

New Jersey Youth Symphony

WhartonARTS

Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor



2022-2023 MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

570 CENTRAL AVENUE | NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ 07974 | 908-771-5544 | NJYS.ORG

WhartonARTS

Wharton Arts' mission is to provide the highest quality performing arts education to a wide range of students in a supportive and inclusive environment, where striving for personal excellence inspires and connects those we teach to the communities we serve.

NJYS, New Jersey Youth Symphony
570 Central Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974
www.NJYS.org, 908-771-5544

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Artistic Director and Principal Conductor

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Michelle Hatcher, *Primo Strings and*
Concertino Strings Conductor
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and Fortissimo Flutes Conductor
Bryan Rudderow, *Concertino Winds, CL4tet*
and Clarinet Ensemble Conductor
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Welcome to New Jersey Youth Symphony!

Welcome to the 2022-23 Season of New Jersey Youth Symphony, NJYS! We look forward to celebrating our 44th year with great music, performances, and serious fun. To help you understand how we do things at NJYS, we have developed this handbook that includes NJYS general guidelines, rules, regulations, and procedures.

We ask that all parents and students, new or returning, take time to read the handbook and refer to it often. In these pages, we hope to answer all the questions you may have about NJYS participation.

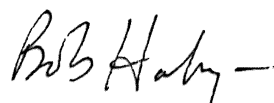
We look forward to an exciting 2022-23 season.



Helen H. Cha-Pyo
Artistic Director
and Principal Conductor



Peter H. Gistelinck
Executive Director



Bob Hamburger
President, Board of Trustees

Wharton Arts' mission is to provide the highest quality performing arts education to a wide range of students in a supportive and inclusive environment, where striving for personal excellence inspires and connects those we teach to the communities we serve.

As an organization whose mission is dedicated to the positive impact music can have on individuals and in the communities we serve, we are dedicated to fostering a supportive and fully inclusive environment by embracing equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in all of our initiatives

We are accountable to our constituents as we aspire to achieve equity on all levels of the organization for our leadership, employees, families, students, and other members. We commit to educate ourselves through anti-racism and EDI training, increase representation of People of Color throughout our organization, and amplify the voices of underrepresented composers and artists, especially Black artists, in our programming.

All rehearsals will take place at 570 Central Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974 (rear entrance) unless otherwise noted by NJYS.

**Wharton Arts is a
non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
60 Locust Ave.
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922**

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NJYS ENSEMBLES

FULL ORCHESTRAS

YOUTH SYMPHONY (YS)

Helen Cha-Pyo, Conductor

Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30 pm

YOUTH ORCHESTRA (YO)

Simon Lipskar, Conductor

Rehearsals: Thursdays, 6:15-9:15 pm

PHILHARMONIA (PHIL)

Mark Gunderman, Conductor

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:15-8:30 pm

WIND ENSEMBLES

FORTISSIMO FLUTES (FORT)

Natasha Loomis, Conductor

Rehearsals: Mondays, 8:00-9:15 pm

FLUTE FORUM (FF)

Natasha Loomis, Conductor

Rehearsals: Mondays, 6:30-7:45 pm

FLUTE CHOIR (FF)

Natasha Loomis, Conductor

Rehearsals: Mondays, 5:00-6:15 pm

JAZZ ENSEMBLES

JAZZ ORCHESTRA (JO)

Dion Tucker, Director

Rehearsals: Sundays, 1:00-4:30 pm

BIG BAND (BB)

Gregory Williams, Director

Rehearsals: Sundays, 3:30-6:30 pm

JAZZ WORKSHOP (JW)

David Schumacher, Director

STRING ORCHESTRAS

SINFONIA (SINF)

Nevena Bojovic, Conductor

Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 5:00-7:00 pm

CONCERTINO STRINGS (CS)

Michelle Hatcher, Conductor

Rehearsals: Thursdays, 6:15-8:00 pm

PRIMO STRINGS (PRIMO)

Michelle Hatcher, Conductor

Rehearsals: Thursdays, 4:30-6:00 pm

CLARINET QUARTET (CL4tet)

Bryan Rudderow, Conductor

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 pm

CLARINET ENSEMBLE (CE)

Bryan Rudderow, Conductor

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm

CONCERTINO WINDS (CW)

Bryan Rudderow, Conductor

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 5:00-6:30 pm

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES

PERCUSSION QUARTET (PQ)

