



THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PHILHARMONIC OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY



**2017-2018**  
**YPP FAMILY HANDBOOK**

**The Young People's Philharmonic  
of the Lehigh Valley**

P.O. Box 1614

Bethlehem, PA 18016-1614

Website: [ypp.jsp.org](http://ypp.jsp.org)

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 Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley

 YPP.JSP

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley was founded by Jerry and Nancy Bidlack in 1976 to provide middle and high school musicians of the greater Lehigh Valley an opportunity to study and perform original symphony orchestra literature, to increase the awareness and appreciation of symphonic music throughout the area through public and school concerts, and to cooperate with the schools in nourishing and developing high quality musicianship. Members of the Philharmonic are encouraged to participate in their own school music programs.

The YPP seeks to provide a healthy supportive atmosphere, centered around playing and enjoying classical music, to children ages 10 to 18, during a critical formative period of their lives.

## **ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE**

The Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley is a 501(c) non-profit corporation registered with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All parents who have children enrolled in the Corporation's programs are voting members of the Corporation. Membership also includes contractors and volunteers.

A Board of Directors, elected by the membership, oversees the financial and administrative affairs of the corporation. The Board is comprised of an equal number of parents or guardians of current or former participants, and community members. Board members serve an initial term of two (2) years. Parents of YPP & JSP musicians are encouraged to participate and join the Board if interested.

Standing committees of the Board, which include board and non-board members, are: Financial/Fundraising, Operations, Policies and Procedures, Marketing/Publicity, Outreach, and the Ensemble Committee. Parents are encouraged to participate in any committee of interest. There is no specific amount of time required for participation in the committees, and each volunteer can provide as much time as they would like.

An Annual Meeting is held each year in May where an annual report of the corporation and a financial statement are presented to the membership. New Board members are also elected by the membership at this time. All members are invited to attend the Annual Meeting.

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**The season for the YPP, JSP, and chamber ensembles is September through May.**

### **Junior String Philharmonic**

The Junior String Philharmonic consists of approximately fifty to sixty string players in grades 5 through 9. Young musicians are taught to play the selected repertoire and learn how each player contributes to the success of the whole orchestra. The students are also introduced to chamber music performance during their regular rehearsal time. The orchestra provides students with the skills necessary to advance to the YPP and/or one of the chamber ensembles.

### **Young People's Philharmonic**

The Young People's Philharmonic consists of approximately seventy-five to eighty-five middle and high school age students who are committed string, woodwind, brass and percussion musicians.

Students must master their own parts and, by playing and listening in rehearsal, learn how their parts contribute to the composition as a whole. This provides a deeper understanding of the underlying structure of the music and the background material required for college or conservatory music study.

### **Chamber Ensembles**

The Young People's Chamber music program expands the scope of the orchestras through study and performance of music for small ensembles consisting of one player per part.

Serious young musicians are given an opportunity to gain control of and confidence in their musicianship. The program focuses on learning in a small group setting through enhanced focus on listening skills, non-verbal communication, and cooperation.

Current groups are:

YPP Woodwind Quintet - Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, French Horn, Bassoon

YPP Brass Ensemble - Two Trumpets, Trombone, Tuba or Bass Trombone

YPP String Quartet - Two Violins, Viola, Cello

JSP String Quartet - Two Violins, Viola, Cello

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

Parents play a vital role in the life of the organization. As a nonprofit organization we rely heavily on parent volunteers and encourage all parents to become involved. Volunteers can share their talents through a wide variety of tasks including serving on the Board of Directors, joining committees, assisting with fundraising, rehearsal and concert set-ups, mailings and other short and longer term commitments.

All families are asked to donate snacks and drinks for the orchestra members throughout the year. These snacks and drinks are enjoyed by our musicians during their break. An email is sent each week with the names of the families being requested to provide snacks or drinks. A reply to the email is not required, just bring the designated item with you to practice. With the number of rehearsals held throughout the season, each family is typically asked to provide snacks or drinks only twice throughout the year.

### **FINANCIAL COMMITMENT**

Tuition may be paid in full upon registration or may be paid in five (5) installments. A three percent (3%) discount is given if tuition is paid in full by August 1<sup>st</sup>. A discount is a given to families with two or more children in the orchestras. Tuition payments should be sent to the Young People's Philharmonic at PO Box 1614, Bethlehem, PA 18016-1614.

