Table of Contents

3 DEPARTMENT MISSION
4 MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT
5 STUDENTS & TEACHERS
10 STORIES & MORE
12 FAMILIES
13 EMERGING ARTISTS
14 LIFELONG LEARNING & PARTNERSHIPS
16 WELLNESS
Department Mission

The Minnesota Orchestra has been committed to educational programming for over a century.

Today, its Education and Community Engagement Department uses symphonic music as a catalyst to enrich our community by bringing people together, creating meaningful connections to the Minnesota Orchestra, and inspiring exploration and growth through engagements in Orchestra Hall, the community and digital spheres.
Welcome to Minnesota Orchestra!

As the newly appointed Director of Education and Community Engagement, I’m excited to share that we are returning to live activities and events this season while also maintaining our rich array of online resources. Whether you are an educator looking for opportunities for your students, a parent looking for family activities, or you are looking for new ways to engage with the Orchestra yourself, we have something to suit your needs! Our variety of programming and partnerships are central to the Orchestra’s mission to be a catalyst for connection, well-being and vitality.

For the 2022–23 season, we are pleased to offer an expanded Relaxed Family and Sensory-Friendly series, a robust Wellness series and five new Young People’s Concerts with fun and informative hosts and diverse community arts partners. These are only some highlights of what you will discover in this brochure and on our website. Explore, enjoy and we’ll see you at the Orchestra!

Mitra Sadeghpour
Director of Education & Community Engagement
Students & Teachers

YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS

Since 1911, Young People’s Concerts have been at the heart of the Minnesota Orchestra’s efforts to engage and inspire young audiences.

Join us for an experience that investigates a musical element, composer, time period or theme, and is tailored for students, their teachers and families. See individual programs for age recommendations.

YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS ARE SUPPORTED BY:

INDIVIDUAL DONORS
Mary Ann Feldman Music Education Fund
Angela S. Pennington and W. Anders Folk Student Ticket Fund

CORPORATE DONORS

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Just as painters use many colors in visual art, composers draw on an immense palette—all four instrument families’ huge range of instrumental colors. Featuring the 2021 YPSCA competition winner, cellist Dennis Eum.

Music with a winter theme helps us learn about each other’s traditions and vastly different personal experiences. Music can suggest the jingling of sleigh bells, a snowy horse-and-carriage ride or even the Southern Hemisphere’s bright-shining sun!

Trumpeter Charles Lazarus shows us connections between classical music and the great American tradition of jazz. Along with Lazarus and a quartet of jazz stars, the Minnesota Orchestra plays Duke Ellington, George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein.

Every culture produces distinctive folk music, inspired by dance (jigs and polkas) or nature. Hear music from many different regions of the world represented in this buoyant program! Featuring the 2019 YPSCA competition winner, pianist Nita Qiu.
Students & Teachers

YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERT RESOURCES

**CURRICULUM:** Prepare for your concert experience, or dig into the archives. Each curriculum features interactive lesson plans in line with Minnesota Department of Education Arts Standards.

**GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA:** Discover the instruments that make up the orchestra in our interactive online tool. Videos, photos, interviews and demonstrations from Minnesota Orchestra musicians bring it all to life!
Students & Teachers

KINDER KONZERTS >>
For over 40 years, the FRIENDS of the Minnesota Orchestra Kinder Konzerts™ programs have welcomed young guests to Orchestra Hall to experience a narrated musical story based on a children’s book, performed by an ensemble of musicians from the Minnesota Orchestra.

FRIENDS is very excited to be back in Orchestra Hall with limited dates starting in Spring 2023: Feb 13, Feb 28, Apr 19, May 2 and May 12.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS >>
Interested in bringing Minnesota Orchestra musicians to your school? Request a free musician visit aligned with your educational goals. Available to pre-K through 12, college or university classrooms.

Visits are prioritized based on fit between Orchestra and instructor goals, as well as musician availability. If you would like to request an individual musician or small ensemble visit for your organization, please fill out our inquiry form.
Students & Teachers

STUDENT AND EDUCATOR DISCOUNTS >>
A variety of ongoing promotions and discounts are available for students and educators.

SYMPHONIC ADVENTURES FOR HIGH SCHOOLS >>
Symphonic Adventures bring the entire Minnesota Orchestra to Twin Cities metro-area high schools for dynamic, one-hour concerts designed for secondary students. Each program is hosted by Orchestra violist Sam Bergman, who introduces students to the music, musicians and key concepts before the symphonic work is performed.

Is your high school interested in hosting the Minnesota Orchestra for a Symphonic Adventures concert? Fill out our request form online.
OUR DIGITAL HOME

Visit our resource hub for playlists, activities and more. You’ll see options for educators, students and families!

