

Our Mission:

The Verdugo Young Musicians' Association (VYMA) is dedicated to providing first-rate music education in a nurturing, non-competitive ensemble setting. Our accurate and encouraging slogan is, "real musicians...only younger." The minimum requirement for membership is one year of weekly private lessons, continued through participation in the program. The uniqueness of the approach is that no child is denied participation based on his or her level of technical proficiency. This is accomplished through tiering programs to meet the needs of youth at all musical levels, thereby nurturing growth and focusing on developmental opportunities for every musician.

Our Philosophy:

VYMA is dedicated to helping children and teens feel successful through learning and sharing music. By becoming an essential and valued member of our musical community and working together towards a shared goal, members learn the consistency, dedication and teamwork needed to create wonderful music. They also discover how much fun that work can be.

By deeply respecting and believing in the potential of all children and by being a supportive and nurturing presence in their lives, we encourage and challenge out young musicians to be the very best they are able while providing a safe place to take risks and make mistakes. With love and encouragement we teach young people to make music with their minds and their hearts. The goal is to promote an atmosphere in which students' enthusiasm can be ignited by the repertoire of great composers enhancing their creativity and challenging their minds with questions of style and interpretation.

Musician's Responsibilities:

In joining VYMA you have become a member of a team. Your fellow musicians will count on you to make each rehearsal productive and every performance the best it can be. There are three areas that are most important for a successful orchestra or chamber music experience. They are preparation, attendance and focus.

1) Preparation:

Rehearsal time is precious. Every minute of rehearsal time is needed to help all of you learn how to play together. You need to be ready to play at the start of the rehearsal. You need to be at rehearsal 15 minutes before it starts for you to sign in and tune your instrument. When you arrive you will sign in and check the 'plan for the day' to see when you will be playing. You then need to tune your instrument. We will have two rooms ready for tuning your instrument. When you are tuned, go to your assigned room and set up your stand. You need to have a pencil so you have something to write with at all times. Always remember to bring your music folder.

You will keep your instrument case under your chair. At any break, you must put your instrument in your case and completely close your case. This way you will always be ready to play after the break.

Between rehearsals you need to practice your pieces at home every night. This is where you should make sure you can read and play the music. You should mark any places you are unsure of. Ask your teacher or one of our coaches to help you on those sections.

2) Attendance:

As your orchestra or chamber group prepares for performances, your presence is critical.

When you miss a rehearsal your fellow musicians are missing part of their team. You are missing important instructions about bowing, rhythms and dynamics. The conductor may ask you not to participate in an upcoming performance if you have missed three or more rehearsals or have arrived late to six or have missed the dress rehearsal.

You must call the conductor, Samvel Chilingarian if you have to miss or arrive late to any rehearsal or performance. If you know in advance please call Sam's home number: (818) 951-6482. For a last minute emergency, please call Sam's cell phone at (818) 383-5685.

3) Focus:

As you learn to share music and play together, we will expect you to help each other. You will need to listen carefully to the conductor and the coaches; you will need to listen to your stand partner as you mark and discuss the music, you will need to listen to yourself and everyone around you as you play.

VYMA Handbook

It is a rare thing to have this many young people together playing music. You will want to take advantage of every minute. Intentional disruption of rehearsal time will not be tolerated. No excessive talking or other disruptive behavior will be tolerated. The conductor and coaches may ask you to leave if any of this behavior continues.

The conductor may decide to ask an individual to play a solo with the orchestra. In order to qualify, a student must be a member of the orchestra at least two consecutive semesters to be eligible in their 3rd semester. If you are a chamber member only, it will be four consecutive semesters to be eligible in the 5th semester.

Parent Responsibilities:

VYMA depends on the support of parents and families to ensure a successful ensemble experience. As a volunteer, non-profit organization, we welcome parents to participate in any way they can. There are a few areas that we need everyone's cooperation.

Costs:

Application fee:	\$20.00 due on the audition day or with tuition
Materials fee:	\$20.00 for music and other supplies.
Tuition:	\$275.00 per program per semester.

