

Hello!

The Petersburg Symphony Orchestra is pleased to present **Symphony School**, an after school music program for instruments of the string orchestra: violin, viola, cello, and bass.

During the 2017-18 season, there will be 2 Beginner classes offered, according to age and school grade level. Future plans will allow for intermediate and advanced study, and may include wind and brass instrument study as well.

About Symphony School

Symphony School is an Educational Outreach of the Petersburg Symphony Orchestra Inc. The PSO is celebrating it's 40th anniversary this season, having begun as an 'impossible dream' of it's founder, Dr. F. Nathaniel Gatlin, in 1977.

The Purpose of Symphony School is:

- to give residents of the Southside Virginia community opportunities for learning and performing musical literature.
- To secure the future of the Petersburg Symphony Orchestra by having qualified trained musicians to fill its ranks in the future.

Instruments

Violin. The violin is the smallest of the instruments in the string orchestra, and has highest pitch. Sometimes referred to as a fiddle, the violin is the most popular of the string instruments and is used in a variety of musical styles, ranging from classical to country, and even in jazz and rock.

Viola The viola looks like the violin, but is bigger and has a slightly lower pitch. Many students choose the Viola

because they like the deep mellow tones it creates.

Cello. The cello is much bigger than the violin or Viola and is always played in a seated position. Many students choose the cello because they like the sound of the larger instrument in the low warm tones.

Bass. The string bass is the largest of the string instruments, and is used in a variety of musical styles. Because of its size and expense, we currently do not offer instruction on bass for elementary students. Students interested in learning bass should take cello their first year of study.

Who can join?

This program is open to children and adult students enrolled in grades four and up, according to class requirements.

What is the cost?

Tuition is listed for each Class. Payment is due in full by first class. Cash or check preferred, credit cards are accepted, subject to a \$3.00 processing fee. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument, available at local music dealers. They will also need to purchase an instruction book for their particular class, as well as any needed accessories such as rosin, shoulder rest, or rock stop (cello).

Some financial assistance will be available to qualified families.

Where are the classes held?

All classes meet in Davis Hall on the Virginia State University Campus, Room 117.

Expectations

Attendance. Because classes meet only once a week, it is important to maintain a regular attendance schedule. Students will be given a syllabus outlining expectations for each class scheduled throughout the school year. Students are responsible for making up any work missed on their own.

Practice. All students are expected to practice regularly.

Conduct. All students are expected to follow all rules pertaining to the PSO Youth Program code of conduct at all times during classes.

The director and management of the Petersburg Symphony reserves the right to dismiss any students who fail to meet academic, attendance, or behavior expectations for Symphony School.

About the instructor.

Larry Lyles will be leading this project for this season. Mr. Lyles started playing the violin at the age of eight in the Knoxville Tennessee schools, and continued through his high school years in Richmond Virginia. A graduate of East Carolina University, Lyles has taught in school systems in North Carolina and Florida as well as Virginia. In addition into his teaching studios in Chesterfield and Hanover counties, Lyles is a 20+ year member of the Petersburg Symphony, and is becoming well-known as one of the outstanding jazz violinists on the East Coast.

Course Offerings 2017/18

Fall Semester

String Explorers I

Instructor: Lawrence Lyles
Class meets: Wednesdays, 4:30-5:45,
Tuition: \$149

This is a beginner class for students in grades 4-6. Instruments taught include choice of violin, viola, cello or bass. No previous musical experience is required or expected. Students will need to provide their own instrument, which can be rented for reasonable rates at local music dealers. The class will culminate with a recital, date and location TBA.

Spring Semester

String Explorer II

Instructor: Lawrence Lyles
Class meets: Wednesdays, 4:30-5:45, February 14 through April 25 (10 sessions).
Tuition: \$89

This is a continuation of the Fall String Explorer's class. Note reading skills will be developed, and introduction to chamber and ensemble music will take place. Students will have an opportunity to perform at the final concert of the Petersburg Symphony season on Sunday, April 29.

Strings for Older Beginners

Instructors: Lawrence Lyles, Ulysses Kirksey

Class meets: Tuesdays, 7:15-8:45, Davis Hall, Virginia State University, January 30-April 24 (12 sessions)
Tuition: \$159
This is a beginner class for older students and adults, grade 7 and up. Format is similar to the Explorer classes, but progresses at a faster pace.

Symphony School Information and Open House

Thursday, November 9, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Davis Hall Auditorium
Virginia State University

Students and parents will be able to get more detailed information about the program, meet the instructor, hear the instruments demonstrated, have your child measured for an instrument, and get information from local music dealers that rent/sell instruments.

How to enroll (do one of the following):

You can enroll at the Information Session on November 9

OR

If unable to attend the Session, you may register at to the first class on November 15 or January 30.

**For further information,
contact Mr. Lyles at
jazzfiddler59@gmail.com
or contact the Symphony office.**

Southside Virginia

Symphony School

**A Musical Performance
Experience for Students in
Grades 4 and up.**

2017-18

An Outreach Project of the

**Petersburg Symphony Orchestra
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