NORTHERN VALLEY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

resound

NOV 15
4PM

NORTHERN VALLEY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

FALL CONCERT

Symphony & Philharmonic orchestras






TICKETS : pay what you can
$5 suggested minimum

nvyo.org

Empire Arts Center
415 Demers Ave
Grand Forks

Community Foundation

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS arts.gov

NORTH Dakota Be Legendary. | Council on the Arts

CITY OF GRAND FORKS NORTH DAKOTA

Visit Greater GRAND FORKS grand forks, nd | east grand forks, mn

This program is supported by a grant from the Iseminger Fund for the Arts at the Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Region.
This program is supported in part by a grant from the Neel Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Region.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the City of Grand Forks

NVYO ARTISTIC STAFF

LEON KOBAYASHI, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & SYMPHONY CONDUCTOR



Leon Kobayashi is a Japanese American conductor and violinist whose work spans symphonic, operatic, educational, and community settings. He is committed to building orchestras that combine artistic ambition with collaboration, curiosity, and meaningful connections to their communities. In addition to his role as Artistic Director and Symphony Conductor of Northern Valley Youth Orchestras in Grand Forks, North Dakota, he leads the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, where he also teaches violin.

Leon earned his Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Minnesota, where he also served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant. During his time there, he conducted the University Philharmonic Orchestra and Gold Campus Orchestra and worked extensively in opera. His operatic experience includes *Street Scene, Hänsel und Gretel*, *Le Nozze di Figaro,* and *Dream of the Red Chamber.*

Previously, Leon served as Music Director of the Vanderbilt Commodore Orchestra, where he helped rebuild the orchestra following the pandemic and developed it into a high-achieving musical community open to students from across the university. He also served as assistant conductor of the Vanderbilt University Orchestra and Opera Theatre. His artistic development has also included studies at the Monteux School and Music Festival, which he attended on full scholarship, and the Conducting Institute and Wintergreen Music's LEAD Cooperative Program. His principal conducting teachers include Mark Russell Smith, Ernesto Estigarribia, and Robin Fountain, with additional mentorship from Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Andrew Litton, Tito Muñoz, Ming Luke, Alexander Mickelthwate, and James Holmes

Leon is also an active violinist and has performed with professional ensembles including the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Quad City Symphony Orchestra, Mankato Symphony Orchestra, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and Sioux City Symphony Orchestra. He studied violin with Stephen Miahky and Steven Moeckel. Originally from Chandler, Arizona, Leon is particularly passionate about repertoire that brings different musical traditions and communities into conversation. He believes that the orchestra is a living and evolving art form that thrives when artistic excellence is joined by education, inclusivity, and genuine connection with its audience.

MS. KARA HARTTEN, PHILHARMONIC CONDUCTOR



Kara Hartten began her musical studies at the age of five in her hometown of Redding, Connecticut. She earned both a Bachelor of Music Performance and a Bachelor of Arts in French from DePauw University, followed by a Master of Music in cello performance and instrumental conducting from the University of North Dakota. Ms. Hartten has been involved as a conductor with NVYO since 2015, starting with the Allegro Orchestra followed by the current Philharmonic Orchestra in 2018. She is presently an orchestra teacher in the Grand Forks Public Schools and performs regularly with the Fargo Moorhead Symphony Orchestra as well as the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Hartten enjoys teaching a robust private cello studio during the school year as well as teaching cello during orchestra week at the International Music Camp. She is a regular guest conductor for UND's annual Cello & Bass Day and a past conductor of the Grand Forks Community Orchestra.

As a cellist, Kara performed with the UND Student String Quartet and UND's Red River Trio, a student ensemble that toured in May of 2014 in Tokyo, Japan and Shanghai, China. Kara has studied with Drs. Simona Barbu, Darilyn Manring, Yeon-Ji Yun, and Eric Edberg, and performed in master classes with renowned cellists such as Amit Peled, Matt Haimovitz, Nicholas Photinos,Emilio Colon and Laszlo Varga. She performed the Lalo cello concerto with the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra in 2007 as the winner of its concerto competition. In 2011, she played Mendelssohn's Octet in E-flat major with internationally known cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

MR. DEVON TUCKER, SYMPHONY ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR 2026-27



Devon Tucker grew up in Wadena, MN and graduated from Sebeka High School, where he was active in band and drumline. He attended NDSU where as a music education major he participated in University Band, Wind Symphony, Woodwind Quintet, University Symphony Orchestra, Gold Star Marching Band (drum major for 2 seasons), and other ensembles, and played bassoon with the Greater Grand Forks Symphony. In 2023 he earned a Master of Arts in Music from the University of Mary. Mr. Tucker is a band instructor in the Grand Forks Public Schools; he previously taught in Thompson, ND and at Sacred Heart school in East Grand Forks, MN. A bassoonist with the 188th Army Band with a current rank of Sergeant, Mr. Tucker plays in a number of 188th Army band ensembles on bassoon, sousaphone, and horn; and is the unit band librarian. In addition to his teaching and military careers, Mr. Tucker is also active as a performing musician and teacher in the Grand Forks community.

