



## Middle Level Festival Tier II Orchestras

April 4, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Orchestra Hall  
Minneapolis, MN

Thank you to



MINNESOTA  
ORCHESTRA

for coaching each group today.

**Please attend some of our other MNSOTA events! Click on a link below, or ask your teacher**

### [Eclectic Strings Day](#)

Saturday April 2023, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Champlin Park High School

Welcoming all players ages 10 and up!!!

For violin, viola, cello and bass players who want to learn to play rock, jazz, folk and pop music. Eclectic Strings Day is a fun and informative day of workshops and performances. You will have three different classes exploring new styles on your instrument such as gypsy jazz, bluegrass, rock and roll, jazz/swing, fiddling and pop/rock guided by a master teacher. Registration available now [here](#).

### [Fall String Camp](#)

late October

For students in grades 6–8

Three fun-filled days; three levels of orchestra, sectionals, recreation and bingo!

### Mary West Solo Competition

late October / early November

For students under age 25

Competition in 4 age categories. Winners receive cash prizes, gift certificates and the honor of performing on the Winners Recital.

### Middle Level Honors Orchestra

On-line audition November

For students in grades 7–9

Selected students participate in a day and a half of rehearsal and a performance at the MMEA Teacher Convention in February.

## **Tier II Program**

### Ordean East Middle School Advanced Orchestra

Laura Kimmes, Director

Telemann Sinfonia

*Paraphrase from Trio in A Minor*

by Georg Philipp Telemann

arr. Robert B. Brown

Spring Breezes (Folk Song from Taiwan)

arr. Richard Meyer

It Takes One to Tango (for solo Cello and Orchestra)

by Brian Balmages

Toko Nakajima, Cello Soloist

### Stillwater Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra

Lisa St. Ores, Director

Epic Adventure

by Kathryn Greisinger

Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, Movement 1

by Johann Sebastian Bach

arr. Merle J. Isaac

Spartacus

by Brian Balmages

### Stillwater High School Ninth Grade Philharmonic Orchestra

Kent Musser, Director

To Tame the Raging Rapids

by Brian Balmages

Fantasia on an Original Theme

by Joseph Phillips

Fire in the Forge

by Ted Allen

### Chippewa Middle School Eighth Grade Orchestra

Brian Larson, Director

Fantasia on a Theme from Thailand

by Richard Meyer

Appalachian Sunrise

by Doris Gazda

Fire in the Forge

by Ted Allen

## **Tier II Participants**

### **Ordean East Middle School Advanced Orchestra**

Ordean East Middle School is located in Duluth, overlooking beautiful Lake Superior. The OEMS Advanced Orchestra includes students in grades seven and eight under the direction of Laura Kimmes. The Advanced Orchestra rehearses daily for 49 minutes. Most of the orchestra's members are in eighth grade. They joined orchestra as sixth graders in the fall of 2020 when, due to the pandemic, all instruction was virtual. Via

Google Meet, violinists and violists learned their playing fundamentals using egg cartons; cellists and bassists used wooden poles with tapes to indicate finger placement. The students (and their teachers) were delighted to return to in-person in the fall of 2021. The day they received real instruments was unforgettable. We are so pleased with the amazing progress our students have made in just a year and a half!

Ordean East Middle School is one of two middle schools in the Duluth School District (ISD 709) and has a student population of 1088, led by principal Susan Lehna. The string program includes 135 students in three orchestras: the Advanced Orchestra, the Intermediate Orchestra and the Beginning Orchestra.

Due to budget constraints, in-school lessons at OEMS were eliminated for the 2022-2023 school year. However, they have been reinstated as of March 10, 2023, with Teresa Aho coming on board at OEMS. Other string teachers in the ISD 709 School District include Byron Klimek, who teaches at Lincoln Park Middle School and Denfeld High School and James Larson, who teaches at East High School.

In 2020 the Ordean Eighth Grade Orchestra qualified for Tier 2, but the event was canceled due to the pandemic. In 2022 the Ordean Advanced Orchestra performed at the Tier 2 Level. This is the second time an Ordean East Middle School Orchestra will be performing at the Tier 2 festival and we are excited and honored to share our music with you this evening!

Toko Nakajima will be our cello soloist in *It Takes One To Tango*. Toko, the daughter of Ryuta and Aya Nakajima, was born in Duluth, MN. She started playing the cello when she was five years old, with Dr. Betsy Husby, principal cellist of the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, as her teacher. Toko has also studied with many other cellists such as Hirohisa Miyata, Tetsuo Harada, Amika Aramaki, Becky Peterson and Anna J. Cliff.

Toko is in the eighth grade at Ordean East Middle school and a member of the Advanced Orchestra. In addition, Toko has been playing in the Duluth Superior Symphony Youth Orchestra since 2019. She has been actively participating in many other music programs as well, including the Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra and Quartet project in Duluth and the Summer Music Clinic at UW-Madison in Madison, Wisconsin.