Tuition is non-refundable, in whole or in part, and is due in full even if the musician leaves the orchestra mid-season. A significant portion of the budget is based on tuition payments, and we must meet our commitments in order to maintain the financial health of the organization.

Financial assistance is available. To apply for financial aid, please contact the Office Administrator at (610) 868-9888.

### **FUNDRAISING**

In addition to tuition, the organization relies on fundraisers, corporate gifts, and grants for financial support of our programs. Every Fall, an Annual Fund Drive is held. The Finance/Fundraising Committee of the Board of Directors is tasked with soliciting corporate gifts and grants.

Additional funds are raised through our Basket Fundraisers at our Holiday Concerts and our semi-annual Gift Card sales. Parents are encouraged to donate gift baskets for the auction. If you do not have time or an idea to create a basket, you can donate funds to the fundraising committee, and they will build a basket for you. All families or businesses who donate baskets are listed in the holiday program.

Gift card sales are held in the late Fall and in the Spring. The Fall gift cards will be received in time for holiday gift giving, while the Spring gift cards will be received in time for holiday and graduation gift giving. This important fundraiser allows us to raise the money necessary to ensure the quality programming that your children enjoy. Purchasers receive gift cards for the exact amount paid, and the YPP receives a percentage of the order without an additional cost to the buyer. In Fall and Spring, you will receive an email with the gift card order form. To order cards, just print out and complete the order form, and include a check to “YPP” for the total amount of the gift cards you want. Submit the form and payment to either of the YPP/JSP Managers. A few weeks later, the managers will return the gift cards to you during the rehearsals.

Throughout the year the orchestra participates in “donation per purchase” programs with the following companies:

Sheet Music Plus  
Phoebe Floral  
Barnes and Noble

Dan Schantz Greenhouses  
Amazon Smile

See the YPP website for specific details on how to turn your purchases into donations to the organization.

### **COMMUNICATION**

The organization maintains a website ([ypp-jsp.org](http://ypp-jsp.org)) and a Facebook page at Young People’s Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley where members can access information and announcements regarding rehearsals, performances, weather cancellations etc. Photographs of rehearsals, performances and events are also posted on the two sites.

Cancellations due to weather can be found on WFMZ.

Notices are also sent via email so students and parents are asked to make sure we have your current email, and to check it for any current news or updates. Emails to the YPP can be sent directly from our website.

### AUDITIONS

Auditions are held in May for **new members** and the **following current members**: (1) JSP members entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade who want to move up to the YPP; (2) YPP woodwind and brass members who want to be considered for a principal or section leader position; and (3) JSP and YPP members who want to join a new or existing chamber ensemble. All other current members of the YPP, JSP and/or chamber ensembles do not need to re-audition. Auditions for new members will also be held, as needed, at the beginning of each semester.

Audition forms will be distributed in the spring and are also available on the website at <http://ypp-jsp.org>. Forms are to be submitted to the YPP office and an audition time will be assigned. Audition requirements for each group are posted on the website.

### ORCHESTRA CONCERTS AND REHEARSALS

Each year the YPP and JSP present Holiday and Spring concerts. Both orchestras also travel to area school districts to perform as part of our mission to introduce classical music to children throughout area. Additional performances are presented at various community venues during the year.

Members of all groups are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. The strength of each orchestra and ensemble depends on all musicians being in attendance at rehearsals.

For public or school concerts, a full orchestra or ensemble is essential to presenting a performance that reflects the true talent and dedication of the members of the Young People's Philharmonic and Junior String Philharmonic. If an absence is planned, you are expected to notify your group's manager or coach in writing, as soon as possible, prior to the rehearsal or performance.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S PHILHARMONIC

#### ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS

**Tuesday nights from 6:15pm to 8:30pm**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem**  
**2344 Center St.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**Attendance** - Attendance at all rehearsals is mandatory. Students will be allowed five (5) absences per semester. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> absence the student will receive a call from either the Orchestra Manager or Music Director to discuss the student's commitment to the orchestra. A 5<sup>th</sup> absence may result in the loss of principal status, seat reassignment or dismissal from the orchestra. Written notice of any absence must be given or emailed to the Orchestra Manager prior to the day of rehearsal.

