



HANDBOOK 2026-27

Bangor Symphony Orchestra

P.O. Box 1441

Bangor, ME 04402-1441

bangorsymphony.org/bsyo

Renia Shterenberg Executive Director

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Katie Hardy Director of Education and Outreach

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Ben Richmond Wind Ensemble Instructor

Sascha Lorimer Philharmonic Orchestra and Prelude Strings Conductor

Anna Clement Concertino Strings Instructor

BSYO is an education program of the Bangor Symphony Orchestra

ATTENDANCE

Good attendance is a necessary component of a successful ensemble and a worthwhile rehearsal. BSYO members are expected to attend all scheduled events. Performance attendance is mandatory and a maximum of two (2) excused absences per semester will be accepted. Excused absences include school music or academic conflicts, and illness. It is required that advance notification of any absence or late arrival be given at least two weeks in advance, situation permitting. Attendance will be taken at all events. Regular absences or tardiness may result in reassignment of parts, reseating in the section or dismissal from the ensemble. It is required that advance notification of any absence or late arrival be given. Please email Katie Hardy with absences or tardy notices.

AUDITIONS AND PLACEMENT

Auditions are held annually for new and returning members to determine ensemble placement and seating. Winter auditions may be held for new members for ensemble placement only. Ensemble placement and seating are solely based on the quality of the audition and the needs of the ensemble. Ensemble placement is at the discretion of the audition panel. Participation in an ensemble in any one year does not guarantee the student's placement in the same ensemble next season. Seating in each ensemble is at the sole discretion of the ensemble's conductor, in consultation with audition panelists. All seating decisions are final.

BANGOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TICKETS

We are fortunate to have a symphony orchestra as our parent organization. In support of the training of BSYO musicians, discounted tickets to Bangor Symphony Orchestra concerts are available. For more information, contact Renia Shterenberg or Katie Hardy.

CODE OF CONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

The Bangor Symphony Youth Orchestras is committed to creating a respectful, courteous environment free from discrimination and conduct that is harassing, coercive, or disruptive, including sexual harassment. All employees, ensemble members, volunteers, and parents are expected to abide by this code.

It is the policy of BSYO to make decisions without regard to age, race, sex, color, national origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation, and we endeavor to provide an environment free of harassment.

The BSYO strictly enforces a zero-tolerance policy with regards to the use of drugs and alcohol, smoking, stealing, and any form of harassment towards students and staff from all BSYO ensemble members, students and their families.

The BSYO reserves the right to immediately dismiss any ensemble member or family who violates the Code of Conduct with no tuition reimbursement.

CONCERT ATTIRE

For concerts, BSYO members must wear the following:

- White Blouse or Dress Shirt
- Black dress pants or long black skirt (floor length or below-knee)
- Black socks, tights or stockings
- Black Dress shoes
- No distractive jewelry

COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION

Membership in the BSYO is a privilege and a responsibility. Dedication to the BSYO is largely demonstrated through regular attendance at all scheduled rehearsals, concerts, and events, as well as consistent, individual musical preparation. Musicians are expected to practice BSYO music at home and with their private teacher. Every member makes an equally important contribution to the BSYO experience.

MEMBER AND INSTRUMENT LIABILITY

The BSYO is not responsible for any injury that may occur while at a rehearsal, concert or event. All rehearsal and performance spaces used by the BSYO are not owned or operated by the BSYO, so BSYO cannot exercise responsibility for a member after they have left the boundaries of the rehearsal or performance space. This includes hallways, other floors of the buildings, and areas outside the respective performance spaces. We ask that students do not leave the building of the rehearsal or performance space for any reason during rehearsals or concerts. Should you become injured while you are participating in a BSYO activity, please notify a staff member immediately.

All BSYO ensemble students and families are responsible for their instruments and all personal belongings brought to rehearsals and concerts. Lost, stolen, or damaged instruments, instruments accessories, and all other personal property are not the responsibility of the BSYO.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement is essential to the success of the BSYO. We encourage parents to participate in the musical life of their child. From bringing friends to concerts, to leading fundraising initiatives, and helping set up the lobby on concert weekends. We can always use BSYO advocates and volunteers. For more information, contact Katie Hardy.

REHEARSALS

All rehearsals take place at Bangor High School unless otherwise noted. Students should arrive 15 minutes before rehearsal to warm up and tune. Students should be prepared with their music and folder, a pencil for markings, and extra strings, rosin, reeds or other equipment needed for their specific instrument. Cell phones should be powered down or left offstage during rehearsal. Disruptive behavior is unacceptable. All students are expected to remain inside the building during rehearsals and breaks.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A Palmer Music Scholarship is awarded to a graduating high school senior who best exemplifies the values and goals of the BSYO, serves as a role model to their peers, and has made an outstanding musical contribution to the BSYO and their community. All graduating seniors are considered, and the recipient is announced at the spring concert.

Summer Music Camp Scholarships are awarded to up to three current players who have been members of any BSYO ensemble for at least one full season and are planning to attend a summer music camp. Graduating seniors and players who are not planning to return to the BSYO for the next season are not eligible. Applications are available in the spring.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

The BSYO follows the Bangor School District on weather cancellations. If a cancellation occurs, the BSYO will notify members through email and Facebook announcements. We understand that winter road conditions vary throughout the state; each family should make a personal decision based on local conditions.

I have read and understand the information in the BSYO Handbook 2026-27

Student Name Printed: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____