MS. KATIE STERMER, PHILHARMONIC ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR 2026-27



Katie Stermer grew up in East Grand Forks, MN. An active musician and athlete, she was also one of the first brass players to audition for the newly-formed Northern Valley Youth Orchestras in 2011. She attended the University of South Dakota where she was a music education major performing in the symphonic band, symphony orchestra, jazz band, and marching band. She earned her Masters Degree in Music Education from Florida State University in 2023.

Ms. Stermer is an active musician, music educator, and advocate for education, who taught grades 6-8 band at GFPS South Middle School from 2020-2024 and Montevideo Middle School from 2018-2020. She served on the North Dakota Music Educators Board as the Eastern Band Representative during the 2023-24 school year. Currently, Ms. Stermer is working at the University of North Dakota in the area of Outreach for Teacher Recruitment and Retention in the College of Education. She is thankful to be a part of the wonderful music-making experiences that NVYO has to offer!

NORTHERN VALLEY
YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

November 15, 2026 • 4:00 pm • Empire Arts Center • Grand Forks, ND

PLEASE SILENCE ELECTRONIC DEVICES • NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY OR VIDEO RECORDING.



Note: out of respect to the performers and other audience members,
please do not talk during the performance.
If you must leave, please exit or enter only during applause, between pieces.



PHILHARMONIC

KARA HARTTEN, CONDUCTOR • KATIE STERMER, ASSISTANT

***Romeo and Juliet* Overture** (1869; revised 1880) — **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)**

arr. Richard Meyer

Two Meditations on Nature — **Will Marion Cook (1869-1944)**

As the Sunflower Turns to the Sun (1904) • Rain Song (1912) — *arr. C. L. Thomas*

"**O Mio Babbino Caro" from *Two Puccini Arias*** (1918) — **Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)**

arr. Chris Bernotas

The Magnificent Seven (1960) — **Elmer Bernstein (1922-2004)**

arr. Roy Philippe

there will be a brief 5-minute intermission to reset the stage.

SYMPHONY

LEON KOBAYASHI, CONDUCTOR • DEVON TUCKER, ASSISTANT

***Carmen Suites No. 1 and No. 2,* selections** (1885, 1887) — **Georges Bizet (1838-1875)**

Les Toréadors
Prelude - Aragonaise
Intermezzo
Habañera
La Garde Montante
Danse Bohême

Conga del Fuego Nuevo (2005) — **Arturo Marquèz (b. 1950)**

C trumpets, A clarinets, piccolo, & percussion played today acquired via grants from the Neel Family fund & Myra Foundation

MANY THANKS TO: Empire Arts Center & staff • Grand Forks Central HS & staff • East Grand Forks High School & staff • Behls Photography, Cecilia Lysne • MJD Photography, Monica Danielson • Ely's Ivy • Tyler Smith • Corey Thompson • *these wonderful students & their school & private instructors* • and the many other supporters, sponsors, donors, and grantors listed in this program.

Following today's performance, NVYO voting members are invited to a brief annual meeting
and presentation in the auditorium. Thank you!
voting members: parents of minor participants, season participants 19 and older, staff, coaches & board

please also join us for a reception in the gallery after the concert.

Program notes

Romeo and Juliet Overture, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) arr. Richard Meyer

Inspired by Shakespeare's classic play, **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**'s *Romeo and Juliet is* a "fantasy overture." Rather than following the play scene by scene, Tchaikovsky cleverly weaves three main musical ideas together to represent the story's core themes of family feuds and tragic romance. The piece opens with a slow, solemn introduction meant to represent Friar Lawrence. Peace is shattered with a fast, aggressive section depicting the violent street fights between the Montague and Capulet families, where accented chords from the brass and percussion mimic clashing swords. Out of the chaos emerges one of the most famous melodies in history: the soaring love theme. Finally, the piece combines the two themes, then transitions into a slow, somber funeral march, ending the performance with a powerful reminder of how the families' hatred destroyed the young lovers. Richard Meyer's arrangement keeps all these elements and shortens the work to be more accessible for a student orchestra.

Two Meditations on Nature, Will Marion Cook (1869-1944) arr. C.L. Thomas

Two Meditations on Nature explores the beauty of the natural world while highlighting **Will Marion Cook'**s groundbreaking style. Cook was a legendary African American composer famous for blending European classical structures with early Black American traditions like ragtime and syncopation. Cook was also a talented classically-trained violinist who attended Oberlin Conservatory, learned from Antonin Dvořàk, and studied in Berlin. Cook later turned to turned to conducting and composing Broadway and popular music after facing frustration and discrimination as a classical performer. He mentored and shaped generations of musicians, most notably Duke Ellington and Eubie Blake, laying the groundwork for orchestral jazz and modern American popular music. This specific arrangement by C.L. Thomas, commissioned by the Upper Midwest Black Composer Revival Consortium, reimagines Cook's original vocal pieces as an expressive work for orchestra. "As the Sunflower Turns to the Sun" is warm, gentle meditation that mimics a flower tracking the morning light. "Rain Song" picks up the pace, shifting into the early jazz and ragtime styles that Cook championed during his career.

