



Dear Music Educators, Students & Parents,

The North Sound Youth Symphony invites you to join us for a year of fantastic music making at Western Washington University. NSYS is proud to offer a full symphonic experience for students who wish to expand their music learning in an excellence oriented, yet, encouraging educational environment.

Three levels of participation are available for wind, string and percussion players: The **Symphony** (advanced level) is directed by Grant Donnellan and the **Philharmonia** (intermediate level) is directed by Morgan Schwab. The **Sinfonia** (novice level) is directed by Coral Marchant. Ensemble level placement is determined by audition, not age. Western's Music Education Majors provide additional weekly coaching assistance through a unique internship program coordinated with the WWU Music Department to provide maximum faculty contact for our students. All rehearsals and concerts are held in the Music Department's facilities at Western Washington University's Performing Arts Center.

We perform three concerts, yearly, in Western's acoustically marvelous Concert Hall during December, March and June. Our concerts are free of charge, as a gift to the public and parents who support our students. Rehearsals are on Monday nights from 6:00-8:15, with our first rehearsal on September 21st 2009. New students may audition for placement on September 21st from 5:00-6:00. Students are encouraged to enroll for the entire year, but we also accept new members at the beginning of each concert quarter. Students may attend the first two rehearsals of any quarter free of charge as a means to "test the water": we know you will be hooked when you experience the camaraderie and high level of music making in our orchestras!

Orchestra members are also encouraged to participate in the North Sound Concerto Competition for the opportunity to perform as a soloist with orchestra on one of our concerts. Auditions for Concerto Solo opportunities will be held after the first two rehearsals in each term.

We would love to share this great experience with you as a member of our ensembles!

Grant Donnellan, Symphony Director, is Professor of Violin and String Education at WWU and Director of Western's Chamber Days summer chamber music camp. He also performs as concertmaster of the Whatcom Symphony and Director of the Ferndale Summer Pops Orchestra and is on the faculty of the Marrowstone Summer Music Festival at WWU.

Morgan Schwab, Philharmonia Director, is orchestra and band director at Fairhaven Middle School and maintains a large private violin/viola teaching studio in Bellingham. She is also Principal Viola for the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra and has considerable expertise as a violist and orchestral musician. In addition, she is a graduate of Western's Music Department and Co-director of Western's Chamber Days summer chamber music camp.

Coral Marchant, Sinfonia Director, is a graduate of Western's Music Department and maintains a thriving cello teaching studio in Bellingham. A fine cellist, she performs with the Whatcom Symphony, the Whatcom Chorale Sinfonia and as a freelance artist. Coral is also Co-director of Western's Chamber Days summer chamber music camp.

For more information go to www.wwu.edu/nsys
or contact Grant Donnellan at grant.donnellan@wwu.edu 650-3718
or nsys@wwu.edu 650-6446 or 676-8850.