Colleen Bernstein, Director

Rehearsals: Sundays, 9:00-10:30 am

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE (PE)

Colleen Bernstein, Director

Rehearsals: Sundays, 10:30 am-12:15 pm

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

NJYS COMMITMENT

New Jersey Youth Symphony is dedicated to giving its students the best orchestral and ensemble educational experience through its selection process, its conductors, challenging repertoire, and performance opportunities. NJYS seeks excellence among its students and ensembles by adhering to the highest standards of professionalism, teaching, and musicianship, and strives to provide a nurturing and welcoming environment to both students and families. Staff, conductors, and volunteers strive to provide students with an energetic and engaging atmosphere to enhance their involvement and learning.

NJYS asks its students and parents to adhere to certain rules and policies to enable it to offer the best ensemble experience for all. The most important requirement is punctual and reliable attendance. Successful ensembles rely on the full participation of every musician at every rehearsal. A student's quiet and focused presence at rehearsals allows the conductor to maximize the musical experience for all students.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

NJYS expects all members to participate in their school music program. NJYS supports school music programs. If conflicts arise between NJYS and a school music schedule, NJYS will make every effort to accommodate the student's school schedule. **Students are expected to inform NJYS of school music/NJYS schedule conflicts at the earliest opportunity.**

INSTRUMENT LIABILITY

All NJYS students/families are responsible for their instruments. Lost, stolen or damaged instruments (or instrument accessories) are not the responsibility of NJYS. NJYS strongly encourages all members to have their instruments insured. If any damage occurs to your instrument while you are participating in an NJYS activity, please notify an NJYS staff member immediately.

CODE OF CONDUCT

At all NJYS rehearsals, concerts, and events, you are expected to maintain a standard of conduct that will be a credit to yourself, your parents, school, and community, and that will contribute to the atmosphere of serious work and musical excellence that distinguishes NJYS. All members of any NJYS ensemble, and the adults who work with them, must be respectful to, and supportive of, one another.

Harassment, sexual harassment, and bullying will not be tolerated. These behaviors may include actions or statements that are designed to disturb or upset others, may be repetitive, and are often distinguished by issues of power and control.

At NJYS we strongly believe that everyone should feel welcome and respected during our time together. With this in mind, if anything happens at NJYS that makes anyone feel uncomfortable, unwelcome, or disrespected this needs to be addressed. Please report this to the NJYS office. When a young musician reports this directly to an NJYS staff member, we strongly encourage the young musician to tell a family member right away to ensure that s/he is supported at home. Someone from NJYS will contact your family within two business days once we've been able to address this concern with the parties involved. At NJYS we aim to turn these situations into learning opportunities for how to engage and make music in a diverse community. We expect that anyone who does something or says something hurtful to another young musician will immediately correct the situation and discontinue this language/behavior. If the problematic language or behavior continues, the young musician and a parent will meet with the Artistic Director and/or the Executive Director of Wharton Arts to discuss their future participation in NJYS.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

NJYS is committed to providing superior music education and performance experience to all NJYS students. Absence, lateness, or early departure detracts from the student learning environment, disrupts the individual student's learning process and impacts the performance level of the entire orchestra. Each student musician is expected to attend all rehearsals, to arrive promptly, and to remain throughout the rehearsal.

By electronically signing the acceptance agreement upon registration, the student and parent/guardian agree the student member will attend every rehearsal, concert and event on the season calendar.

In the event the student member may have a schedule conflict, the most important step is to inform your ensemble manager as soon as possible of the conflict. Known absences for a non-mandatory rehearsal should be submitted by the member portal absence form at NJYS.org. Schedule conflicts for a mandatory rehearsal or performances must be submitted in a written email to your ensemble manager as soon as the conflict come up. Managers will assist in finding a solution to the conflict. Be sure to check your personal and school calendar during the year.

Detailed below are the attendance requirements and procedures that makeup the NJYS Attendance Policy.

