

# *Welcome to the New River Youth Symphony & Chorus!*

## *Mission Statement*

The mission of the New River Youth Symphony & Chorus is to provide fine-arts students in Southern West Virginia with ensemble-rehearsal experiences and performance opportunities.

## *Goals*

- ◇ Inspiring young people to strive for excellence in the fine arts.
- ◇ Promoting cooperation and leadership through group endeavor.
- ◇ Developing musicianship and improving technical skills through the study of orchestral and vocal literature.
- ◇ Encouraging an understanding of music in relation to history and culture.
- ◇ Providing musical outlets for the young people of Southern West Virginia, as well as pleasing concerts for the general public.

## *History*

The New River Youth Symphony & Chorus began in June 2006, with 14 students in the Symphony. Six months later, at our December 2006 Winter Concert, 30 students performed in the Symphony and 27 students in the Chorus.

“Choosing to live and raise our families in rural West Virginia does not mean that we have to tell our children that performing in an ensemble with other serious young musicians is not a possibility. Music is very much a part of our heritage, and southern West Virginia produces many serious young musicians. We simply need to think ‘outside the box’ and look for ways to bring these young people together on a regular basis to experience the power and camaraderie of practicing and preparing for a ‘bravo’ performance.” ~ Agnes Casto, Co-founder of NRYSC

## *Ensembles*

The New River Youth Symphony is for intermediate and advanced young musicians, ages 8 to 24. William Bailey has many years of experience in working with young people in the public schools. His artistic leadership enables the students to take on challenging music and play with confidence. Mr. Bailey received a master’s degree in music education from the University of Northern Colorado, where he studied trumpet under Mr. Bill Pfund. He enjoys arranging and composing and has performed in various orchestras, jazz ensembles, and brass ensembles.

The Emerging Strings is a performing group for beginner string players, not yet ready for the Youth Symphony, so that they can learn to play and perform together. The beginner-level students learn how to perform easy, yet lively and fun, arrangements for string orchestra. Eliana Lustgarten and Ava Curtis are the leaders of Emerging Strings, with Mr. Bailey as coach.

The New River Youth Chorus is for ages 10-24, and the Beginner Chorus is for ages 5-9. When a student in the younger choir advances sufficiently, he/she will graduate to the older group.

The New River Youth Chorus is conducted by Savannah Miller. She learned vocal technique during her seven years in the Nicolas County Girls Choir, directed by Amy Hypes, and she has also had private voice instruction. She has taught choir at Coda Mountain Academy for three years. Savannah is passionate about Chorus because it not only teaches teamwork, but also brings together a beautiful community of diverse souls that love to sing.

## *Rehearsals*

NRYSC meets for weekly rehearsals during the fall and spring seasons, with a break during the winter months, when harsh weather often makes for hazardous travel on the roads. Rehearsals are held on Monday nights at Fayetteville Christ Fellowship Church.

Students are encouraged to join NRYSC for the entire year, so that their musicianship can grow and students can better contribute to the ensembles. Season breaks are entry points for new members to join. Concerts are the culmination of each season.

|                    |           |                  |
|--------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Rehearsal Schedule | 5:27-6:50 | Youth Chorus     |
|                    | 6:50-8:15 | Youth Symphony   |
|                    | 5:30-6:30 | Emerging Strings |

Rehearsals are for coordinating voices and instruments together, for developing balance and blend. Daily practice at home is for learning notes and rhythms. Students are expected to learn their part at home before coming to rehearsal.

During the week ... Chorus – look at your music every day, have your parents help you to learn the notes and words. Chorus music will be memorized for the concerts. Symphony – practice your music every day; work on the difficult parts; do not just play through each song.

## *Attendance*

1. Excused absences include illness, family vacation, and family emergency. Any other reasons will be excused or unexcused, at the discretion of the Director.
2. With too many absences, a student may not be allowed to perform at the concert. If a student misses the dress rehearsal for a concert, he/she may not be allowed to perform.

## *Snow Days*

If a snow day is called by the public schools in Fayette County, NRYSC will not have a rehearsal.

If a snow day is not called by the public schools in Fayette County, the NRYSC Executive Board will evaluate the road conditions for each county, in order to decide whether or not to have the rehearsal. This decision will be made by 3:30 pm, and each family will be contacted by 4:00 pm. If you do not receive a phone call or text by 4:30 pm, please call/text Kathy Bailey (304-923-9622) or call Crystal Bennett (304-469-4627.) You can also check the “Latest News” on our website, [newrivermusic.org](http://newrivermusic.org).

The decision by the NRYSC Executive Board will be whether or not to have the rehearsal. Ultimately, parents will need to judge whether or not to risk locally dangerous road conditions.

## *Music*

The music chosen by our directors will support the mission and goals of our organization.

If a Chorus folder or a Symphony folder is not returned at the end of the season, the student will be charged \$25 to replace the folder and the music.

