

MVSO

YOUTH STRINGS

2025-2026





ABOUT US

We are a community of diverse and spirited young musicians that share the love of making music. Join us on Saturdays from August to May to explore, challenge and refine student musicians. Wherever you are in your playing, you deserve a youth orchestra that thinks you are a BIG DEAL! Our door is open to all string players in grades 2-12.

Our students come from across the Miami Valley from communities such as Troy, Englewood, Cedarville, Kettering, Springboro and northern Cincinnati and represent over 20 schools.

Students rehearse weekly in level-appropriate ensembles. All groups spend time on string playing and ensemble techniques in addition to learning concert pieces. Additionally, students will learn the value of personal preparation and regular attendance to create a powerful and positive group dynamic.

A Community of Musicians

MVSO Youth Strings is a branch of the Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra, a community based non-profit organization that brings together accomplished and dedicated musicians to provide high quality performances to entertain, enrich and inspire the community, and advance the knowledge and appreciation of music.

We aim to provide quality musical experiences in the rehearsal room, concert hall and within the community.

Our ensembles have been found in local parades, assisted living communities, demonstrating at an instrument petting zoo, auditioning for a national anthem performance, competing at King's Island's Music in the Parks, and in 2024 at ASTA's National Orchestra Festival.



REPERTOIRE

We choose bold programming that is relevant to today's youth and will give a foundation for a life of music appreciation. We honor the classics while discovering new composers and eclectic styles.

PERFORMANCES

Performances are held several times per year and serve not only as a display of beautiful music but as a celebration of accomplishment for the students who have dedicated so much of themselves.

TENTATIVE 2025-26 CONCERT DATES:

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Holiday Performances: December 13, 2025

Saturday May 2, 2026

REPERTOIRE & PERFORMANCES





2024-2025

MVSO Youth Strings

at a glance

Class and rehearsals held most Saturdays from late August to early May.

LOCATION:
Christ United
Methodist Church
3440 Shroyer Rd,
Kettering, OH 45429

Beginning String Class 1

Instruction in violin, viola, cello and bass for complete beginners.

Beginning String Class 2

An extension of our beginner class 1 for students who know the basics and are ready to begin reading notation.

Youth Strings: Da Capo

A first or early ensemble experience for students with basic skills.

Youth Strings: Sinfonia

For the developing string player who has good command of their instrument and is ready to expand their ensemble playing abilities.

Eligible for CHAMBER and Theory/Composition.

Youth Strings: Coda

For mature students who have several years playing experience who are ready to challenge their skills and expand their repertoire.

Eligible for CHAMBER and Theory/Composition.

NEW! Music Theory & Composition

New for 2025-26 we are pleased to offer this yearlong course for students in Sinfonia and Coda. Students will learn the basics of musical structure, form, music theory, and learn how to compose their own music, while listening to a variety scores from diverse composers.

Chamber Music

Small groups of players from Sinfonia and Coda meet weekly with coaches to learn how to play in a more intimate and individual setting without a conductor.

For
complete
beginners.

