbing, Bemidji, Detroit Lakes, Mankato and North Minneapolis.

Stay tuned to see where the Minnesota Orchestra will visit next!