**Conduct** - All YPP members are expected to behave as young professionals in rehearsal and performance. This includes not playing when the conductor stops the orchestra and minimal talking during rehearsal. Also, all non-YPP materials such as cell phone, tablets, and computers must be put away and turned off during all rehearsals and performances. All YPP members are also expected to assist with rehearsal set-up and breakdown including instruments, stands, chairs and music. Additional responsibilities may be assigned as needed by the Music Director and Orchestra Manager.

**Music** - Music for the each term will be posted on the website approximately two weeks before the beginning of the term. Students are expected to print out the music and practice parts in preparation for rehearsals. Original copies of all music will be used for rehearsals and concerts.

**Bring to each rehearsal:**

1. A functional pencil
2. A music stand for rehearsal and performances, unless directed otherwise
3. All string players must have an extra set of strings and a mute
4. Brass players must have mutes when required

**Seating** - Each instrumentalist is reevaluated in the beginning of each semester to determine appropriate placement for the season and to evaluate a student's progress. This also allows



students to take responsibility for their own growth. All questions regarding seating should be directed to the Music Director.

**Strings** - Seating auditions will take place during the **third** and **fourth** weeks of each semester.

Audition material will include selected excerpts from the current repertoire. Excerpts will be announced no later than 2 weeks prior to the audition.

All seatings are at the discretion of the Music Director and the String Coach and are final. Students will be placed where it is determined that they will be of the most benefit to the entire section.

Attendance at seating auditions is **MANDATORY**. If a student knows he/she will be absent during seating auditions, they must inform the orchestra manager at least 1 (one) week before the start of auditions. These auditions will be made up at the following week's rehearsal and the student will be seated normally. However, the absence must be approved by the Music Director.

If a student is absent during seating auditions, without notification, their audition will be heard at the following week's rehearsal, but the student will be placed at the end of the section.

**Winds/Brass/Percussion** -The Music Director will appoint a section leader before the start of each season. The section leader will assign parts in his/her section. All assignments may be subject to change, at the discretion of the Music Director.

### ORCHESTRA CONCERTS

**Holiday Concert - December**

**Spring Concert - May**

**School Tour - Fall**

**Attendance** - Attendance at all concerts is **MANDATORY**. **THIS INCLUDES SCHOOL TOUR CONCERTS**. Missing a concert is a serious infraction and can result in loss of principal status, seat reassignment or dismissal from the orchestra.

**Holiday/Spring Concert Dress** - Formal concert attire.

Women: All black, long dresses or long black skirts with black tops. No strapless dresses without a black sweater. Black dress slacks. **NO SNEAKERS**

Men: Black pants with a black sport coat and tie and white shirt. Black dress shoes and black socks. **NO SNEAKERS**.

### **School Tour Dress -**

Women: Black skirts or slacks and white blouses. NO SNEAKERS

Men: Dark suits, or dark slacks and dark sport coat. White shirt and tie. Black dress shoes and black socks. NO SNEAKERS

**Concerto Competition** - Each year all seniors are invited to compete for a chance to perform a concerto as part of the repertoire for the Spring Concert. Seniors wishing to participate should contact the Orchestra Manager for a registration form. Prior to the Holiday concert, students must submit the completed registration form along with a copy of the first page of the music they have selected. The Music Director will determine if selections are appropriate for concert performance and if the music is available for purchase or rental.

Auditions will be held in late January or early February. Participants must have one movement of the concerto memorized for the audition and must provide their own accompanist.

### JUNIOR STRING PHILHARMONIC

#### ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS

**Tuesday nights from 6:15pm to 8:30pm**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem**  
**2344 Center St.**  
**Upper Level Gallery**

**Attendance** - Students are expected to attend all rehearsals. If a student is not able to attend a rehearsal, the student is required to notify the orchestra manager within a reasonable amount of time prior to the rehearsal that will be missed. Students or parents may either email or call the orchestra manager for all absences. If a student has more than three (3) unexcused absences per concert cycle (Fall or Spring), the student may be required to perform selected excerpts for the conductor. An absence will be considered unexcused if a student misses a rehearsal and has failed to notify the Music Director or Orchestra Manager prior to the absence.

**Conduct** - During rehearsals all students are expected to respect the music director, orchestra manager, coaches, parent helpers, and any visiting coach working with the orchestra. All non-JSP materials such as cell phones, tablets, and computers must be put away and turned off during all rehearsals and performances. Students are expected to keep the rehearsal space tidy and maintain positive behavior at all times.