Class Time & Cost

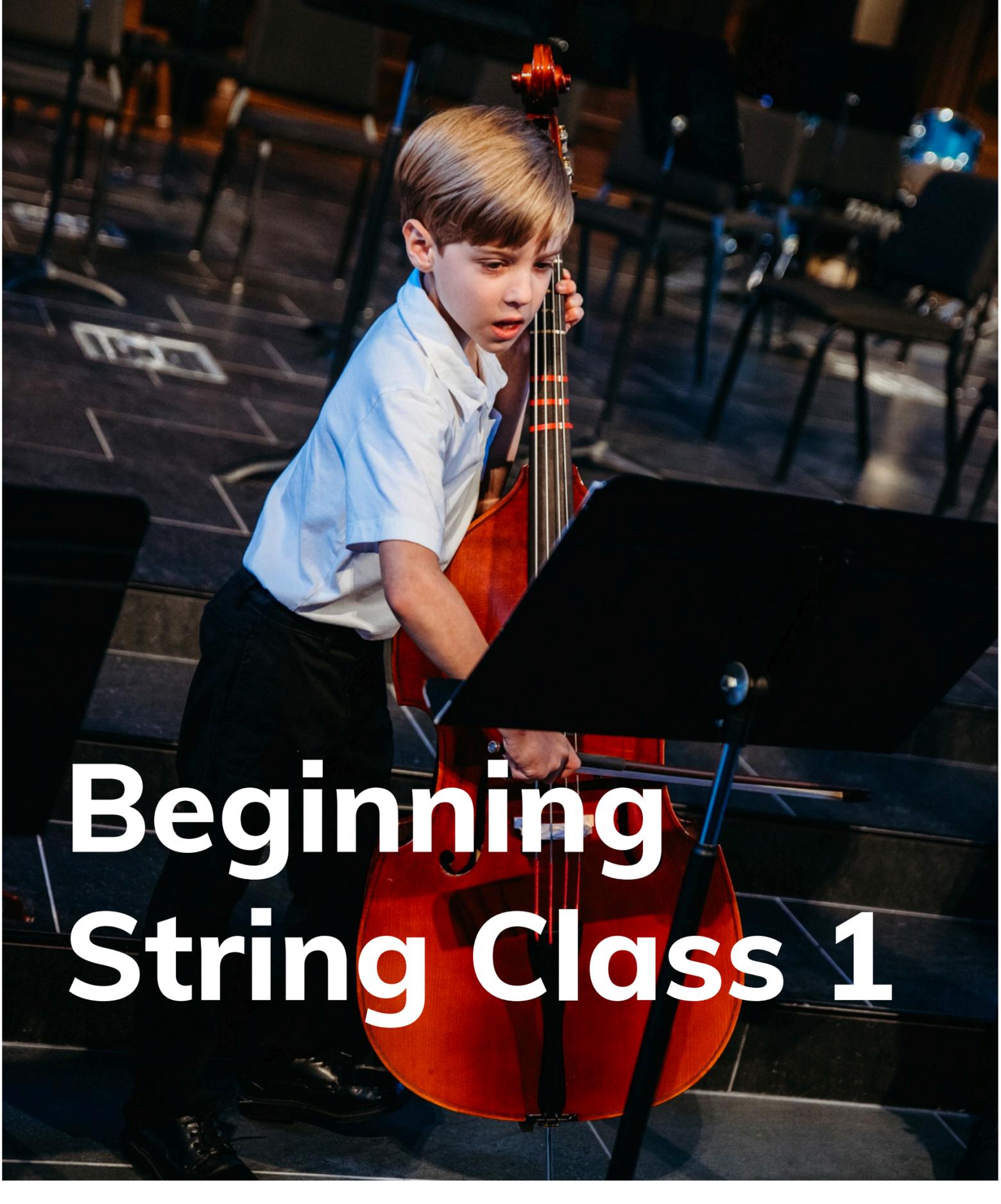
Saturdays, 11:30-12:20pm , \$100/ semester. Full year enrollment ONLY.

Instructor

Caroline Slocum

Description

Students in grades 2-5 can begin their study of violin, viola, cello or bass from the very beginning. Students will begin by exploring each of the 4 instruments before making their choice. Families will be guided through renting instruments, home practice and instrument care. Materials will be provided but families must rent their own instrument.

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is playing a double bass. He is looking intently at the instrument. The background shows a music room with several black chairs and a music stand. The text "Beginning String Class 1" is overlaid in large white font on the bottom right of the image.