ABSENCE & TARDINESS POLICY—

All rehearsals, dress rehearsals, sound checks, concerts and events in BOLD on the calendar are mandatory. By signing this agreement, the student and parent agree to the following attendance policy:

- **Start time:** Students must be in their seat ready to play 15 minutes prior to the start time of all rehearsals to allow for appropriate warm up time.
- Consistent tardiness of 15 minutes or more may result in absence
- Students and parents must refer to the ensemble schedule for allotted absences per concert period.
- **Absence Request Form Process:** An absence request form must be submitted by a parent or guardian at least two weeks prior to the absence, for a non-mandatory rehearsal, by submitting the online absence form located on the Member Portal at NJYS.org and awaiting a reply to be considered, "excused".
- College visitations, proms and balls are NOT excused absences for mandatory events. Please plan accordingly.
- **Any conflicts with mandatory rehearsals or performances must be submitted as soon as you know, but not later than 2 weeks prior in a written email to your ensemble manager for discussion. An absence will be considered excused or unexcused based on the reason of the absence. Unexcused absences, or absences not cleared by the NJYS staff, from mandatory rehearsals may jeopardize the student's NJYS membership, including but not limited to dismissal from the organization, and/or not being allowed to audition the following year.** If an unexcused absence does occur, the musician/musician's family may be liable for costs incurred by NJYS to hire a replacement musician. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the manager/conductor/artistic director.
- **Concerts and soundchecks are mandatory.** Soundchecks generally take place at the concert venue on concert day, at least 2 hours prior to the start of the concert. Refer to ensemble schedules for dates and times of mandatory concerts as they vary by ensemble.
- **Playathon,** NJYS's annual fundraising concert is a mandatory performance which takes place on Sunday, March 26, 2023 at the Mills at Jersey Gardens Mall, Elizabeth, NJ. Call time varies by ensemble. Mandatory Dress Rehearsal: Friday, March 24, 2023 from 5-9 pm at the Westfield Armory.
- **Mandatory rehearsals:** Two weekly rehearsals and the dress rehearsal immediately preceding a concert are mandatory. For some ensembles, Dress Rehearsals are scheduled on a night other than the regular rehearsal night.
- In case of unavoidable situations including, illness or emergencies, call or send an email to your manager before rehearsal starts. Any illness or tardiness on the day of rehearsal must be called in to 908-771-5544 at least an hour before rehearsal, when possible.
- Any more than the allotted absences will be reported to the conductor for review. NJYS staff will call at the top of rehearsal in the event there has been no communication prior to the rehearsal.
- **School Music Program:** Mandatory music-related school orchestra or band events (graded course/ensemble - excludes playing in the pit for school musical) take precedence over NJYS events. Musicians must submit an absence request form in order to be excused for this reason.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

NJYS will not tolerate the use, possession, sale, and/or giving away of alcohol, tobacco, and/or illegal drugs, or the use or possession of any firearm or other weapon at any NJYS rehearsal, warm-up, performance or other NJYS activity. Bullying or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. Students found bullying or harassing other students are subject to interview and possible expulsion from NJYS without refund. Report any suspicious activity at NJYS events to your ensemble manager.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

- Students are required to arrive early to rehearsals and be seated, tuned, and ready to play 10 minutes before rehearsal begins. Members of the percussion section should arrive at least 15 minutes before the rehearsal begins to set up. If a student has not arrived within 5 minutes of rehearsal beginning, a parent or guardian will be called.
- Cell phone use for any purpose is not allowed during rehearsals, warm-ups, or concerts.
- Chewing gum or eating in rehearsal or performance areas is not allowed.
- For longer rehearsals, students are welcome to have a snack during break and encouraged to use the facilities at that time. NJYS is a **NUT-FREE zone**. Please do not bring nuts of any kind into the building for individual snacks or events.
- Students are not allowed to touch and/or use an instrument that is not their own, and should not lend their instrument to anyone unless by parent/guardian permission.
- During rehearsals students are not allowed to eat, drink anything other than water, or use cell phones/earphones at anytime. Please follow the same rules as you would in school.
- For each rehearsal musicians should have their music (Music folder lent by NJYS), pencil, extra supplies, etc. Cellists must have rock-stops at all times, and brass players who need to empty their spit valve, must use a pad to do so. Stings players should also keep an extra set of strings in their case.
- Restroom policy is set by each conductor, however, not more than one student should be in the bathroom at one time during rehearsal.

CONSEQUENCES FOR BEHAVIOR VIOLATIONS

Consequences for behavioral violations may include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Being placed on immediate suspension by the musician's manager or conductor;
- Dismissal for the remainder of the season;
- Not being allowed to audition for the upcoming season.

In the case of suspension or dismissal, the musician/family is still responsible for the payment of any outstanding tuition to NJYS.

NJYS maintains a tiered discipline system for misbehavior at any rehearsal, performance, or other NJYS activity.