"O Mio Babbino Caro," Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924) arr. Chris Bernotas

Composer **Giacomo Puccini** was an Italian composer known primarily for his operas, including Tosca, Manon Lescaut, La Bohème, and more. Widely regarded as the greatest and most successful proponent of Italian opera after Verdi, he was descended from a long line of church composers. He studied at the Milan Conservatory and had a successful career, despite a very complicated personal life, and lived a grand lifestyle."O Mio Babbino Caro" is one of the world's most famous melodies.. Taken from the opera *Gianni Schicchi,* this piece is a heartfelt plea from a young woman named Lauretta to her father, begging him to let her marry the person she loves. The aria, in the middle of a one-act comic opera about family greed and deception, effectively softens Lauretta's father's heart and he agrees to her request. Originally written as a solo for an operatic soprano voice, it is arranged beautifully by Chris Bernotas in a way that shares the melody across the sections of the orchestra.

The Magnificent Seven, Elmer Bernstein (1922-2004) arr. Roy Phillippe

The Magnificent Seven features one of the most memorable and thrilling themes in cinema history. Originally written for the iconic 1960 movie of the same name, the music captures the spirit of adventure, galloping horses, and wide-open landscapes. The theme was also used for the end credits in the 2016 remake. This arrangement by Roy Phillippe translates the Hollywood film score into an energetic concert piece designed for student orchestra. Combining a relentless rhythmic drive with soaring melodies, *The Magnificent Seven* maintains its momentum right up until the final chord. In a career that spanned over five decades, American film music legend **Elmer Bernstein** composed some of the most recognizable themes for the cinema and screen, including over 150 original film scores, and music for nearly 80 television productions. He received an Academy Award and multiple Golden Globe and Grammy awards and influenced many of the next generation of film composers.

Carmen Suites No. 1 and No. 2, selections, Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Best known for his operas in a career cut short by his early death at the age of 36, French Romantic-era composer **Georges Bizet** achieved early musical success as a child and young adult at the Paris Conservatoire, won the Prix de Rome, then struggled to win critical acclaim as an adult. His final work, *Carmen*, initially was considered a scandal, but after his death became one of the most popular and frequently performed works in the entire opera repertoire. His music was largely ignored after his death, but after years of neglect, began to be performed more frequently in the 20th century.

Set in Seville, Spain, *Carmen* is a dramatic and tragic tale of obsession, control, and a woman's fight for independence. The story follows Carmen, a strong, confident factory worker who refuses to let anyone control her. She meets Don José, a soldier who becomes obsessed with her. His jealousy drives Carmen away, and she falls for the famous bullfighter, Escamillo. José turns dangerous, unable to handle the fact that he cannot control her.

Carmen Suites No. 1 and 2 were arranged after Bizet's death by his close friend and colleague, the French composer Ernest Guiraud, using music taken directly" from Bizet's opera score. The opening march "Les Toréadors" heralds the arrival of the popular bullfighter Escamillo. In the dramatic "Prelude," tremolo and a dark "fate" theme hint at the danger Don José poses to Carmen. This shifts immediately into the "Aragonaise," a fast Spanish dance, a sparkling interlude introducing the opera's 4th act featuring percussion and driving rhythms. The famous "Intermezzo" features harp and woodwind solos, and is the instrumental entr'acte that precedes Act III. "Habañera," one of the most famous arias of all time, is an anthem about personal freedom. Carmen compares love to a wild bird that can never be caged or tamed. The cellos play a steady, repeating baseline over a hypnotic vocal line warning José that Carmen's heart cannot be possessed. "La Garde Montante" is a playful children's march, trumpet fanfares and a piccolo duet represent a group of local street kids singing and imitating marching soldiers. "Danse bohème" is a tune from earlier in the opera, where Carmen dances to celebrate Don José's release from jail, after he serves time for letting her escape.

Conga del Fuego Nuevo, Arturo Marquèz (b. 1950)

Composed in 2005 by celebrated Mexican composer Arturo Márquez, Conga del Fuego Nuevo (Conga of the New Fire) is an upbeat, high-energy orchestral piece inspired by Afro-Cuban dance rhythms. The title references the "New Fire" ceremony, an ancient Aztec ritual that celebrated renewal and the restarting of a global calendar cycle. Drawing heavily from the carnival music of Veracruz, Mexico, Márquez blends classical orchestration with Latin American folk styles to create a celebratory eruption of rhythm and pure musical excitement. The foundation of the entire piece rests on the rhythm section, and highlights the congas, drums, and claves. They drive a traditional Afro-Cuban conga pulse with a distinct rhythmic "kick" right before the fourth beat of every measure. In the middle of the work, the pacing slows down to spotlight a solo trumpet playing a lyrical melody deeply rooted in the traditional Mexican mariachi style. The theme is then passed around the orchestra for a brief, calm moment before the opening material suddenly interrupts. The tempo consistently accelerates into an exciting sprint that ends abruptly on a powerful final chord.