Beginning String Class 1

**For First
Years**

Class Time & Cost

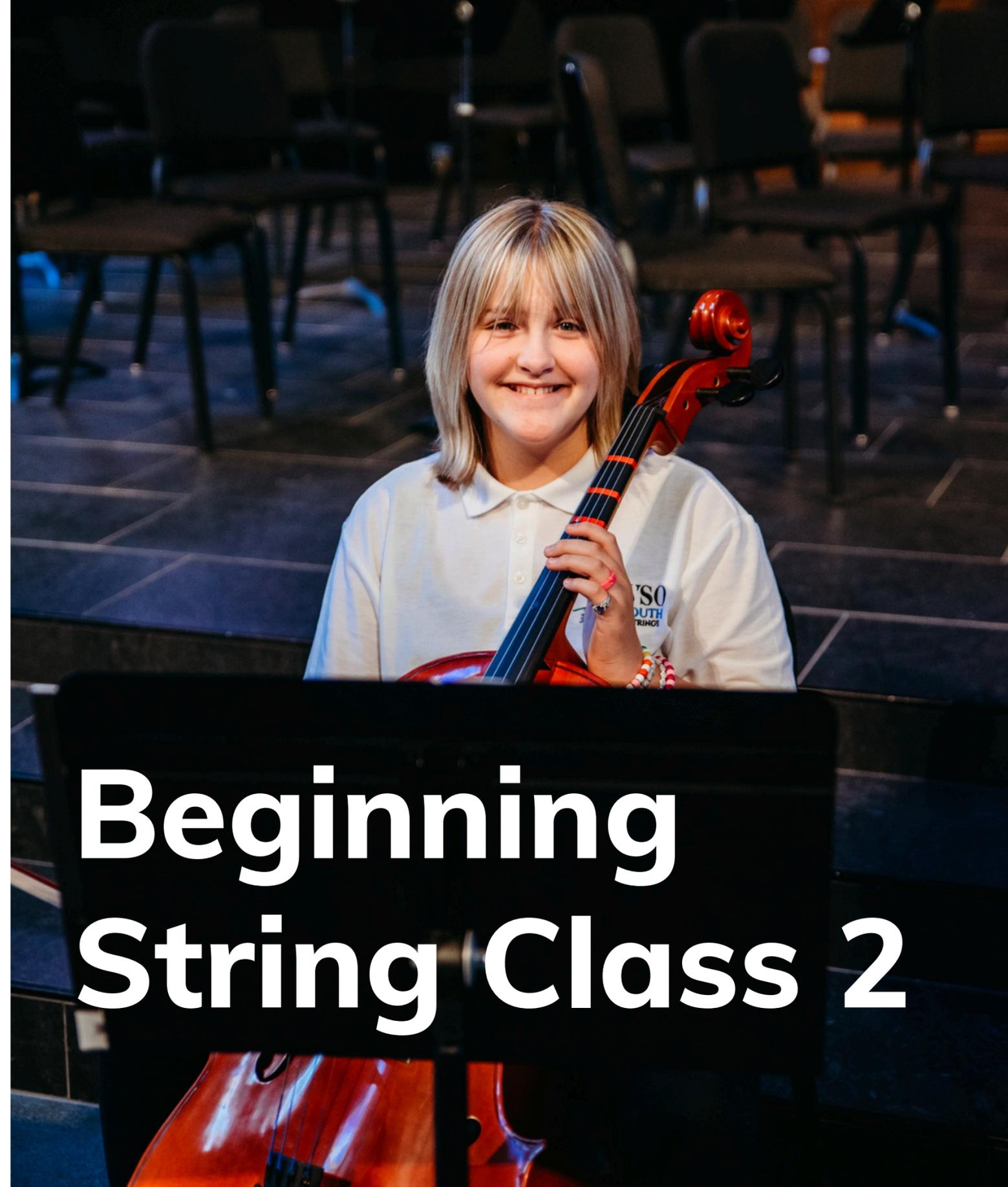
Saturdays, 12:30-1:20pm, \$100/ semester. Full year enrollment **ONLY**.

Instructor

Caroline Slocum

Description

This is an extension of our Beginning String Class 1. Offered to students in grades 2-5 who have learned the basics of instrument hold and posture, basic bow hold and use, and left hand finger placement. These students are ready to begin learning to read notation while continuing to develop their beginner skills on violin, viola, cello, and bass. Materials will be provided but families must rent their own instrument.



