

North Idaho Youth Symphony

2025-2026 Handbook



<http://www.niysmusic.org>
office.niys@gmail.com



Rehearsal and Performance Calendar

**NIYS Rehearsals Days are Mondays at Lake City High School
Intermezzo/Philharmonic 5-7pm, Debut 5-6pm**

Latest revisions and additions in green. Updated December 28, 2025

May 12	Early Auditions	Jan 5	Rehearsal
Aug 18	Fall Auditions at CDA Adventist	Jan 12	Rehearsal
Aug 25	Fall Auditions at CDA Adventist Church	Jan 19	No Rehearsal; MLK Day
Sept 1	No Rehearsal; Labor Day	Thurs, Jan 22 7:15-8:15pm	Philharmonic Side-by-Side rehearsal with CSO at Lakeland HS in Rathdrum.
Sept 8	FIRST Rehearsal/Parent Meeting	Fri, Jan 23 7:15pm-9:45pm	Philharmonic Side-by-Side Dress Rehearsal at North Idaho College
Sept 15	Rehearsal	Sat, Jan 24	Philharmonic Side-By-Side Concert, 3pm at NIC
Sept 22	Rehearsal	Jan 26	Rehearsal
Sept 29	Rehearsal	Feb 2	Rehearsal
Oct 6	Rehearsal	Feb 9	Rehearsal
Oct 13	Rehearsal - Photo Day (Wear Concert Attire)	Feb 16	No Rehearsal

Oct 20	Rehearsal	Feb 23	Winter Concert (Venue Pending)
Oct 27	Rehearsal	March 2	No Rehearsal
Nov 3	Rehearsal	March 9	Rehearsal
Nov 10	Rehearsal	March 16	Rehearsal
Nov 17	Fall Concert	March 23	Rehearsal
Nov 24	No Rehearsal	March 30	No Rehearsal; Spring Break
Dec 1	Rehearsal	April 6	Rehearsal
Dec 8	Rehearsal	April 13	Rehearsal
Dec 15	Rehearsal	April 20	Rehearsal
Dec 22	No Rehearsal; Winter Break	April 27	Rehearsal
Dec 29	No Rehearsal; Winter Break	May 4	Spring Concert at the Kroc Center, 6:30pm
		May 11	Early Auditions at for next season/Venue Pending
		Aug	Fall Auditions for next Year at CDA Adventist Church

Venues

Coeur d'Alene Adventist Church

[Fall Auditions](#)

August 18 and 25, 2025

111 E Locust Ave

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Lake City High School

[Regular Monday rehearsals \(see calendar\)](#)

[Fall concert Nov. 17](#)

6101 N Ramsey Rd

Coeur d'Alene, ID

Lakeland High School

[Side-by-Side Rehearsal](#)

[Thurs., Jan 22, 2026, 7:15-8:15pm](#)

7006 W. Hwy. 53

Rathdrum, ID 83858

North Idaho College

Schuler Performing Arts

[Jan 23 Dress Rehearsal & Jan 24, 2026 Concert](#)

880 W Garden Ave

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Kroc Center

[May 4, 2026 Spring Concert](#)

1765W Golf Course Rd

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts On-Stage **Dress Rehearsal Schedule**

5pm	Philharmonic
5:30pm	Intermezzo
6pm	Debut Orchestra
6:30pm	Doors Open
7pm	Concert Start

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Auditions

Please refer to the NIYS website for the latest information on dates, venue, sign-up information, and audition materials.

<http://www.niysmusic.org/auditions>

Pre-Auditions for the following season are usually held the week after the spring (final) concert, usually held at the LCHS rehearsal space. Regular auditions are held in the month of August off-site from our regular rehearsal venue. All audition sign-ups are on the NIYS website.

Regular Auditions in August

Coeur d'Alene Seventh-Day Adventist Church

(Lake City Academy)

[111 E Locust Ave](#)

[Coeur D Alene, ID 83814](#)

Pre-Auditions in May

Lake City High School

6101 N Ramsey Rd

Coeur d'Alene ID 83815

Students will be auditioning for placement into one of three orchestras:

Philharmonic: Led by Dr. Ruth Boden, *Philharmonic* is primarily high school and advanced middle school students. Rehearsals and performances enrich students in the educational value of traditional symphony repertoire and contemporary music.