Arturo Márquez was born in Álamos, Sonora, Mexico in 1950. Márquez was the eldest of nine children, and the only one to become a musician. His father was a mariachi musician in Mexico and later in Los Angeles, and his paternal grandfather was a Mexican folk musician; this exposed him to several musical styles in his childhood that later influenced his distinctive compositional style. Márquez's family moved to the US when he was 12, and during his middle and high school years in La Puente, California, picked up the violin and other instruments. As a teenager in California, he split his time listening to a mix of traditional Mexican mariachi, classical masters like Chopin, and American rock icons like The Beatles, The Doors, and Carlos Santana. He began composing at the age of 16. He returned to Mexico to study piano and music theory at the Conservatory of Music and the Institute of Fine Arts, and also further studied in Paris. In the U.S., Márquez was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and earned an MFA in composition from the California Institute of the Arts. Although Márquez's music was celebrated in Mexico, it was relatively unknown in the US until Gustavo Dudamel introduced audiences to his Danzón No. 2 during a 2007 tour. Interest in his music has risen since, and both his *Danzón No. 2* and *Conga del Fuego Nuevo* are now mainstays in the orchestral world.

Coaches and guests this fall include: Dr. Simona Barbu • Shari Boschee • Dr. Lisa Bost-Sandberg Erin Cummings*• Ligia Feo • Cassie Fincher* • Matthew Fowler • Frankie Good • Dr. Melanie Hanson Sarah Harlow • Rebecca McFarlane • Andres Moreno* • Katie Stermer* • Gus Tandberg* • Devon Tucker* Tyler York • Brady Zimmerman ***denotes performing today**



MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR STUDENTS OF ANY MAJOR

Participants of Northern Valley Youth Orchestras are automatic finalists for Concordia music scholarships — no recording required. Music scholarships are stackable with our automatically awarded academic scholarships.

APPLY ONLINE:
ConcordiaCollege.edu/MusicScholarships
Questions? Contact Kristen Hatfield at hatfield@cord.edu

CONCORDIA COLLEGE
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE

For more information on scholarships, degrees and other events, contact:

UND Department of Music
UND.edu/music | 701.777.2644

Music Degrees at UND
Music (B.A.)
Music Education (B.M.)
Music Performance (B.M.)
Music Therapy (B.M.)
Music (M.M.)
- Collaborative Piano (+)
- Composition (+)
- Conducting (+)
- Music Education (+)
- Music Performance (+)
- Pedagogy (+)

Music Education (Ph.D.)
+ emphasis

UND
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
LEADERS IN ACTION.

Summer opportunities

Dal Segno Camps: August!

Dal Segno musicians, coaches, staff, volunteers & community members all learned, laughed, made new connections and had “serious fun!” this past summer! Our camp week ended with live performances at the **Myra Museum** and **Town Square Farmer's Market.** Thanks to all our grantors and sponsors! We can’t wait for next August!





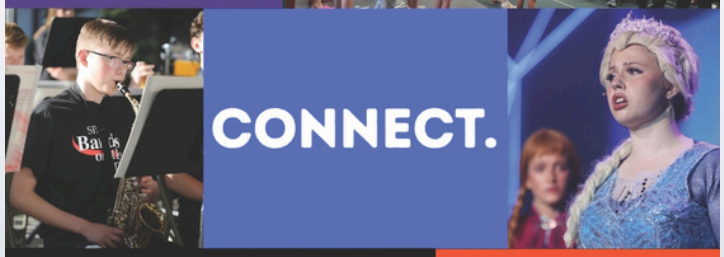


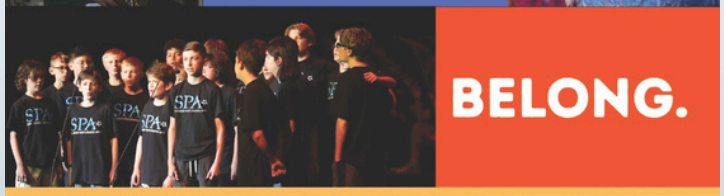
nvyo.org/dal-segno

Arioso Music Academy 2524-7 S. Washington St.
CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.
Poppler Music, Inc. Grand Forks, ND | 800-437-1755
Bernie's gfparks
thrivent
In-Prints

gfparks & recreation FOUNDATION
thrivent
Grand Forks County HISTORICAL SOCIETY







THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU IN THE ARTS.

BRAVO TO TONIGHT'S PERFORMERS!

Grand Forks Public Schools
SPA SUMMER PERFORMING ARTS

WWW.SPACOMPANY.ORG



Symphony Orchestra ✦ Chamber Music ✦ Private Lessons
Master Classes ✦ Student Concerto ✦ ...and more!

ST. OLAF COLLEGE
June 27-July 25, 2027
Grades 8-12

LUTHERAN SUMMER MUSIC ACADEMY & FESTIVAL
LSMacademy.org



REGISTER ONLINE FOR JUNE & JULY!
www.internationalmusiccamp.com
(701) 838-8472

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC CAMP

Prelude Project



Fall String Ensemble Session students worked on orchestral techniques and rehearsal etiquette, and performed for families on November 9th!

Ligia Feo and assistant Cassie Fincher are pictured with the fall Prelude Project String ensemble session participants. Thanks to our Symphony student volunteers, too!

Grants from the City of Grand Forks, and the Neel Family Fund through the Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks and Region, plus generous donors, help make these new opportunities possible.