1. Student receives a verbal warning and/or reprimand from conductor, coach, or staff members.
2. Student receives a reprimand that is communicated to parents by phone, e-mail, and/or letter.
3. Parent Conference — student and parent (s) meet with NJYS staff and/or Artistic Director.
4. Suspension — student will be suspended from NJYS activities for at least one Concert Period.
5. Dismissal.

MUSIC, PREPARATION & PRIVATE LESSONS

MUSIC DISTRIBUTION & COLLECTION

Music will be distributed over the summer. More details will be emailed.

Music folders are lent by NJYS for member's use during the year. It is the musician's responsibility to take good care of their music. They will be collected at the end of the season.

Music will be collected at the rehearsal following the concert, per the instructions of the staff librarian and managers.

Music may only be marked with pencil. If lost or damaged, students will be charged \$15 for an NJYS folder and a minimum of \$10 for each original music part. Rental music will be charged at the Publisher's rate augmented with a 15% administrative fee.

PRIVATE LESSONS & PRACTICE

In striving to maintain high standards, each member is expected to take regular private lessons. Members must practice their orchestral and ensemble parts at home and with their teacher to be prepared for each rehearsal. Tuition assistance may be available for lessons at the Performing Arts School, a program of Wharton Arts, at 908-790-0700.

PREPAREDNESS AUDITIONS & PART ASSIGNMENTS

Preparedness Auditions for string players will be held five weeks before the concert to determine whether student has adequately prepared the music for the upcoming concert and making individual progress. Players who are unprepared will be expected to play for their conductor at a subsequent rehearsal. Players who miss a Preparedness Auditions for any reason will play for the conductor at the next scheduled rehearsal to determine preparedness. Students with a scheduled absence will be asked to have their Preparedness Auditions recorded by a staff member the rehearsal prior.

All seating is at the discretion of the conductor, who will seat players in an order that will result in a strong and balanced section. For each concert period, a player's seat assignment may be in the front, middle, or back, regardless of the musician's ability or performance during the Preparedness Auditions. Principal players may change for each concert.

Responsibilities of Principal Players include:

- Setting an example of preparation, promptness, and attentiveness for the section;
- Noting trouble spots in the music and bringing that to the attention of sectional coaches;
- Calling for silence if necessary during a rehearsal;
- String Principal Players: be sure the section plays all bowings as marked, and convey bowing changes or additions to the entire section.

Winds, Brass and Percussion parts of YS, YO and PHIL are exposed during rehearsals, therefore, musicians do not need separate Preparedness Auditions. Part assignments are at the discretion of the conductor.

CONCERT ATTIRE

The goal of our concert attire regulations is to help our students present a professional appearance and ensure a uniform look throughout the ensemble. No one member's outward appearance should distract the audience from everyone's performance.

Youth Symphony, Youth Orchestra, Clarinet Ensemble, Fortissimo Flutes, CL4tet, Percussion Quartet and Jazz Orchestra

All Black, formal

- Black formal dress pants, slacks, full length skirt, or full length and long sleeve dress
- Black button up dress shirt, or black long-sleeve blouse
- Black dress socks, or stockings/hosiery (no skin showing, even when wearing flats)
- All Black closed-toe dress shoes (no sneakers)
- (black jacket/sweater optional, no tie)

Shoulders and knees must be covered when seated!

Philharmonia, Flute Choir, Flute Forum Sinfonia, Concertino Strings, Primo Strings Big Band and Jazz Workshop

- Black formal dress pants, slacks, or full length skirt
- White button up dress shirt, or white long-sleeve blouse
- Black dress socks, or stockings/hosiery (no skin showing, even when wearing flats)
- All Black closed-toe dress shoes (No sneakers)

Shoulders and knees must be covered when seated!

Concertino Winds

- **Black dress slacks or skirt and a royal red, blue or purple dress shirt. See length details above.**

Percussion Ensemble

- **Black dress slacks or skirt and a colorful top. See length details above.**



Not allowed for a performance:

Jeans or leggings (even if they're black)
 Short skirts/shorts and/or Slit skirts
 Necklines or back designs with significant skin exposure
 Sleeveless, short-sleeved, tank or tube tops
 Bare feet, athletic shoes, flip-flops
 Non-black articles of clothing

No strong scents on stage. Keep your hair out of your face and no chewing gum on stage.