Intermezzo: Mr. Shad Frazier directs the *Intermezzo* at an important stage in the young musician's development. Comprised of winds, strings, and percussion, *Intermezzo* is a symphony comprised mostly of experienced middle school musicians. *Intermezzo* guides the progress of intermediate-level musicians into advanced musicians. Repertoire is tailored to develop technique, musicianship, and knowledge.

Debut: Mrs. Kristina Phillips leads the *Debut* orchestra. *Debut* is comprised of elementary and middle school students. *Debut* orchestra is a string-only ensemble (violins, violas, cellos, and string bass). *Debut* students typically have one or more years of experience in school orchestra and/or private lessons.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are on Mondays at Lake City High School. The first rehearsal of the season usually starts in September the week after Labor Day.

Philharmonic and ***Intermezzo*** rehearsals are 5pm to 7pm. ***Debut*** rehearsals are 5pm to 6pm.

Performances

Fall and winter concerts are in the Lake City High School auditorium. The Side-by-Side rehearsal and concert will be at North Idaho College with Coeur d'Alene Symphony. The Spring concert will be at the Kroc Center.

CDA Kroc Center Theatre

[1765 W Golf Course Rd](#)
[Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815](#)

North Idaho College

Schuler Performing Arts
(*Philharmonic* Side-by-Side)
[880W Garden Ave](#)
[Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814](#)

Tuition

NIYS is funded by student tuition, grants, individual donations, concert ticket sales and fundraising events. Our expenses include instructional staff, music purchases, rental fees, printing costs, sectional coaches, quarterly student prizes, concert venue and admission, licensing and general organizational expenses. Our goal is to be good stewards of our finances while providing an enriching educational opportunity for our members.

2025-2026 NIYS Tuition Costs

REGISTRATION FEE (non-refundable): \$30 (waived if tuition is paid in full)

We will invoice you for registration when we set up your payment.

Debut Tuition: \$490

Intermezzo tuition: \$600

Philharmonic tuition: \$680

Other: If you require financial assistance, please email office.niys@gmail.com

Any payments that are returned for non-sufficient funds will be assessed a \$25 return payment fee.

Payment Options

You may elect to pay tuition in full with the registration fee. Alternatively, after the initial registration fee, you may pay half of the tuition by September 30th, 2025, and the remainder by January 24, 2026. Monthly payment can also be requested with a one-time set up.

A request for an alternate payment plan must be submitted to **Tracie Espinoza**, Treasurer, at P.O. Box 935, Hayden, Idaho 83835 or office.niys@gmail.com

Tuition Delinquency

All tuition must be current or payment arrangements must be made with the NIYS Treasurer within the first two weeks after initial student participation. When tuition becomes delinquent, a reminder email will be sent. If delinquency continues, you will be contacted by phone and asked to make immediate

payment arrangements to bring the account current. If the account is not brought current within two weeks your musician will no longer be allowed to play with the North Idaho Youth Symphony until payment is made. All accounts must be current before students will be allowed to perform at a concert with the NIYS or continue on to a new season.

Financial Aid

NIYS strives to provide financial assistance to students in need, so they may profit from the orchestral music experience. We believe that no deserving young musician should be denied participation in the NIYS because of financial inability to meet the tuition requirements. Application forms for tuition assistance WITH supporting documentation must be completed and submitted within the first two weeks of initial student participation. Your registration fee is due at time of registration and is not subject to discount regardless of your application for assistance. Applications may be mailed to NIYS Treasurer, PO Box 935, Hayden, ID 83835. The Tuition Assistance Committee will promptly consider all applications and respond in writing with their decision. Tuition assistance presumes the student and family will be willing to volunteer time to offset tuition fees, as well as pursue all fundraising opportunities. The Tuition Assistance Committee will work with individual families on appropriate plans. there is no guarantee of assistance as this program is funded through community donations.