Coming in December: Wind & Brass Ensemble!

Have fun with holiday and pops tunes, while gaining instrument-specific techniques and knowledge. December 7, 14, & 21. Philharmonic and Symphony musicians, AND wind/brass students at a similar level, are welcome to register with no audition required! Scholarships available. Additional sessions will be offered in 2027. Registration info at nvyo.org/preludeproject



learn more at nvyo.org/preludeproject

NVYO BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026-27



Board elections will take place in March. Do you know someone who would make a great NVYO board member? Read about it @ nvyo.org/staff

join us!

Present NVYO Board 2026-27 (above).
President: Ryan Zerr; Vice President Matthew Ternus,
Treasurer: Radha Panini; Secretary: Katie Dachtler
Directors: David Krogh, Tyler Manske, Kari Noyes,
Corey Thompson Brooke VanLooy.
Executive Director: Naomi Welsh (ex officio)



Thank you for being part of our Northern Valley Youth Orchestras season! Musicians, families, mentors, and community supporters are all important pieces of the NVYO family. To those on stage, helping behind the scenes, or cheering from the audience, thank you! Together we can continue to make a difference in our shared community.

- Executive Director Naomi Welsh

Popplers Music, Inc.

Proud supporter of the Northern Valley Youth Orchestras!



sales@popplersmusic.com

www.popplersmusic.com

Grand Forks, ND
Sioux Falls, SD

Philharmonic

KARA HARTTEN, CONDUCTOR
KATIE STERMER, ASSISTANT

Violin 1
Alexis Azenkeng, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Nellie Dachtler, Grand Forks - *GF Central*
Dash Moe, Grand Forks - *South MS*
Alex Nam, Grand Forks - *South MS*
Samhita Nooti, Grand Forks - *Valley MS*
Vivian Wagner, Fisher, MN - *Sacred Heart*

Violin 2/3
Adeline Aichele, Grafton - *Homeschool*
Selena Bui, Grand Forks - *Valley MS*
*EB, Grafton - *Homeschool*
Olivia Smith, Grand Forks - *GF Central*
Ethan Zhang, Grand Forks - *South MS*
^Corey Zhang, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Viola: Amelia Crisman, Grand Forks - *South MS*

Cello
*Claire Loraas, Manvel, ND - *Sacred Heart*
*Hayden Smith, Grand Forks - *GF Central*
Porter Schuschke, Grand Forks - *Red River*
^Casey Zhang, Grand Forks - *Red RIver*

Bass: Owen Lindblad, Grand Forks - *Red RIver*

Flute
Madison Gerszewski, Grand Forks - *South MS*
Samhita Nooti, Grand Forks - *Valley MS*

Oboe: Shayna Ringenberg, Grand Forks - *Homeschool*

Bassoon:
Grace Bukowski, Grand Forks - *GF Central*
Pranjal Rai, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Clarinet: Emma Peters, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Horn: Zak Schuschke, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Trumpet
Noah Benton, Grand Forks - *South MS*
Josie VanLooy, Grand Forks - *Schroeder MS*

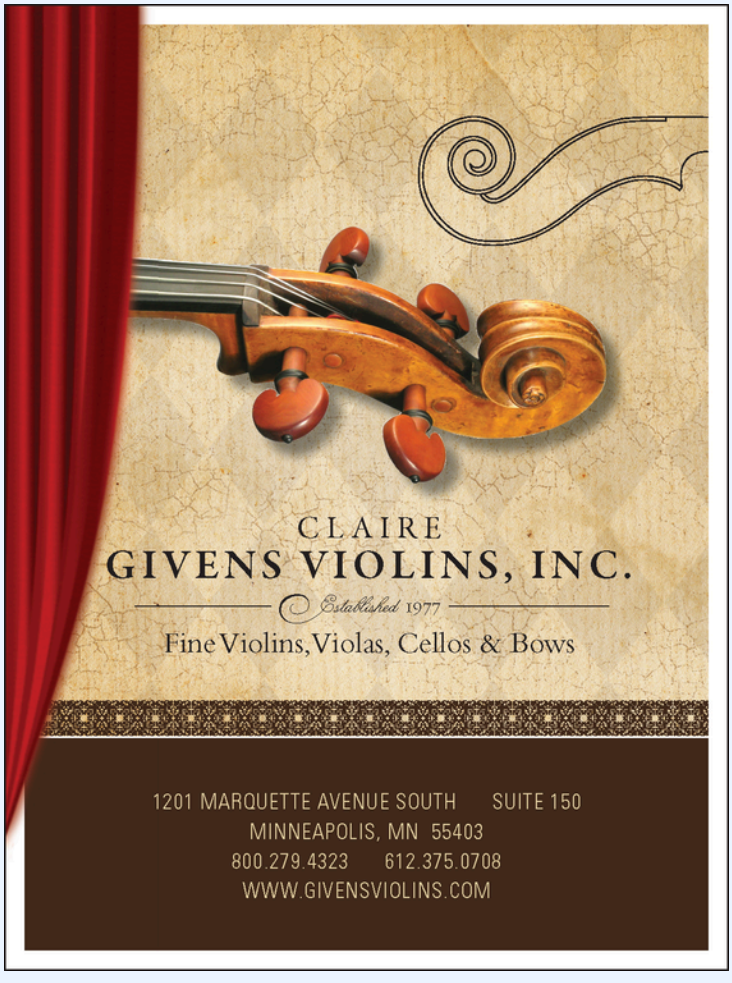
Trombone
Ben Hesse, Grand Forks - *South MS*
Aayden Pearce, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Percussion
Kushal Polimari, Grand Forks - *South MS*
Elliot Tarrant, Grand Forks - *South MS*