Students must arrive fully dressed to the concert. Managers will call the parents of anyone who fails to arrive dressed in the appropriate attire, and may be withheld from performing in that concert.

Dress rehearsals and regular rehearsals are all casual attire- "School Rules". If you would not wear it at school, do not wear it to a rehearsal. Also, only wear clothing that allows you to play your instrument properly.

PHOTO RELEASE

From time to time, NJYS may photograph, video, or audio-record rehearsals, classes, camps, and concerts. NJYS reserves the right to use these photos, videos, and audio recordings for publicity purposes such as NJYS and WIPA's course listings, publications, websites, email broadcasts, posters, press releases, public notices, advertising, and brochures. Upon registration of a student, the parent or guardian of a student (if a minor), or student (if an adult) grants permission to NJYS to use any photos, videos, and audio recordings taken for publicity purposes and to publish the names of persons in the photos, videos, and audio recordings. Such permission applies unless a parent or guardian submits a written, dated request that their child's image, recording, or name not be used. Generally, names are not published with the photos, and if names are to be published, the parent/guardian or student will be contacted in advance.

CONCERT TICKETS

NJYS strives to produce high quality concert experiences for all its ensembles. Ticket revenue offsets the cost of the expenses of producing the concerts. Tickets are available for each concert at least two weeks prior to the event and are sold online or in the NJYS office.

PARENT COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

Each performer will receive two complimentary tickets for two guests, parents or guardians. All additional tickets must be purchased.

MEMBER COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

All current NJYS musicians may attend performances by other NJYS ensembles free of charge. Parents and other non-NJYS family members must pay for tickets.

VOLUNTEER COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

Parents who volunteer on a weekly basis as ensemble librarians, stage hands, or concert photographers, ushers, and backstage supervisors will receive a complimentary ticket to their child's concert.

Other **complimentary tickets** are available in the NJYS office for the following categories of patrons:

- **Private Teachers or School Music Teachers** of NJYS students — one complimentary ticket per teacher.
- **Alumni** interns, or Alumni concert volunteers

RESTRICTIONS

Some signature NJYS concerts, including fundraising events, may not be eligible for complimentary tickets. More details will be emailed and posted on the Member Portal.

DRIVING & PARKING AT NJYS

NJYS facilities are part of a larger business building with open businesses that occupy sections of the parking lots. By law, cars should not idle for long periods of time. Feel free to leave and come back at the end of rehearsal. We do have a parent lounge for parents to wait to pick-up. We also have a volunteer room for our volunteers to work during rehearsal.

To ensure the safety of everyone at NJYS, please observe and adhere to the policies below.

DRIVING & DROP OFF

- Enter via the driveway closest to the Shopping Center to the right of the NJYS building and exit via the driveway closest to South Street to the left of the building. Otherwise the parking lots become very unsafe. Keep in mind, we cannot control cars from other areas of the business building.
- Drive slowly and considerately.
- Parents are allowed to drop off at the entrance or on the car line.
- Cars- DO NOT pass at any time.

PARKING & PICK UP

- Parking immediately near the NJYS entrance should be saved for volunteers, staff, students who drive themselves and anyone who cannot walk long distances;
- Otherwise, please park to the far right of the building where there is ample parking available and walk over to pick up your child.
- Students are required to wait inside the NJYS building. The parking lot is not a safe place to congregate. Please communicate pick up with your child.
- Please pick your child up promptly upon conclusion of rehearsal.
- We strongly recommend that parents/guardians do a visual check with the ensemble manager when picking up, so we are aware the child is being picked up by the appropriate parent.

TUITION RATES, PAYMENT & TUITION ASSISTANCE

TUITION RATES published here are for the 2022-2023 season. For all tuition related questions, please contact Education Director, Andrew Nitkin at andrew.nitkin@whartonarts.org.