*Directions ... to Fayetteville Christ Fellowship Church, 2855 Maple Avenue, Fayetteville, WV:*

**From the South (Beckley)** on Route 19, at the stoplight after the Lochgelly Oak Hill exit, just past the Fayette Square shopping center, turn right onto Appalachian Drive. Go one block to the stop sign, turn left onto Route 16, go 0.3 mile, and turn left (up the hill) onto Maple Avenue, also known as Airport Road or Nickelville Road. The first driveway on the right is Fayetteville Christ Fellowship Church. You will see the red roof as you get close.

**From the North (Summersville)** on Route 19, not far past the Fayetteville Walmart on your left, at the stoplight before the Fayette Square shopping center on your right, turn left onto Appalachian Drive. Go one block to the stop sign, turn left onto Route 16, go 0.3 mile, and turn left (up the hill) onto Maple Avenue, also known as Airport Road or Nickelville Road. The first driveway on the right is Fayetteville Christ Fellowship Church. You will see the red roof as you get close.

## *Private Lessons*

Emerging Strings and Youth Symphony students are strongly encouraged, but not required, to take private lessons on their instrument, and Chorus students are encouraged to take voice lessons. NRYSC rehearsals are a wonderful way to improve musicianship, but nothing can take the place of a good private teacher to help the student to progress in technical skills and expressiveness.

## *Parent Meetings / Volunteers*

Parent meetings are held from time to time. Parents are encouraged to attend because decisions may require their vote, policies may be explained, announcements made, and questions answered.

The rehearsal rooms are to be a quiet area. Parents are welcome to sit in on rehearsals, but please refrain from talking or walking through the rehearsal room. Children not participating in rehearsals must be attended and quiet while in the building or outside on the grounds / parking lot.

Volunteers, parents or otherwise, are always welcome to help with tasks like setting chairs for a rehearsal or concert, asking businesses for donations, etc.

## *Bylaws*

The New River Youth Symphony & Chorus is a 503(c) non-profit corporation, with voting rights residing in the parents of the students. A copy of the Bylaws is available upon request.

## *Tuition*

Each season, the tuition is due three weeks after the season begins.

Youth Symphony - \$60 (1st child), \$55 (2nd child), \$55 (3rd child), 4th child in family free

Youth Chorus - \$60 (1st child), \$55 (2nd child), \$55 (3rd child), 4th child in family free

Youth Symphony & Youth Chorus Package - \$100

Emerging Strings - \$35 (1st child), \$30 (2nd child), \$30 (3rd child), 4th child in family free

## *Scholarships*

Some money is available for tuition scholarships for needy students. If a parent would like to apply for a tuition scholarship, he/she may contact Kathy Bailey at 304-923-9622.

## *Donations*

A tax-deductible gift to New River Youth Symphony & Chorus enables students to learn to make beautiful music and to work together under inspiring leadership. The contribution provides scholarships, defrays operational costs, assists with the purchase of necessary instruments, sheet music, and equipment, and ensures that finance is never a reason to deny a student membership.

\$25 to \$100 – Friend      \$101 to \$250 – Donor      \$251 to \$500 – Patron

\$501 to \$1,000 – Sustaining Patron      \$1,001 and more – Benefactor

Each supporting member will receive a special invitation to our concerts, along with recognition in concert programs.

Anyone can sponsor a song at a concert, in honor of someone or in memory of someone, for \$75.

## *Solos & Ensembles*

For the Chorus, soloists and small ensembles may apply for permission to perform during any season, and the Chorus director will decide the appropriateness of the selection and the students' readiness. For the Symphony, Mr. Bailey may request that a soloist, ensemble, or chamber group perform at any concert.

## *Concerts & Concert Dress*

As a culmination of each season, concerts are planned for locations throughout Southern West Virginia. We try to schedule concerts in the various counties where our students live, so that they can perform in their own communities and more people can find out about us.

Concert dress for both Chorus and Symphony is black from head to toe. Students may wear black dress pants or long black skirt and black dress shirt or blouse, relatively simple, long sleeved, and modest. The skirt should be below the knee when the student is sitting down. Shoes should be black dress shoes (no open toes) with black socks or black nylons or black tights. Chorus members have red ties / scarves for the winter concert and blue ties / scarves for the spring concert. The ties and scarves are provided by NRYSC. Chorus members must have flat heels. Chorus members must not wear dangling earrings.

The Beginner Chorus and Emerging Strings will wear the concert dress specified by their Director.

At performances, the student is in uniform from the time he/she leaves the car to enter the performance hall and until he/she returns to the car to go home. Therefore, shirts will be tucked in, buttons buttoned, shoes on, etc., the entire time.

Whenever we are in public, we represent our family, our community, and NRYSC to those we meet. It is important that we have excellent behavior and show an attitude of cooperation, respect, and helpfulness.

### *T-Shirts to Wear for Fun*

NRYSC black T-shirts are not required, and they cost \$15 each. Students, parents, family members, supporters, and friends may buy a T-shirt, if they wish.

### *Student-Musician Cards*

Each season, the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra has generously given to every NRYSC student a student-musician card, which gives free admission for the student and an accompanying parent or friend to attend WVSO concerts in Charleston.

### *NRYSC Ambassadors*

NRYSC Ambassadors are students who volunteer to perform at various school programs and other events, for recruiting and as a service to the community. Any NRYSC student is welcome to audition to become an Ambassador.