

# Elementary Strings (ES) Kick-Off Agenda

September 30, 2020 – 7:00-8:15pm, Zoom

- **Intro** to Corvallis Youth Symphony Association and staff – *Annissa Bolder, CYSA Executive Director/Elementary Strings Lead Teacher*
    - **See informational Elementary Strings video here!**: <https://youtu.be/LRms7t7d6HE>
  - **Class locations and times:** *Will be shared by October 2*
  - **Elementary Strings Concerts:**
    - **Saturday, Jan. 30** – *Online*
    - **Saturday, May 29** – *TBD location, or online*
  - **Tuition payment options**
  - **Commitment and Refund Policy**
  - **ES Behavior Policy**
  - **The parent's role:** *Support at home and parent involvement – Ella Jones, ES Teacher*
  - **Instrument care and safety** – *Jana Wells, ES Teacher*
  - **Instrument rental information** – *Trevor Wilson, Windsmith Music*
  - **Violin, viola, and cello tuning guidelines and demonstrations** -  
*Bettine Rehr-Zimmermann (violin/viola), ES Teacher*  
*Anne Ridlington (cello), ES Teacher*
  - **Tech Demo** – *Google Classroom and Essential Elements Interactive – Jayanthi Joseph, ES Teacher*
  - **Questions?**
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## Elementary Strings 2020-2021 Program Information

### CYSA Overview

The Corvallis Youth Symphony Association (CYSA) is a non-profit organization. This is CYSA's 39<sup>th</sup> season of offering quality music education programs students of the mid-Willamette Valley. CYSA consists of Elementary Strings (ES) for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders, Junior Honors Symphony (JHS) for 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders, and Corvallis Youth Symphony (CYS) for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. To learn more about CYSA's programs, visit <http://cysassoc.org/>

### ES Program Overview

The Corvallis Youth Symphony Association provides direction and support for Elementary Strings (ES), Levels 1, 2, and 2 Advanced. All public, private, and homeschooled students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades in Corvallis are invited to enroll in Elementary Strings classes. Students can choose from learning Violin, Viola, or Cello.

### Elementary Strings 2020-2021: Covid-19 Updates

Due to the challenges presented by Covid-19, the 2020-2021 season will look quite a bit different from past seasons. During the first semester (October-January), Elementary Strings will operate as an online program,

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including exciting online synchronous classes and individual lessons on Zoom. The synchronous Zoom class will be a 30-minute class each week with the teacher and students in that class. Each student will also receive a 15-minute private Zoom lesson with an ES Teacher or Assistant Teacher every week in order to tailor the learning experience to each students' needs.

Classes will be capped at 12 students/class, first-come first-served. Class times will be determined by teacher/student availability and shared by October 2. Classes begin the week of October 5 and run through May 2021.

We hope to return to in-person classes in February 2021 but will make all decisions based on Oregon Health Authority and CDC guidelines. Previously, classes took place at the Corvallis elementary schools. If any in-person classes return this season, classes will take place at local churches/community centers; there will be no in-person classes held at the public schools this year. *Thank you for your patience as we all navigate these challenging times together!* We are working hard to create fun and engaging online music programs for our CYSA students, and we welcome feedback along the way.

### **Elementary Strings Teachers**

ES teachers are paid employees of the CYSA Board. They are trained teaching professionals committed to developing young string players. We want them to use their class time teaching, not serving as program administrators. **Please contact the CYSA office with questions about fees or program administration.**

### **Tuition and Payment Options**

Tuition for the school year is \$420. *If you need financial assistance, please contact the CYSA office.*

#### **Please choose one of the following payment plans:**

**Option 1:** One payment of \$420

**Option 2:** \$60 monthly payments, October 5 – May 5 (*8 payments total*)

*Option 2 is more expensive to cover the additional transaction costs.*

Register and pay online: <https://www.cysassoc.org/elementary-strings.html>

### **Commitment and Refund Policy**

After you have paid 3 months' tuition (through December) you may drop out of ES with **1-month notice to our office, by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the prior month**. In order to stop the monthly debit payments you must contact the CYSA office by phone (541-766-4903) or email ([cysassoc@peak.org](mailto:cysassoc@peak.org)). (*For example, if you would like to quit the program starting on January 1, you must notify the CYSA office no later than December 5*). Please let your ES Teacher know of changes to your ES enrollment status, **but you must alert the CYSA office (not your ES Teacher) by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to leaving the program in order to receive a refund.**

### **ES Behavior Expectations**

The Elementary Strings (ES) classroom, whether in person or online, is a place for learning. All students have a right to learn and the teacher has a right to teach. If a student behaves inappropriately, other students cannot learn, and the teacher cannot teach. Students are expected to respect others' rights and

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behave in a manner that (1) safeguards property from loss or damage, (2) protects everyone's health and safety, and (3) avoids serious disruption to the educational process.