Youth Symphony	\$1,600.00	Flute Forum	\$1,060.00
Fortissimo Flutes	\$1,135.00	Flute Choir	\$1,060.00
Clarinet Ensemble	\$1,060.00	Concertino Winds	\$ 955.00
Youth Orchestra	\$1,450.00	Jazz Orchestra	\$1,200.00
Philharmonia	\$1,385.00	Big Band	\$1,100.00
Sinfonia	\$1,230.00	Jazz Workshop	\$950.00
Concertino Strings	\$1,110.00		
Primo Strings	\$1,100.00	Percussion Ensemble	\$1,110.00

DISCOUNTS

- Siblings are eligible for a 5% sibling discount after registration. NJYS will refund the amount upon completion of online enrollment. If you do not receive the refund within 1 week of enrollment, please contact us.
- 50% Discount for the second NJYS ensemble, of equal or lesser value.
- A multiple activity discount may be available for students enrolling in multiple activities in NJYS and

PAYMENT PLANS & TUITION ASSISTANCE

Musicians may apply for need-based tuition assistance by completing and submitting an application. Applications are due by July 1. Musicians receiving tuition assistance may be asked to volunteer during the year. Please review the student contract, the ensemble schedule and the refund policy before finalizing your enrollment.

A monthly payment plan is available. Should you choose to be enroll in a Monthly Payment Plan, you are responsible and obligated to pay the tuition for the full season in the event of a withdrawal before the end of the season. Acceptance Agreement Link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/4r6ouvau96tzgpp/NJYS%202022-2023%20Acceptance%20Agreement.pdf?dl=0>

REFUND POLICY *NJYS Ensembles: When signing the acceptance agreement, the student/parent agrees that tuition is non-refundable with the following exceptions:*

- Withdrawals made prior to September 10 will result in a 100% tuition refund excluding the non-refundable Audition/Registration fee.
- Students withdrawing within 5 days after the second rehearsal for documented scheduling reasons will receive a 75% tuition refund.
- There are no refunds following the third week of rehearsals.
- If the student is on a payment plan, the full tuition balance is due to NJYS at the time of withdrawal and will be automatically charged to the credit card on file unless other arrangements are made with Student Services.

FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERING

FUNDRAISING

New Jersey Youth Symphony is a non-profit organization and we try to keep the program accessible/affordable for most young musicians. However, the tuition we charge only covers about 75% of the full cost of the program. That means we must fundraise to ensure the highest quality program. How can you help fundraise and contribute?

PLAYATHON

Playathon is the largest and most successful student-led fundraiser of its kind. We help you set up a student fundraising page to share with friends and family.

2023 GOAL is \$100,000

Playathon Fundraising Offsets:

- Scholarships
- Expert coaching
- World-class venues
- Professional, quality rehearsal space
- Instrument maintenance
- New equipment
- And so much more!

All students are strongly encouraged to donate \$250 toward the Playathon fundraiser.

How To Donate To The 2023 Playathon:

Make your donation online at [NJYS.org/fundraising](https://njys.org/fundraising).

Please note your child's name in the notes field.

Are you willing to volunteer to help plan or implement fundraising events?

We will train you on how to use our fundraising toolkit!

Questions? Wharton Arts Development team will be available for any questions you may have! Contact Brenda at brenda.kohn@whartonarts.org

As a celebration of our students' fundraising efforts, we hold our Playathon Music Festival on Sunday, March 26, all 500 NJYS students unite to perform a pops concert as one orchestra. Donors, family and friends are invited to attend this incredible performance. All NJYS current members are expected to perform in the festival.

Playathon Music Festival Sunday, March 26, 2023 12:00-4:30 PM.

VOLUNTEERING (Photographer, usher, student monitor, fundraising leader, etc.)

Parent volunteers are an essential part of the NJYS team. We encourage parents to share your talents with us, by taking official photos at a concert, leading a fundraising event or distributing event posters. Together we create a stronger NJYS community! More volunteering info below-

PARENT-ON-DUTY (POD), ALL PARENTS

All parents will be automatically scheduled at least once during the year as a Parent-On-Duty. The NJYS team will assign 1-3 parents for each rehearsal during the year. Parents on duty that day will help take attendance, welcome the students, and monitor the hallways during rehearsals. We also appreciate any help setting up the chairs and stands. In the event that you are not available to volunteer that day, please let your ensemble manager know. The POD schedules will be posted on the Member Portal.