 # Concertmaster
**Principal or rotating principal*
^Symphony volunteers

Musicians are listed alphabetically. All are important to the ensemble





Symphony

LEON KOBAYASHI, CONDUCTOR
DEVON TUCKER, ASSISTANT

Violin 1
#Eva Danielson, Thompson - *Homeschool*
#Katelyn Hur, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Elaine Liu, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Kinley Maszk, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Siya Pearce, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Gretta Pratt, Cummings - *Homeschool*
Amaa Wijetunga, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Violin 2
*Isaac Bui, Grand Forks - *GF Central*
Annie Eberhardt, Grand Forks - *Homeschool*
Cali Lindseth, Grand Forks - *GF Central*
Ella Pratt, Cummings - *Homeschool*
Isaac Schave, Crookston, MN - *Fisher*
Clarissa Sturlaugson, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Corey Zhang, Grand Forks - *Red RIver*

Viola
Maddi Fontaine, Grand Forks - *GF Central*
*Maggie Gonzalez, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Aaron Lambert, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Eliot Miller, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Surya Srivastava, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Cello
Emerson Eastman, Grand Forks - *Red River*
*Isaac Hong, Grand Forks- *Red River*
Sebastian Lesmeister, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Sean Oncel, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Caleb Zerr, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Casey Zhang, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Bass
Sophia Casavant, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Harp
Wren Kindseth, Grand Forks - *GF Central*

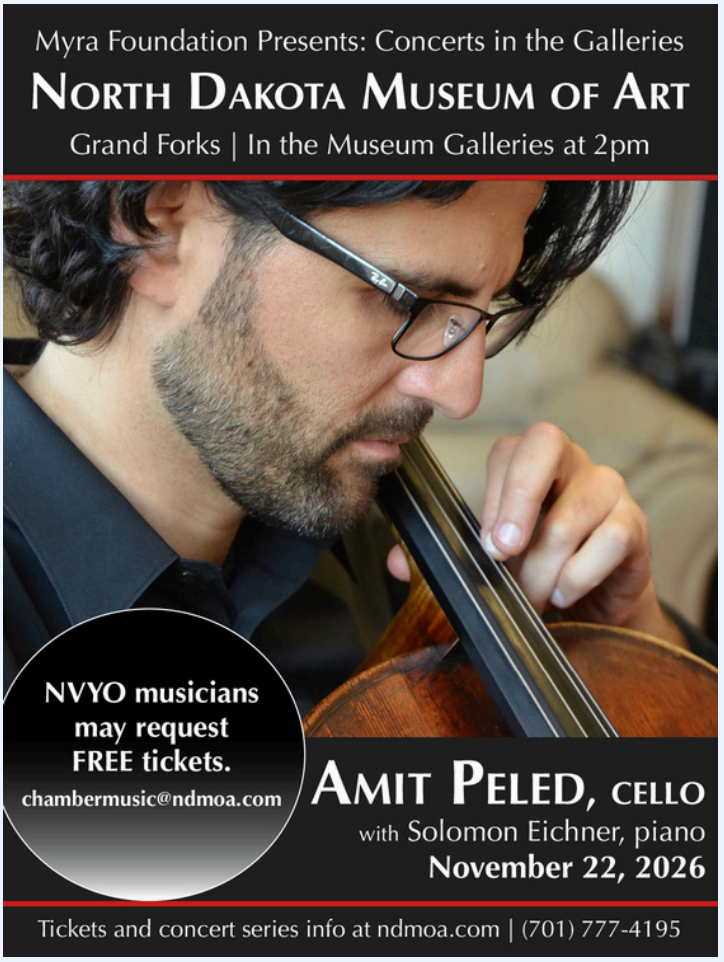
Flute/Piccolo+
+Allison Haugen, Minto - *Minto HS*
+Mika Osowski, Pembina - *Pembina School*
+Addison Swanson, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Oboe
Logan Hartze, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Bassoon
WIlliam Halbritter Rodriguez, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Devon Tucker

Clarinet
Peyton Anthony, Grand Forks - *GF Central*
Raya Rothenbacher, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Horn
William Anderson, Grand Forks - *Sacred Heart*
Gavin Demmerly, Grand Forks - *Red River*
James Machart, Grand Forks - *GF Central*
Gus Tandberg, *guest*



Trumpet
Callan Brandt, Grand Forks - *GF Central*
McKenna Emineth, *UND - CMP*
Gage Heffernan, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Zach Shannon, Grand Forks - *Red River*
*William Sickler, Grand Forks- *Red River*

Trombone
Vedant Srivastava, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Anne Stefanich, Grand Forks - Red River

Bass Trombone
Mohammad Alghazo, Grand Forks - *Red River*

Tuba
Asher Hylton - Reynolds - *Central Valley-Buxton*

Percussion
Mila Drago, Grand Forks - *GF Central*
Volodymyr Kapustianskyi, Grand Forks - *Red River*
Cali Lindseth, Grand Forks - *GF Central*
Andres Moreno, *guest*
Brinna Swanson, Grand Forks - *Red River*

#Concertmaster
***principal or co-principal**
CMP: College Mentor-Performer. *Recommended university music students gaining symphony performance & mentoring experience.*

Musicians are listed alphabetically - all are important to the ensemble.

