



NORWALK YOUTH SYMPHONY

Connecticut is reopening. Why is the NYS keeping its programs online?

We are encouraged by Connecticut's progress in reopening, but there remains the risk of another wave of infections in the fall. We also do not know if our rehearsal and performance spaces in Norwalk City Hall will be available, or if we can comply with additional protocols they may require to use them. Since our top priority is the safety of our students, families and conductors, we are preparing to run NYS programming online. If the situation changes in the fall to allow us to return to physical rehearsals, we retain the flexibility to do that.

How will my child's NYS experience be different online?

The online NYS experience will be more varied and diverse than a traditional rehearsal. During a typical Sunday session, students can participate in a large ensemble, a small ensemble, and one or more classes, all of them relevant to each student's level and experience. The large ensemble rehearsal will last between 45 to 90 minutes depending on level, and classes will last either 30 or 45 minutes. In both ensembles and classes, your student will have more opportunities for one-on-one guidance from the conductor. There will be additional webinars, symposia and instrument-specific technique classes on a one-off basis during the fall, which will add to the diversity and value of the program.

How many students will there be in each class?

We intend to keep the classes small so each student can receive individual attention. The music theory and ear training classes will be capped at 10 students per class, and small ensembles will have a maximum of four students.

How will auditions work this year?

Auditions will be run online, using the Accepted app. Each student will upload a recorded solo piece, scale, and performance of an orchestral excerpt, which will be assigned before the audition. When they apply for auditions, students will also indicate which classes they wish to take. The deadline for audition uploads will be August 24, and conductors will notify students of their assignments after Labor Day.

Will the cost of the NYS program change?

Given the uncertainties about how the year will develop, the NYs will set fees separately for fall and spring terms. Fall term fees will be \$300 for large ensembles (\$250 for brass ensemble) and either \$275 or \$300 for small ensembles and classes depending on length of the class. This covers 10 sessions and includes all costs except for a \$15 technology fee for music theory, so on a per-session basis these classes and ensembles are very reasonably priced. Fees for the spring term will be determined later in the fall and will be sent to families by yearend.



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Will the classes have different levels to reflect students' age and experience?

Yes, the music theory and ear training classes will be leveled. Each student will take a brief online assessment to be placed in the appropriate level.

When will the music appreciation classes for parents be held?

The parent music appreciation classes will probably be held on a weeknight. The exact timing will be determined later.

Will there be performance opportunities this fall?

Yes. Each ensemble will prepare music to be performed either online or in public if conditions allow. For examples of the high quality of online performances, please view the spring orchestra performances below (attach links). With the benefit of more planning and greater familiarity with the technology, our fall performances should be even more impressive.

My child misses the social interaction of being in an orchestra. Why should we sign up for an online experience?

We have designed our fall programming to take maximum advantage of the opportunities that technology gives us. The online program will combine rigorous musical training and performance opportunities with more personal attention from conductors, as well as training in core skills of music theory and ear training. We will also use our online platforms for guest symposia and instrumental skills classes taught by distinguished musicians. The fall program will help students grow and develop as musicians, which will be even more valuable since many school and individual opportunities will be cut back.