**In order to participate in the ES program, students must agree to:**

- 1) Listen to the Elementary Strings Teacher, Assistant Teacher, or Substitute Teacher and follow their directions appropriately.
- 2) Respect ES Teachers and Assistants and other students in the in-person or online classroom environment.
- 3) Come to class with materials ready to go before class begins, with assignments prepared.

Examples of disruption include but are not limited to: talking out of hand, misusing or mistreating your instrument or bow, arguing, playing without permission, threatening others, acting silly, touching others or their instruments, taking other people's property, forgetting your music/pencil/assignments.

To have a peaceful, happy, and productive classroom all students must be responsible for following the behavior expectations and for paying attention. Students that choose not to follow these expectations will be issued a warning. If a second warning is issued, a student may be removed from the in-person or virtual classroom for the remainder of the class period. If a student is removed from the classroom or virtual classroom for disruption more than two times, CYSA/Elementary Strings reserves the right to suspend the student from Elementary Strings participation, and a prorated refund will be issued to the student's family.

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## **Instrument Tuning Guidelines and Resources**

**In order to maximize online class time, it is necessary for the parent/guardian to tune the student's instrument before each class/lesson begins.** *Tuning a violin, viola, or cello is easy to do with the help of a chromatic tuner, but it is important to follow guidelines in order to not break strings or damage the instrument.*

- Violins, Violas, and Cellos have Tuning Pegs and Fine Tuners. The Tuning Pegs are the black pegs at the top of instrument and the Fine Tuners are small "screws" at the bottom of the strings on the tailpiece. Tuning Pegs are used to make big adjustments to the pitch/tension of the string. Fine Tuners can make small adjustments to the pitch of the string and are easier to use. ***If possible, only use the Fine Tuners to tune the instrument!***
- When using the **Fine Tuners** to adjust the pitch of the string, use "righty-tighty" (clockwise) to make the string higher in pitch and "lefty-loosey" (counter-clockwise) to make the string lower in pitch.
- **Although the Pegs may look similar to guitar tuners, they do not work the same way.** Pegs only require a *tiny* adjustment to change the pitch of the string.
- If you have to use the Pegs to tune (if the instrument is very out of tune), hold the peg firmly and apply STRONG FORCE towards the pegbox. Then, make the  *tiniest*  turn up (to go higher) or down (to go lower).
  - *If you do not apply steady, strong pressure into the pegbox, the peg will "pop" out and the string will fully unwind.*
  - *If you turn the peg too much, the string may break. A replacement string will cost ~\$15.*

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## Using a Chromatic Tuner

Violin strings, from lowest to highest, are **G D A E**.

Viola and cello strings, from lowest to highest, are **C G D A**.

Turn on your chromatic tuner. Pluck or bow one string, with instrument close to the tuner's microphone. Adjust the fine tuner (or peg, if necessary) until the tuner shows Green for that string/pitch.

### Chromatic Tuner options:

- **Website:** <https://tuner.ninja/> (free and easy chromatic tuner online)
- **iOS Apps:**
  - [insTuner](#) (free – great for anyone with experience tuning an instrument)
  - [Violin Multi-Tuner](#) (\$1.99 – if you haven't tuned a guitar or string instrument before, this shows the violin, viola, or cello strings so you use the visual/audio to help tune the strings)
- **Android Apps:**
  - [Tuner – gStrings](#) (free — allows you to select an instrument, works great!)
  - [ClearTune](#) (\$3.99 – highly reviewed as one of the best tuning apps)

### Drive-By Tuning Events: Nancy Rohn Violin Shop (301 SW 4th St Suite 140, Corvallis)

ES Teachers will host Drive-By Tuning events, in which you can drive up, pop your trunk with instrument inside, and we will tune/check your instrument. *Please wear a mask if you would like to exit the vehicle.*

- **First Drive-By Tuning event:** **Saturday, October 3, noon-5pm** at Nancy Rohn Violin Shop
- *Please come if you want instrument tuning help, or if you have an instrument that hasn't been played recently!*

Contact [Nancy Rohn Violin Shop](#) or [Windsmith Music](#) for tuning needs otherwise

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