NORTHERN VALLEY
YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

OVERTURE DINNER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026

ELY'S IVY RESTAURANT

The first Overture Dinner fundraiser at Ely's Ivy restaurant was held this fall! ***Thank you*** *to Scott and Rachel Franz and the Ely's Ivy staff for their incredible support. NVYO musicians and coaches added live music to this fabulous event. Ticket sales and donations raised over $7200 in (gross) revenue for NVYO programming! Bravo, everyone! We hope to see you next year!*





Your customers are searching... where are you hiding?

Be the business they discover first
– not the one they scroll past.

Mention NVYO for a free "Findability" review of your business's Google presence!

701.648.2582 | www.MilkyWayMediaLLC.com

Milky Way Media LLC

Proud to support
Northern Valley Youth Orchestras,
recognizing the value of youth and
the arts to enrich our community.

AMUNDSON
FUNERAL AND CREMATION
SERVICE

amundsonfuneralhome.com
2975 South 42nd Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-772-7070
Serving the region since 1977

MUSIC IN BLOOM

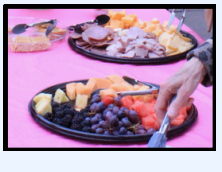
THANK YOU & SAVE THE DATE:

APRIL 11TH 2027

Bravo to our amazing ***Music in Bloom*** *sponsors, donors, volunteers and attendees - last April's fundraiser event was fantastic, and raised over $5,200 for NVYO programming!* ***Save the date for April 11th, 2027!*** *Don't miss this year's vibrant sampler of spring! Music in Bloom is an annual all-ages NVYO fundraiser and awareness-raising event held at* ***All Seasons Garden Center,*** *with music, games, activities; food donated and support from many other local businesses! See you in the spring!*




Behl's Photography




Donors, supporters, and grants

JULY 1, 2025 to JUNE 30, 2026

DONORS

Active registration donations
Anonymous (multiple)
Facebook fundraisers
Phil & Shelly Amundson
Mark & Nicole Antonenko
Sarah Barron & John Madden
Peter & Jill Beithon
Luise Beringer
Betty Bloomquist
Kathy & Mark Bohlman
Lisa Bost-Sandberg
Al & Donna Bott
Sonja Brandt
Andrew Budke & Sarah Harlow
Kellie Burgess,
in honor of Caleb Zerr
Madelyn Camrud
Monica Danielson*
Deek's Pizza
Bryan & Joyce Folson,
in honor of Ann Folson
Barry & Ann Folson
Rick & Nancy Foss
Virg Foss, *in memory of Harlan & Beatrice Foss*
Melissa Gjellstad
Jennifer Goeke
Thomas Harlow
Bruce & Judy Helgerud
Leslie Hesse
Yong Hou & Jin Zhang
Les & Patty Howard
Steve & Connie Hulst
Jan Jelliff
Avery & Vicki Jones
Sandi Kerr
David Krogh & Larissa Hood
Jessica LeTexier
Nancy Marcott
Madhavi Marasinghe
Rebecca Maszk
Marjorie Murray
Bill & Kari Noyes
Nuri & Sema Oncel
Kristi Pasek
Melissa Pearce
Betsy Perkins
Jennifer Peterson
Mark & Michele Peterson
in memory of Andrew Foss
James & Melanie Popejoy
Jerry Ryan
Gloria & Mark Sanford
Gail Schmisek,
in memory of Bill Schmisek
Robert & Nikki Seabloom
Jerry Severson
Cynthia & John Shabb
Kenneth Sherwood
Jonathan & Alexandra Sickler
Darren & Jodi Straus
Corey & Missy Thompson
Brooke & Jeff VanLooy
Ted & Alyson White
Glen & Nancy Yoshida
Tyler York
Jessica & Ryan Zerr

Grant Funding 2025-26:

Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Region
City of Grand Forks
Grand Forks Parks & Rec Foundation
Iseminger Fund for the Arts
Myra Foundation
Neel Family Fund
North Dakota Council on the Arts
Thrivent

thank you!