North Idaho Youth Symphony Scholarship Program

The North Idaho Youth Symphony (NIYS) currently offers the following scholarship options. Meeting all scholarship deadlines and requirements does not guarantee availability of funds. Recipients are selected by a committee consisting of staff and/or Board members.

Emergency Scholarship:

- Provides emergency funds in light of a catastrophic event
- Requires parent volunteer time ○ Provides up to 50% of tuition

Renewing NIYS Scholarship:

- Provides up to 50% of tuition
- Need-based – your child must qualify for free/reduced lunch or other situations demonstrating financial need on a case by case basis
- ***Requires parent volunteer time or subject to repayment***

New NIYS Scholarship:

- Applications will be accepted all year ○ Provides up to 50% of tuition
- Need based – your child must qualify for free/reduced lunch or other situations demonstrating financial need on a case by case basis
- ***Requires parent volunteer time or subject to repayment***

What are the requirements for receiving a scholarship?

○ Musicians must be enrolled or plan to enroll in NIYS. ○ Scholarship recipients need to reapply each year ○ Renewing applicants must be musicians in good standing – this means all financial and attendance requirements have been met.

For which scholarship(s) am I eligible?

Please review the requirements above and indicate which scholarship you are applying for on your application.

When will I know if I receive a scholarship?

All applicants will be notified of their status within two weeks following the deadline. If you have any questions regarding the scholarship application, please contact the board at office.niys@gmail.com

How do I apply?

1. Notify NIYS of intent to apply during registration or prior to first payment.
2. Complete the attached application form.
3. Attach a **current income tax return** for the family who claims the musician as a dependent.
4. Return documentation ***before first payment due date*** to: **North Idaho Youth Symphony**
P.O. Box 935 Hayden, ID 83835 or
office.niys@gmail.com

Please initial to acknowledge conditions of application and scholarship outlined on this page:

**Recipients are selected without regard to age, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or disability.*

Scholarship Application

Name _____ Birthdate _____
LAST FIRST MIDDLE MONTH DAY YEAR

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Are you currently enrolled in the North Idaho Youth Symphony? (circle one) Yes No

If yes, which ensemble? (circle one) Debut Intermezzo Philharmonic

If no, in which ensemble do you plan to join? _____

When will you begin? (circle one) Fall Winter Spring Year _____

Name of current school: _____ Grade _____

Please describe to us your situation as it pertains to your request for tuition assistance?

Have you received a scholarship from North Idaho Youth Symphony before? (circle one) Yes No

If yes, what year? _____

I certify that all information I have provided on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the release of information on this application and other necessary information to North Idaho Youth Symphony and selection committees.

Name of musician _____ Date of Application _____

Signature of musician (18+)

or Legal Guardian _____ Relationship to Musician _____

Office Use Only:

Commitment & Code of Conduct

Membership in the NIYS is an honor and a privilege. The young musicians chosen by audition to play in these groups are expected to make membership a first priority among their many activities. Instrumentation and balance are established at the time of audition and must be maintained. If the orchestra is to provide the highest possible level of performance, preparation of the music and attendance at all rehearsals and concerts for the entire season is of utmost importance.

All members will adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

1. Attendance is required at all regular and sectional rehearsals. **Students should arrive 15 minutes before rehearsal** to tune and be ready to play.
 - If there is an unavoidable reason for absence, please inform your orchestra's manager and/or conductor by phone, email or text prior to rehearsal!
 - A maximum of two absences are allowed per trimester (3 concerts and 3 preparatory trimesters), however students may lose the privilege of playing in a concert if absent in the two weeks prior to a concert!
2. Bring all music and a pencil to every rehearsal.
3. Return music promptly to the Conductor or Orchestra Manager when asked to do so. If a student must leave the Orchestra, all music must be returned within 3 business days of leaving or a penalty of \$20 per piece PLUS the cost of the music will be assessed. If music is lost or damaged, student will be charged the cost of replacement.
4. If you borrow anything, return it please.
5. Your complete attention is required at all times.
6. All students must respect the property and personnel at our rehearsal and concert locations
7. We strictly prohibit the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Any student in violation will be immediately removed from the orchestra.
8. In matters of seating, the Conductor's decision is final.
9. Be respectful at all times of orchestra members, staff, conductors, and guests.