The materials fee and tuition are due at the second rehearsal. Returned check fees are the responsibility of the payee. We do offer a 10% discount on tuition for children of Music Teachers. We also have some scholarships available. Please ask at the parent's meeting for more information about these programs.

Tickets:

Selling tickets to our concerts is VYMA's primary fundraising activity. Selling tickets makes sure that we do not compete with your child's school or other organizations selling, candy, cookies etc. Your family is responsible for \$50.00 worth of tickets (5 tickets @ \$10.00) each semester.

Involvement:

VYMA is a non-profit organization and relies on our parents and other volunteers to keep us going. We are asking each family to donate 5 hours a semester to help us with various tasks that must be done. The parent orientation meeting will explain more of the opportunity to volunteer your time. If you are unable to volunteer the 5 hours, you may donate \$25.00 in lieu of the hours requested.

Orientation:

All parents are required to attend parent orientation meeting which will be at 5:30 pm during the second rehearsal. This is where you will be given a brief overview of the orchestra and events for the season. You will have time to meet other parents, sign up for committees to assist us and given a chance to ask any questions. There are several committees that you can join to help VYMA: organizational, fund raising, publicity and performance opportunities. There are also one time opportunities to help on performance days like setup/clean up, ticket takers, refreshments and decorations. You will also be asked to sign up to provide snacks for one rehearsal (amounts vary depending on the size of the orchestra)

Music Preparation:

It is important that you help your child prepare for rehearsal. Discuss your child's orchestra or chamber music repertoire with her/his private teacher. Make sure your child attends every rehearsal with their music, pencil and their music stand.

Listen to your child while they practice their orchestra or chamber music pieces during the week. Discuss what is going well and help them write down any questions they want to ask the conductor or coach.

Rehearsal and Performance Attendance & Behavior:

All parents must sign in their child when they arrive and are responsible for the child safety at all times. You must also come in and sign your child out at the end of rehearsal. If for any reason your child must miss a rehearsal or arrive late, please call Samvel Chilingarian at home (818) 951-6482. For a last minute emergency, please call Sam's cell phone at (818) 383-5685. You may also contact Sam by email at samvel@juno.com.

VYMA Handbook

Repeated, disruptive behavior will not be tolerated at rehearsals or performances. If your child displays any of this kind of behavior, they may be excused from rehearsal and you will be asked to come pick them up. If the behavior is not corrected, they may be asked to leave the orchestra or chamber group.

Announcements:

You will receive an email every week that lets you know about any announcements made during rehearsal. If there are any changes to the rehearsal of performance information or special instructions for practicing, we will include them in the email. If you do not have an email address, be sure to let us know and we will arrange to have a paper copy sent to you. Important announcement will also be posted on our website at: www.vyma.org.

Rehearsal Dates

Fall Semester

September 11
September 18
September 25
October 2
October 9
October 16
October 23
October 30
November 6
November 13
November 20
November 27
December 4
December 11 (Dress Rehearsal)

Spring Semester

January 15
January 22
January 29
February 5
February 12
February 19
February 26
March 4
March 11
(Spring Break 3/18 – 3/25)
April 1
April 8
April 15
April 22
April 29 (Dress Rehearsal)

Rehearsal times are: 4:00 – 6:15

Performance Dates

Saturday December 15th, First Congregational Church 3:00 pm performance; 2:00 pm call time
Saturday May 3rd, First Congregational Church 3:00 pm performance; 2:00 pm call time.

Disney Concert Hall Performance

Saturday November 10th 5:00 – 7:00 pm Dress Rehearsal – Call time 4:00 pm (*times are subject to change*)
Sunday November 11th 11:00am – 2:00 pm Performance – Call time 10:00 am (*times are subject to change*)

Additional performance dates may be scheduled.

Performance Dress

Boys: Black dress slacks, white dress shirt, black dress shoes
Girls: Black dress slacks or skirt, white blouse, black dress shoes

Certain performances can be counted for school community service credit; VYMA can supply a certification of community service upon request.