ENSEMBLE LIBRARIANS

Our staff librarian will fully train any parent/grandparent/guardian who would like to help in the library from week to week (no previous experience necessary). Ensemble librarians focus on the music needs of the ensemble at the beginning of the year, each concert and each rehearsal. It's helpful to have 4-5 dedicated librarians for that ensemble to be able to rotate from week to week. Our staff librarian will be your main contact, and will help coordinate tasks such as distributing music, collecting music, and assigning/copying parts. If you are interested or have any questions, email Natalie to Natalie.pereira@njys.org

STAGE HANDS

We have about three rehearsals a night, and fifteen rehearsals a week. Each ensemble has different stage hand needs but generally the tasks include moving chairs, stands, and on rare occasion, moving instruments. We will provide you with a rehearsal stage plot to reference and instructions. This is a simple task, but it's important to "set the stage" for a successful and fun rehearsal! Join the team! Email your ensemble manager if available or interested. It's helpful to have 4-5 dedicated volunteers who know their way around the set up diagram, but anyone can join from week to week!

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Students can earn community service hours in the following ways:

BE A MENTOR (YO, YS, FORT, CE eligible) Students in YS and YO, FORT and CE are encouraged to serve community service hours by either performing with younger ensembles or visiting their rehearsal with the approval of the conductor. Speak with your conductor or the NJYS office to coordinate the details.

VOLUNTEER Students can earn service hours by volunteering during rehearsals, concerts where they are not performing, or Playathon. Email Stacy at stacy.square@njys.org to sign up.

LIBRARY Students in YO and YS are encouraged to volunteer in the library after school, or during the summer.

See the Member Portal for more student volunteer opportunities. Email the NJYS office for questions!

COMMUNICATION & CONTACTS

Email is the primary means of communication between NJYS staff and students. Students and parents must be sure to enter correct email addresses at registration and notify the NJYS office of any email or home address changes. The **Member Portal at NJYS.org** serves as a central area of information as well.

WEATHER CANCELATIONS

In the event rehearsal is cancelled, NJYS will make the announcement by 2 pm that day via:

- Email through ensemble email
- www.NJYS.org, Member Portal, and Social Media
- NJYS cancellation message at: 908-771-5544
- Text message (only in extreme emergencies)

ENSEMBLE CONTACTS

For general ensemble questions, please use the ensemble email address which is directly forwarded to our

Full Orchestras, Jazz, and Percussion

Stacy Square, stacy.square@njys.org
908-771-5544 ext. 201,

String Orchestras, Clarinet, Flute,

Wind Ensembles

and

Roger Sweet, roger.sweet@njys.org

Artistic Director, Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Helen.cha-pyo@whartonarts.org, 908-771-5544 ext. 204

Executive Director, Peter H. Gistelinck, Peter.gistelinck@whartonarts.org, 908-790-1201, direct line

ENSEMBLE COMMUNICATION

Ensemble Managers will send a weekly email with information from the conductor on rehearsal expectations, practice suggestions, and other crucial information. Both students and parents should receive these emails. Please make sure you check your junk mail folders and add NJYS.org and whartonarts.org email addresses to your "safe senders" lists.

Notify the office immediately if you are not receiving weekly emails.

Students, please inform your parents of any announcements made during rehearsal regarding anything sent home, i.e. call sheets, flyers, forms, etc. Parents, please feel free to ask NJYS staff if you have questions. Parents, please call or email if you feel that you have not received emails or to ask any questions.

NEWSLETTER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EMAILS

On a monthly basis you will also receive updates through our organization-wide E-Newsletter, and update

REGISTRATION AND AUDITIONS

2023-24 Season Registration

Deadline is July 10, 2023

Rehearsals begin the week of September 5, 2023 for YS, CE, CW, CL4tet and the week of September 10 for all other ensembles

Next Season Auditions

The 2023-2024 season auditions will take place after the final concerts. The dates and times will be published on the website.

All current students who would like to be considered for the next season must present an audition in May. Students not planning to audition for NJYS should submit an email to the NJYS Director of Orchestra Administration.

Student placement is at the discretion of the conductors who judge the auditions. Placement is based upon grade eligibility and skill level. Audition results are emailed a few weeks after the audition. Results are final.

While we strive to give every student the best opportunities to advance within our system, neither advancement nor continuation with the same ensemble is guaranteed as a consequence of prior participation.

Students must be prepared for their audition. We strongly recommend that students share their desire to audition with their teacher, and follow their guidance to select a solo and prepare the additional requirements.

Solo lists are updated each year, and are posted on the Open Audition webpage at NJYS.org by January 15. Additional audition requirements will be posted by April 1, the start of the registration period.

General Requirements for all instruments-

1. Solo chosen and prepared by the student. Level 6 strings must prepare two contrasting movements from their piece.
2. Scales/excerpts as depicted on the requirements posted on NJYS.org
3. Sight reading