Toko also plays electric bass and enjoys jazz, rock and pop music. She loves to draw and visit museums. Toko continues to study the cello with Dr. Betsy Husby as her private cello teacher.

### **Violin 1**

Adams, Ethan  
Chen, Yupeng  
David, Hayden  
Fuchs, Lauren  
Hanka, Katherine

Hansen, Anikka  
Kohlts, Samantha  
Kraker, Zinnia, Concertmaster  
Langford, Nora  
Loons, Alice  
Thompson, Oscar  
Wu, Zachary

### **Violin 2**

Anderson, Keeley  
Barnes, Emma  
Brandt, Evelyn  
Brodin, George  
Gooder, Leo  
Grubb, Katelyn  
Hansen, Milaina  
Johnson, Madison  
Kyes, Julia, Principal  
MacDonald, Lauren  
Sadowski, Jupiter

### **Viola**

Brisance, William  
Harju, Anja  
Pessenda, Josephine  
Snustad, Averi, Principal

### **Cello**

Brosell, Greta  
Caine, Liv  
Harbson, Maxwell  
Kolmodin, Deegan  
Mahr, River  
Nakajima, Toko, Principal & Soloist  
Olson, Heidi  
Wendlandt, Anna  
Wictor, Colin

### **Bass**

Bergen, Margaret, Principal  
Likar, Carly  
Ronkainen, Lyla  
Schiller, Anna

### **Piano**

Kohlts, Samantha

## **Stillwater Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra**

The Stillwater Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra is comprised of 36 students who have been studying their instruments since 5th grade. They rehearse daily during the school day. The 8th Grade orchestra has performed at the Tier 2 event in previous years. Other string teachers who have influenced these students include Julie Vanderstappen and Cassandra Herold. Principal Joshua Krebs heads this school of 1100 students in grades 6–8.

### **Violin**

Emerson Conners  
Kayla Crooks  
Eli De St. Aubin  
Adele Decker  
Anna DiMartini  
Ethan Finch  
Sydney Hamilton  
Lyla Janet  
Madison Komarek  
Qianyi Li  
Cohen Lumby  
Charles Morin  
Major Nguyen  
Katie Olson  
Jayne Priester  
Elizabeth Reiner  
Tupelo Stein  
Macy Sullivan  
Lauren Swager

### **Viola**

Jazmin Leon  
Maggie McGrorty  
Paige Nelson  
Toriahna Nielsen  
Ella Osborn

### **Cello**

Abigail Aldrich  
Cyra Brazzell  
Teagan Farrington  
Isabella Hoose  
Kyle Jarosiewicz  
Brock Kirksson  
August Massey  
Audrey Pascal  
Audrey Serres  
Tupelo Stein  
Kassie Ulrich

Theodore Wilson

## **Stillwater High School Ninth Grade Philharmonic Orchestra**

The Stillwater Area High School Ninth Grade Philharmonic Orchestra is comprised of 57 students who have been studying their instruments since 5th grade. There are two sections of this orchestra that meet daily. They combine for dress rehearsals and concerts only. The 9th Grade Orchestras in our district have had many appearances at Tier II in the past. They also perform at the Chicago Heritage Festival annually. Other orchestra teachers who have influenced these students include Julie Vanderstappen, Cassandra Herold and Lisa St. Ores. Ryan Jensen heads the High School Orchestra program in Stillwater. Stillwater High School has approximately 2800 students.

### **Violin**

Elizabeth Allen  
Amelia Bruno  
McKenzie Deitner  
Izzy De St. Aubin  
Luis Espinoza Cosme  
Adriana Francis  
Carlos Galvan Reyes  
Orla Hickey  
Isabelle Kargel  
Nora Lindstrom  
Callan Logan  
Addison Lower  
Kyle McBride  
Chase McCann  
Olive McLemore  
Clara Melin  
Ben Meyers  
Jibril Mohamed  
Will Ness  
George O'Connor  
Ruby Peterson  
Jose Rentschler  
Greta Shockey  
Cecilia Spaeth  
Ava Wilmes  
Grace Young

### **Viola**

Anthea Brazzell  
Samantha Gilleo  
Sienna Nordman  
Lyla Polehna

Samantha Schinka  
Evan Uddin  
Chloe Willingham

### **Cello**

Luke Bentzin  
Sophia Braun  
Marla Brandt  
Tyler Curnow  
Audrey Davis  
Isaac Howard  
Ellie Jarstad  
Anna Kiser  
Adele Majeski  
Zita Meyer  
George Nelson  
Jonas Peterson  
Eloise Powell  
Juliette Ralston  
Noelia Ruiz Alcazar  
Tali Torkko  
Lillian Tregilgas

### **Bass**

Jack Bogie  
Joel Fahs  
Gage Holger  
Keaton Matthews  
Jacob Ness  
Lydia Ostrander  
Talbot Ward

## **Chippewa Middle School Eighth Grade Orchestra**

The Chippewa Middle School Eighth Grade Orchestra is composed of 75 students under the direction of Brian Larson. There are two sections of this orchestra that rehearse daily for 48 minutes. Students also receive lessons or sectionals taught by Daniel Keeler three days a week. The Chippewa Middle School Eighth Grade Orchestra has performed at the Tier 2 event several times in previous years and also does many community outreach concerts throughout the year. Chippewa has 1,106 students in grades 6-8 led by principal Molly Hollihan. Other orchestra faculty in the Mounds View school district include Emily Anderson, Rosa Glade Arnold, Alex Hummel, Anna Koopman, Lara MacLean, Rachael Rogness, Lucas Shogren and Juli Vig.