Absences

Musicians will be allowed (2) absences in the fall trimester, two (2) absences in the winter trimester, and two (2) absences in the spring trimester. These may be for any reason

whatsoever (ski trips, spring break, family wedding, etc.). However, remember, the above absences only in each semester will be allowed so use them wisely. A musician with excessive absences will be subject to re-audition, reassignment, dismissal without refund, or moved to a different chair at the Conductor's discretion. Attendance at dress rehearsals, fundraisers and concerts is mandatory. The musician or a parent must inform the Orchestra Manager or Conductor at least one (1) week in advance when a rehearsal will be missed. (Sudden illness or a death in the family are exceptions.) When the musician is expected but not present at rehearsal, the Orchestra Manager will phone his/her home from the rehearsal event. Under extenuating circumstances (other music related events, extended illnesses, etc.) absence issues or other concerns may be brought to the Conductor for a case-by-case review.

Concert Attendance

Musicians in the orchestras are expected to participate in all concerts and events. Parents are responsible for transporting students to and from concerts. There is a final dress rehearsal before each concert. Part of developing into a great musician is learning how to be an enthusiastic appreciator of other ensembles. **ALL** members are required to stay and watch the other orchestra's performance at concerts.

Concert Attire

Debut String Orchestra:

- Ladies: Black blouse, black slacks or skirt with black hose/tights, black shoes
- Gentlemen: Black button down shirt, black slacks, black socks, black shoes

Intermezzo Symphony:

- Ladies: Long-sleeved white blouse, black over-the-knee length skirt or dress slacks, neutral or black stockings and black dress shoes and subdued accessories.
- Gentlemen: Long-sleeved white shirt, black bow tie, black dress pants, black belt OR cummerbund, black socks and black dress shoes.

Philharmonic Symphony:

- Ladies: Long-sleeved black dress or black over-the-knee length skirt or dress slacks, neutral or black stockings and black dress shoes and subdued accessories.
- Gentlemen: Tuxedo (OR black dress pants and black coat), white dress shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund, black socks and black dress shoes.

Please note:

- No black jeans, pants with cargo pockets, casual shoes (boots, tennis shoes, Birkenstocks, flip flops, etc.), low-cut blouses, belly shirts, high slits in skirts or vests.

Do you have questions on whether specific articles of clothing are appropriate? Address all questions to your orchestra manager or conductor at least a week prior to the concert! If you arrive for a concert dressed inappropriately, you will NOT be allowed to play.

Music Folders

Every season NIYS issues each musician a numbered music folder. This folder remains the property of the NIYS and must be returned following the last concert of the season. Failure to return music and folder on time may affect orchestra placement next season and a fee will be charged to your account. Musicians are responsible for their music folders and all music given to them throughout the season. The following fees will be incurred for loss or damage:

\$10 fee per item if an original piece is lost, damaged or handed in late, PLUS replacement cost of piece.

\$20 fee for loss or damage to music folder

These fees will also be incurred if the folder is not given back to the NIYS within five (5) business days following the last concert.

School Music Program Participation Policy

The NIYS expects all its members to participate in their school music program, in some capacity, and strongly encourages youth to study privately. There is a petition process through the Board and Conductors. Please contact your student's Orchestra Manager for a form. The petition process includes documentation of all avenues of recourse that have been pursued to facilitate participation in the student's school music program. This documentation is required prior to a waiver being approved. The NIYS Board and conductor's decision is final.

The NIYS believes its success depends on families remaining committed to the musical education of their children. We recognize and value the vital role played by music educators, both private and public, in the training of our musicians. NIYS Orchestras, school music programs and private teachers share the common goal of training the next generation of musicians, audience members and arts supporters.

NIYS Staff and Board

Board of Directors

Chase Chang, President

Chelsea Gentry, Vice-President

Declan McCollough, Media & Marketing

Traci Espinoza, Treasurer

NIYS Conductors

Dr. Ruth Boden, Philharmonic Director and NIYS Artistic Director

Mr. Shad Frazier, Intermezzo Conductor

Mrs. Kristina Phillips, Debut Conductor