



Application Deadline: Submitted online by Friday, April 5, 2019

- Include:
- Online Application including Financial Statement
 - One (1) letter of recommendation
 - Audition recording *only for those entering 6th, 7th, 8th, and 12th grades, and those living out of area*

Auditions: Saturday, May 18, 2019

NSO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION

2019-2020 Season

The 2019-2020 Youth Fellowship Program will continue to be enhanced with a CHAMBER MUSIC Component, open to dedicated, outstanding high school musicians, grades 9-12, including those who study with teachers outside of the NSO.

All orchestral instruments are eligible. (See Instruments section for specifics.)

The following information will introduce you to the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) Youth Fellowship Program and assist you in applying for a fellowship.

Program Description: The purpose of the Youth Fellowship Program is to develop and encourage high school students to become orchestral musicians of the future, learning the realities and skills of a 21st century career. This is a monitored, performance-oriented training program designed for serious music students. The following benefits are made available free of charge to students accepted into the program:

- Private lessons taught by a member of the National Symphony Orchestra or Washington National Opera Orchestra (WNOO) musician*
- Chamber Music coaching by a member of the National Symphony Orchestra
- Master classes and seminars
- Side-by-side performance opportunity with the NSO (subject to instrument and additional recommendation)
- Attendance at selected rehearsals and performances of the NSO
- Performance opportunities (solo and ensemble)
- Exposure to internationally-renowned conductors, soloists, and musicians

*A limited number of places may be available on an as needed basis for students who opt to continue private study with their non-NSO or non-WNOO teacher. Lesson fees with non-NSO or non-WNOO musicians will not be covered by the program.

In addition to weekly private lessons, Fellows spend an average of two days per month participating in Youth Fellowship activities at the Kennedy Center. These events are generally scheduled during school hours, but may include attendance at evening concerts. Since the program does not offer orchestral performance experience on a regular basis, Fellows are strongly encouraged to participate in an established youth orchestra program such as the DC Youth Orchestra, American Youth Philharmonic, Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra, etc.

Fellows are evaluated periodically to determine if their degree of progress warrants continued participation in the Program. Students may retain the fellowship until graduation from high school. There will be some focus on college readiness and citizen artistry.

Eligibility: The program is open, by audition, to high school students:

- entering grades 9-12 as of next September [younger musicians (gr. 6-8) may be considered on a special case-by-case basis] in the area of the metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG): DC; MD—Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George’s counties; VA—Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties. *All students entering 6th, 7th, 8th, and 12th grades and/or those living outside the COG area are required to submit an audition recording prior to being invited for the live audition.* Priority is given to 9th and 10th grade students in order to provide as sustained a training as possible.
- seriously considering orchestral music as a career and willing to devote themselves to a musical education by making a commitment to practice their instrument a minimum of 60-90 minutes per day.

Instruments: Fellowships may be awarded to students who play any of the following: violin, viola, cello, bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, harp, percussion, and piano*. [NOT eligible: organ and saxophone]

**Pianists will continue their regular private lessons (not part of the Youth Fellowship program), but receive as a scholarship up to two additional lessons per month with an NSO mentor. It is understood these lessons would focus on chamber music and orchestral keyboard music. Pianists would also receive coaching with their chamber ensemble and participate in performances on Millennium Stage. Pianists would be required to re-audition each year.*

Standards of Acceptance: The program is intended for serious music students with the primary acceptance standard being musical talent. Special attention will be given to students whose financial situation might otherwise preclude continuing serious music study. All are encouraged and welcome to apply. Length of musical study and advanced technical ability are not necessarily determining factors. The decision of the judges is final.

Auditions and Deadline for Applications: Auditions will be held **Saturday, May 18, 2019**, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Deadline for applications: **Friday, April 5, 2019**. If you are selected to audition, you will be emailed the time and Kennedy Center location of your audition the week of April 15.

Audition recordings: All students entering 6th, 7th, 8th and 12th grades and/or those living outside the COG area are required to submit a digital recording of their playing along with the online application. (Local students not entering 9th, 10th, and 11th grades do not submit recordings.) Recordings should be no longer than 10 minutes in length and *may* include accompaniment (not required). Refer to audition repertoire section below.

Audition Repertoire: One prepared solo piece: Must be an etude or solo piece, showing contrasting musical elements (fast/slow, dynamics, etc.). Please no band or orchestra parts. Solos will be performed unaccompanied. One extra copy of the piece *must* be provided for the audition committee. Should there

be any doubt as to the appropriateness of the prepared piece, please phone NSO Education Program, at (202) 416-8820 or nsoyf@kennedy-center.org. Students may be asked to sight-read as part of the audition.

Interview: Immediately following the audition, a representative of the NSO will interview the applicant briefly to determine his/her level of commitment to music and to the program.

Obligation of Fellows: Seriousness and desire to pursue a musical education are most important. Students selected as fellows will be expected to enter into a contractual arrangement with the National Symphony Orchestra.

Youth Fellows will generally be expected to devote an average of two days per month (during school hours) at the Kennedy Center for attendance at orchestra rehearsals, chamber music coaching, master classes, seminars, etc., and to weekly private lessons with an assigned NSO or WNOO teacher. Students are not required to study privately with an NSO or WNOO musician but lessons fees with non-NSO or non-WNOO musicians will not be covered by the program. In addition, Youth Fellows may be expected to attend selected evening concerts. Sufficient applied practice so as to benefit from each weekly lesson and chamber music coaching is expected. Youth Fellows will be evaluated periodically to determine 1) their progress within the Program as judged by artistic growth and personal commitment and 2) whether their participation as a Fellow will be continued.

Private lessons during the school year with NSO or WNOO teachers and chamber music coaching fees and performance admittance charges will be paid for by the NSO Youth Fellowship Program. **Fees for any unexcused absences at lessons or lessons cancelled with little notice must be paid for by the student.** Transportation to and from Fellowship activities must be provided by the student.

Audition information will be emailed the week of April 15. If you have questions, please call (202) 416-8820 or email nsoyf@kennedy-center.org.

David and Alice Rubenstein are the Presenting Underwriters of the NSO.

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