

## **NVYO '25-26 SYMPHONY : Welcome; Rehearsal etiquette; Ground rules!**

Welcome to NVYO Symphony 2025-26! I'm Dr. Sütterlin and I'll be your orchestra conductor for the coming season! We take pride in being an ensemble that is striving for **musical excellence** and sharing some of the most beautiful, powerful, and meaningful musical experiences with each other; this will require a lot of **hard work, dedication, and discipline** from each and every one of us.



We also take pride in the **strong community** we will build. Most important are the following values: **dignity, respect, care, trust, and grace**: As members of the NVYO community, we treat each other with dignity and respect. Our top priority must be our own and everyone else's safety and health—that includes physical, mental, and emotional health. We agree to make our best efforts to learn about each other; learn to understand each other better, and build trust; respect each other even and especially in disagreements; care about each other, and appreciate each other as **individuals with our very own unique strengths, dreams, goals, attributes, quirks, and flaws**, as well as members of a global community in which we are dedicated to contributing **towards peace and harmony** rather than discord and negativity; to encounter each other with **grace and forgiveness**.

**There is no place for EGO in our ensemble.** EVERYONE is important, and EVERYONE is contributing in their own beautiful and unique and individual ways. **Nothing, absolutely nothing that we do here is a competition.** We are all at different stages in our musical training and journey. We are ALL here to learn, to grow, to explore. We will help each other get better. Let's create an environment where you can ask for help; and an environment in which we are proactive about offering help. In order to create the kind of environment necessary to create truly great and meaningful art, we need to hold ourselves accountable to be sensible, sensitive, and at all times gracious, kind, and caring. **Each and everyone of us will always be better at something than someone else; and there will also always be someone else that will be better than us at something.** The absolute best thing you can do for yourself is to internalize that **you shouldn't compare yourself to others**; and to approach every encounter, everything you do or say, from a standpoint of **kindness**. Will each and every one of us, including myself, make mistakes along the way? Oh you bet—that's where we will want to practice grace, and be quick to forgive each other, as well as be quick to apologize and reflect. **There is absolutely no place for mocking, hate, narrow-mindedness, or ignorance here.** Every day is a chance to try to be a better, kinder, more compassionate version of ourselves.

In this orchestra community we take **great pride** in being **welcoming, inclusive, and in being life-long learners**. I want everyone to feel comfortable, welcome, appreciated, and that they belong and are a valued member of this wonderful family.

**Returning students: please ACTIVELY** make your new friends feel welcome, and part of this family, and make sure to get to know EVERYONE. And please embrace the concept that every year, this community will be different—because the people that make the community are different!

## Musical Expectations ( here - and in any professional ensemble! )

- Always **prepare**. Rehearsals are not for you to learn *your* part—that happens before and outside of rehearsals. What are rehearsals there for? To learn how all the parts fit together, and to learn how your part relates to others.

### **Rehearsal etiquette:**

- No **talking** while playing or actively rehearsing. I will make plenty of space for us to discuss, however, and we will be involved in the creative and interpretive process together a lot! Rehearsals are also often like a lab where we experiment, try things out. Ultimately, we are here to learn together every week.
- Quickly stop playing when I stop you to give a brief instruction, actively listen to the instruction, **EVEN if I'm addressing an instrument or sections other than yours**, and quickly be ready to play again.
- As soon as my hands go up, your instrument needs to be up—you are ready to play.
- Strings: inside players take notes in the music, and turn pages. Write notes and observations even while we play - for instance when noticing a slow down or push forward from me.
- **Bowing** change suggestions are to be discussed with me. Conversations about bowings are generally to happen during breaks or outside of rehearsals.
- Give it ***your all*** every time—rehearsing is always also performing. That doesn't mean that you can't save your chops and your energy from time to time—but mentally you always have to be fully engaged in the creative process
- Stay actively engaged at all times— I will rehearse in a professional and quick pace, and it is our goal for us all to make the most out of every single second we get to work together.

## **Let's Get To Work!! :-)**

- Dr. Kevin Sütterlin, NVOYO Artistic Director & NVOYO Symphony conductor

## **Welcome to NVOYO Symphony 2025-26 , Season 15: Encore!**

*Questions? Ask Dr. Sütterlin - and/or assistant conductor Mr. Devon Tucker*



Devon Tucker (L), Dr. Kevin Sütterlin (R)

Additional office staff notes: please make sure you check the [bit.ly/symphonydoc](https://bit.ly/symphonydoc) google doc for ways to prepare for rehearsal, and report absences in advance so the conductors and rest of the orchestra can plan accordingly!