Music in Bloom sponsors and prize donors (2026)

*Alerus Center
*All Seasons Garden Center
*Bernie's
*Behl's Photography
*Blue Moose
*Bully Brew
*Crumbl
*Ely's Ivy
*Empire Arts Center
*Grand Forks Park District
*Grand Forks Public Library
*GGF Community Theatre
*GGF Symphony Orchestra
*Harry's Steakhouse
*Happy Harry's
*Leslie Hesse
*Dave Krogh
*Northern Air
*North Dakota Museum of Art
*North End Dairy Queen
*Michele Peterson
*Pretty B Boutique
*Rhombus Pizza
*River City Jewelers
*River Cinema
*Scheels
*Silo Boutique
*Spud Jr.
*Summer Performing Arts
*Urban Stampede
*Visit Greater Grand Forks
*Widman's
*Wild Bergamot

Advertising Sponsors, Programs or Dal Segno T-shirts (2025-26)

Amundson Funeral Home
Arioso Music Academy #
Bernie's Restaurant
Claire Givens Violins #
Concordia College Music
In-Prints Screenprinting
International Music Camp
Lutheran Summer Music*
Milky Way Media, LLC
Poppler's Music #
Summer Performing Arts*
University of North Dakota Music
 # both sponsorships

Endowment Contributions

Phil & Shelly Amundson
Ann & Barry Folson
Jan Jelliff
Mark & Gloria Sanford
Jonathan & Alexandra Sickler

to learn about the endowment see below or scan here.

Accurate as of 6/30/26.
please let us know of any errors.

***in-kind/trade, or partially in-kind**

to make a tax deductible gift, visit nvyo.org/donate • thank you to all!

NVYO ENDOWMENT FUND – COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

A gift to the Northern Valley Youth Orchestras Endowment Fund makes a lasting difference by providing **sustainable, ongoing funding** each year. Northern Valley Youth Orchestras' Endowment Fund is housed at the Community Foundation; the Foundation manages the fund and its investments, and NVYO receives an annual 4% payout from the principal, providing vital unrestricted operating funds. Because NVYO is a qualified 501 c3 nonprofit, if you make an endowment gift of $5000 or more you may be able to lower the net cost of your contribution and triple its impact. Actual numbers will depend on your tax bracket and other factors; the Community Foundation can help you with details. Gifts of any amount are welcome and appreciated, make a difference to NVYO, and enrich our shared community.

Make an endowment fund donation at the Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks, and Region • 620 Demers Ave. Grand Forks, ND 58201; or call 701.746.0668 **OR donate online to the NVYO fund: https://www.gofoundation.org/give.html** (Scannable QR code below right.) Scroll down to "Northern Valley Youth Orchestras Endowment Fund" and complete your donation. All information about taxes and benefits and your IRS tax deduction statement will channel through the Community Foundation. Thank you!

about us

Northern Valley Youth Orchestras is celebrating 16 seasons of inspiring musicians and engaging communities. NVYO offers two orchestras, Dal Segno summer day camps, and other session-based opportunities to learn orchestral and chamber music techniques. NVYO provides young musicians aged 11 to 21 symphonic and chamber music experience, community connections, and opportunities to stretch and challenge themselves in a supportive setting. Participants throughout the year number over 120 and come from numerous MN & ND cities and towns within a 75-mile range of Grand Forks. NVYO Alumni pursue degrees in a variety of professional fields including music and the sciences, and consistently earn places at excellent colleges and universities both locally and around the country. Scholarships are available for all NVYO programs.

NVYO's two school year orchestras, Philharmonic and Symphony, rehearse weekly from September to March - this year at the Empire Arts Center and Grand Forks Central High School, with occasional rehearsal at other area spaces - and typically perform two to three formal concerts per season. Guest clinicians and professional instrumentalists provide additional mentoring and orchestral training, and a variety of community performances are also offered. Past NVYO collaborations have included events with Post Traumatic Funk Syndrome, the Fargo-Moorhead Area Youth Symphony, Concordia Orchestra, and Grand Cities Children's Choir. NVYO has an office located in the Empire Arts Center. More information about NVYO is available at **www.nvyo.org,** and on our social media platforms.

@nvyorch

@NVYOrchestras
@NVYOatHome

@NorthernValleyYouthOrchestras

UPCOMING NVYO EVENTS

Nov 16-22 Deek's Pizza Fundraiser: use code NVYO
Nov 22 - Symphony reading & pizza rehearsal
Nov 23 - Philharmonic try-it /bring-a friend rehearsal!
March 7, 4:00 pm: ***NVYO concert,*** *Empire*
April 11, 1:30-4 pm: ***Music in Bloom,*** *All Seasons*
Auditions *by video or arrangement*
nvyo.org/auditions



welcome!

At Northern Valley Youth Orchestras, we focus on inspiring musicians and engaging communities through high-quality, challenging music education programs for young people. NVYO is about ***making music, making friends****, and* ***making a difference*** *in the world. At NVYO we also take seriously our responsibility to be a welcoming presence, and to ensure that our community has opportunities to* ***connect*** *across race, ethnicity, country of origin, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, or veteran status.*

Music, including classical music, is for everyone.

THANK YOU for the orchestra rehearsal spaces and the hospitality!

Grand Forks Public Schools - GF Central HS
East Grand Forks Public Schools - EGF HS



Join NVYO! *Philharmonic has spaces for 2nd semester, starting in January 2027.*
Learn more at nvyo.org/auditions

Want more info ? scan here ----›
or go to nvyo.org/join-nvyo • email info@novyo.org with questions!