RESOURCES FOR GRADES 1–6

MEET THE INSTRUMENTS: Get to know the families and instruments of the orchestra. Grades 1–6.

MUSICAL MENAGERIE: In partnership with the Minnesota Zoo and Twin Cities PBS, go on a musical journey to meet animals! Grades 1–6.

AMERICAN VOICES: Learn about many of the unique voices and styles that contribute to American orchestral music. Multisensory activities included! Grades 3–6.


SCIENCE OF SOUND: Explore the science behind instrument sound in this virtual concert presented by the Minnesota Orchestra, Science Museum of Minnesota and Twin Cities PBS. Grades 1–6

LUNAR NEW YEAR: Celebrate the Lunar New Year with a vibrant, virtual concert experience that draws upon cultural traditions past and present. Grades 1–6.
RESOURCES FOR GRADES 6+

CAREER EXPLORATION: Considering a future in the performing arts? Watch our series featuring Orchestra musicians and staff on behind the scenes and on-stage career paths in the music field.

LET’S PLAY A DUET: Play along with Minnesota Orchestra musicians from home. Featured instruments include clarinet, trumpet, violin, cello and bassoon.

PRACTICE WITH A PRO: Hear practice tips first-hand from Minnesota Orchestra musicians. Topics include warm-up routines, breathing, bowing and shifting, and how to organize your practice time.
Families

RELAXED FAMILY AND SENSORY-FRIENDLY CONCERTS

Experience inclusive Orchestra concerts that spark curiosity and joy! At our Relaxed Family and Sensory-Friendly Concerts, audiences of all ages, including individuals with autism or sensory sensitivities, are welcome to come be who they are while enjoying music together with family and friends in a relaxed environment.

Our Relaxed Family Concerts feature the Minnesota Orchestra in Orchestra Hall’s main auditorium, plus a variety of pre- and post-concert activities. Sensory-Friendly Concerts feature individual musicians or small ensembles in the Target Atrium at Orchestra Hall. Read our Going to Orchestra Hall Pre-concert PDF for more information.

Visit us online for the full 2022–23 Relaxed Family & Sensory-Friendly concert calendar.

SUPPORTED BY:

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.
Emerging Artists

MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA FELLOWSHIP

The Minnesota Orchestra Fellowship is an ongoing program of two-year residencies for African American, Latin American and Native American professional orchestra musicians early in their careers. Fellowship activities include opportunities to perform with the Orchestra, lessons from Orchestra musicians, mock auditions, participation in Education and Community Engagement work and more.

The Fellowship is generously supported by Rosemary and David Good and Margee and Will Bracken.

PHOTO Caroline Yang
Lifelong Learning & Partnerships

PRE/POST-CONCERT PROGRAMS

We collaborate with partners to curate pre- and post-concert experiences that create and deepen connections between the Minnesota Orchestra and the community, including free concert preview discussions with musicians and artists, performances, exhibits and more. See event pages for details about what’s happening at your concert, or learn how you can partner with us to present an event.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Interested in bringing Minnesota Orchestra musicians to your organization? We offer free virtual or in-person musician visits to arts organizations, afterschool programs, community centers, healthcare facilities and other nonprofits.

This 2022–23 season, the Minnesota Orchestra will perform at Open Streets West Broadway (2022) and in Brooklyn Center (2023).
Common Chords is a Minnesota Orchestra initiative that strives to bring Minnesota communities together through music. A year-long community planning process culminates in a festival week of chamber ensemble and full-Orchestra performances in the host city, educational programming and other activities that reflect the interests, diversity and heritage of the community.

Musical activities take place in a variety of settings ranging from concert halls and schools to coffee shops, pubs and community centers. Previous host communities have included Grand Rapids, Willmar, Hibbing, Bemidji, Detroit Lakes, Mankato and North Minneapolis.

This year we will be traveling to Austin, Minnesota!
Wellness

YOGA & MINDFULNESS

Explore how instrumental music can be paired with yoga, mindfulness and other practices to create a more present and grounded you.

Our yoga class series brings together local yoga instructors with live music curated and performed by a soloist or duo from the Minnesota Orchestra. We also offer opportunities to find your center with Music & Mindfulness presented in collaboration with the University of Minnesota’s Earl E. Bakken Center for Spirituality and Healing.

2022–23 SEASON EVENTS:

Yoga: Nov 6, Feb 5, May 14
Music and Mindfulness: Mar 2, Apr 13, May 11

Unable to make it in person? Visit our streaming site to view free yoga and mindfulness content on-demand.
Thank you!

Want to receive the latest information about Education & Community Engagement programs throughout the year?

Sign up for our monthly email newsletter, Minnesota Orchestra for Teachers.

education@mnorch.org

minnesotaorchestra.org