### **Violin**

Jax Anderson

Lydia Arnold  
Emil Baylar  
Katen Bose  
Stella Burgardt  
Jason Chang  
Richard Chen  
Ilsa Claseman  
Alexis Cunnien  
Logan Delahay  
William Diao  
Miranda Duden  
Oliver Gamson  
Walter Gibbens  
Isabelle Hawkins  
Maxwell Hoerneman  
Jessica Huang  
Annika Johnson  
Jueun Kim  
Ella Kirkman  
Luca Kopacz  
Natalie Krum  
Riya Kulangaroth  
Siri Leana-Thao  
Kellyann Manning  
Krista O'Brien  
Lisa Palmeros De Leon  
Tiffany Pan  
Zoe Pignatello  
Divyansh Ramisetty  
Cameron Roncari  
Siddhardha Sastry  
Eliana Schultz  
Ananya Tiwari  
Alannah Torborg  
Kevin Vue  
Winston Williams  
Samuel Zou  
Maya Zunker

**Viola**

Sofia Aadland  
Cooper Armstrong  
Ethan Berge  
Sara-Catherine Brown  
Zoe Buzan  
Amanitya Ghosh  
Dominic Hartzell

Elliot Haryn  
Colin Hollister  
Victoria Lutsey  
Zareena Magaling  
Saina Makin  
Benjamin Shaw  
Anders Swenson  
Ezra Vanderziel

### **Cello**

Andrew Bangasser  
Charlie Collins  
Jude Compton  
Gwen Gruman  
Ian Gylling  
Evan Haryn  
Nolan Horn  
Jackson Ollendick  
Mason Pape  
Caden Prussing  
Peter Stark  
Audrey Stenzel  
John Stepnowski  
Abigail Urriola  
Austin Wang  
Tingyun Wang  
Brayden Ye

### **Bass**

Maddux Brooks  
Andrew Dittberner  
Kayla Kearin  
Nicolas Nacusi

## **A Little About MNSOTA and Today's Events...**

The Minnesota String and Orchestra Teachers Association (MNSOTA) is the Minnesota Chapter of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). MNSOTA's Middle Level Orchestra Festival Tier I events, held in late February/early March, offer young string students and their orchestra teachers the opportunity to play for and learn from each other, their adjudicators and clinicians in a non-competitive atmosphere. Thanks go to the Festival judges and clinicians who shared their expertise at the three Tier I sites this year that were hosted by Jeff Engholm (St. John's Preparatory School), Dan Mollick (Edina) and Craig Peterson (Fergus Falls).

The Festival has been a 2-Tier event for over twenty years. Because of covid, Tier II was canceled in 2020 and the Festival did not take place at all in 2021. This year, we are delighted that twenty-seven orchestras from around the state participated in the Tier I festivals. A long-time collaboration between MNSOTA and the Minnesota Orchestra, Tier II seeks to honor, inspire and recognize groups whose performances received Superior with Distinction ratings from both judges at the Tier I Festival events.

Thank you to the Minnesota Orchestra and Orchestra Hall for partnering with MNSOTA for this event. During the day, each group got to work with members of the Minnesota Orchestra for a 45-minute sectional. The sectional coaches for today were Jean De Vere - violin, Nicole Swanson - viola, Sonia Mantell - cello, and Kyle Sandborn - bass. Each orchestra also had the opportunity to rehearse on stage prior to tonight's performance.

We would like to thank the many teachers, schools, administrators, parents, friends, family and community members who support and inspire these students every day! Special thanks to the Minnesota Orchestral Association for embracing this Festival and providing meaningful, intelligent and insightful leadership to the educators in the orchestra community. Thanks to the Minnesota Orchestra and staff members Sarah Flake, Jessica Lowry, Nick Peter, Mitra Sadeghpour and Cassandra Swan for making the logistics of today run smoothly.

Becky Plachy coordinated the Tier I and II events; Faith Farr prepared the program.

### **MNSOTA Board of Directors**

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CHAMPLIN PARK HIGH SCHOOL  
6025 109TH AVE N, CHAMPLIN, MN

# Eclectic Strings Day 2023



**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 22, 2022**  
**8:30 AM-**  
**3:00 PM**

REGISTRATION \$40 INCLUDES PIZZA LUNCH  
MNSOTA.ORG