**Music** - At the first rehearsal of each concert cycle JSP students each receive a folder and copies of the music they will be expected to perform at school tours, formal concerts, etc. Students have permission to make any markings appropriate in their music with PENCILS only. Students will be expected to return all music and provided folders at the end of each concert cycle (typically after the Winter and Spring concerts).

#### **Bring to each rehearsal:**

1. Music
2. Music stand
3. Pencil
4. Extra set of strings
5. Mute
6. Any additional materials needed to play music to the best of your ability.

**Seating** – Seating is at the discretion of the JSP Music Director. Placement may not be ordered according to skill level, and often experienced and skillful players are seated throughout the entire orchestra. All questions regarding seating should be directed to the Music Director.

### ORCHESTRA CONCERTS

**Holiday Concert - December**

**Public Spring Concert - May**

**School Tours - One or two per year**

**Concerts at Barnes & Noble and area nursing homes**

Please bring your music, folder, mute, and music stand to all performances, unless told otherwise by the Orchestra Manager. Music and folders are collected by the JSP Manager immediately following the Spring Concert. Meeting times, location, and parking information for all performances will be provided by the JSP Manager, by email, prior to the performance.

#### **Holiday/Spring concert dress -**

- Girls: White dress shirt (not JSP polo shirt) and long black skirt or dress pants and nice black dress shoes.
- Boys: White shirt (not JSP polo shirt) and tie, dark jacket, black pants, dark socks, and black dress shoes (no sneakers).

#### **School tour and other concert dress -**

- Girls: White JSP polo tucked in, black skirt or dress pants and black shoes (no sneakers)
- Boys: White JSP polo tucked in, black dress pants and shoes (no sneakers).

**JSP Polo Shirts** - Orders for the JSP polo shirts referred to above will be taken at the first two rehearsals in the Fall. All musicians must have a JSP polo shirt for school tours and community concerts. Payment will be accepted by the JSP manager when ordering or upon receipt of the shirt.

**JSP T-Shirts** - Orders for JSP t-shirts are taken in the spring by the JSP Manager. JSP t-shirts are offered in many colors and sizes, and contain the JSP name and logo on the front and a list of all of the JSP musicians on the back. Purchase of a t-shirt is optional and is not needed for any official activities. Payment will be accepted by the JSP Manager when ordering or upon receipt of the shirt.

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### **CHAMBER/ENSEMBLES**

**Coaching** - Each chamber ensemble will meet for fifteen coaching sessions. Times and locations for each group will be determined by the coaches and participants of the group. Music will be selected and distributed by the coach.

**Concerts** - The chamber ensembles perform a combined concert in the Spring each year. Throughout the year, the groups also may perform at community venues such as nursing homes and Barnes and Noble. They also may provide pre-concert music for professional chamber groups.

Due to the importance of each musician in a chamber ensemble, attendance at all practices and performances is mandatory. Because each of the chamber ensembles has its own coach and meets individually, participants should consult with their coach regarding attendance policies, conduct expectations and dress codes.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, disability or national origin. All participants are expected to treat their fellow musicians, the Directors, Managers, adult assistants and volunteers with dignity, courtesy and respect. Any behavior that does not comply with these principles should be reported to the group managers or leaders so the situation can be addressed promptly and corrected.

### **2017-2018 SCHEDULE**

Below are the currently scheduled events for the YPP & JSP. Please refer to the event calendar on the YPP website and the YPP & JSP Managers for up-to-date information and any changes.

JSP Fall School Tour: TBD

YPP Fall School Tour: November 17, 2017

JSP Barnes & Noble Recital: December 12, 2017 at the Promenade shops at Saucon Valley

YPP Holiday Concert: December 10, 2017 at TBD

JSP Holiday Concert: December 10, 2017 at TBD

JSP Spring School Tour: TBD

JSP Nursing Home Recital: TBD

YPP Spring Concert: 1:00pm, May 6, 2018 at TBD

JSP Spring Concert: 5:00pm, May 6, 2018 at TBD

Chamber Ensemble Concert: 6:00pm, May 5, 2018 at TBD

### YPP CONTACTS

**YPP Office:**

Caroline Dawson, Office Administrator

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**YPP Website:**

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