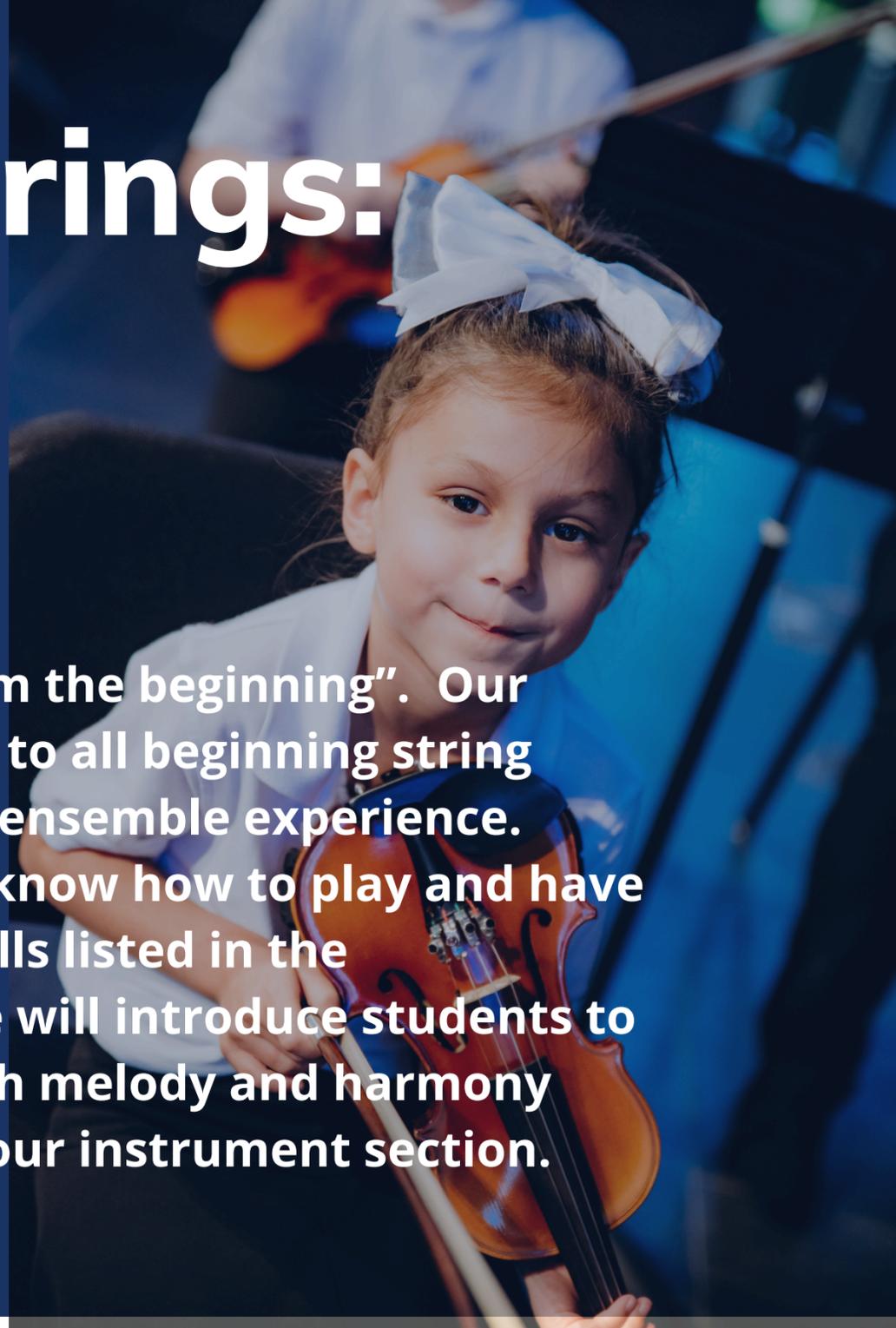
Beginning String Class 2

Standard
Repertoire
level
.5-1.5

REHEARSAL TIME: 11:00am-12:00pm
COST: \$100/semester
DIRECTOR: Lois Clond

Youth Strings: Da Capo

Da Capo is Italian for "from the beginning". Our newest orchestra is open to all beginning string players as a first or early ensemble experience. Students should already know how to play and have good command of the skills listed in the requirements. Repertoire will introduce students to the sounds of playing with melody and harmony and how to play within your instrument section.



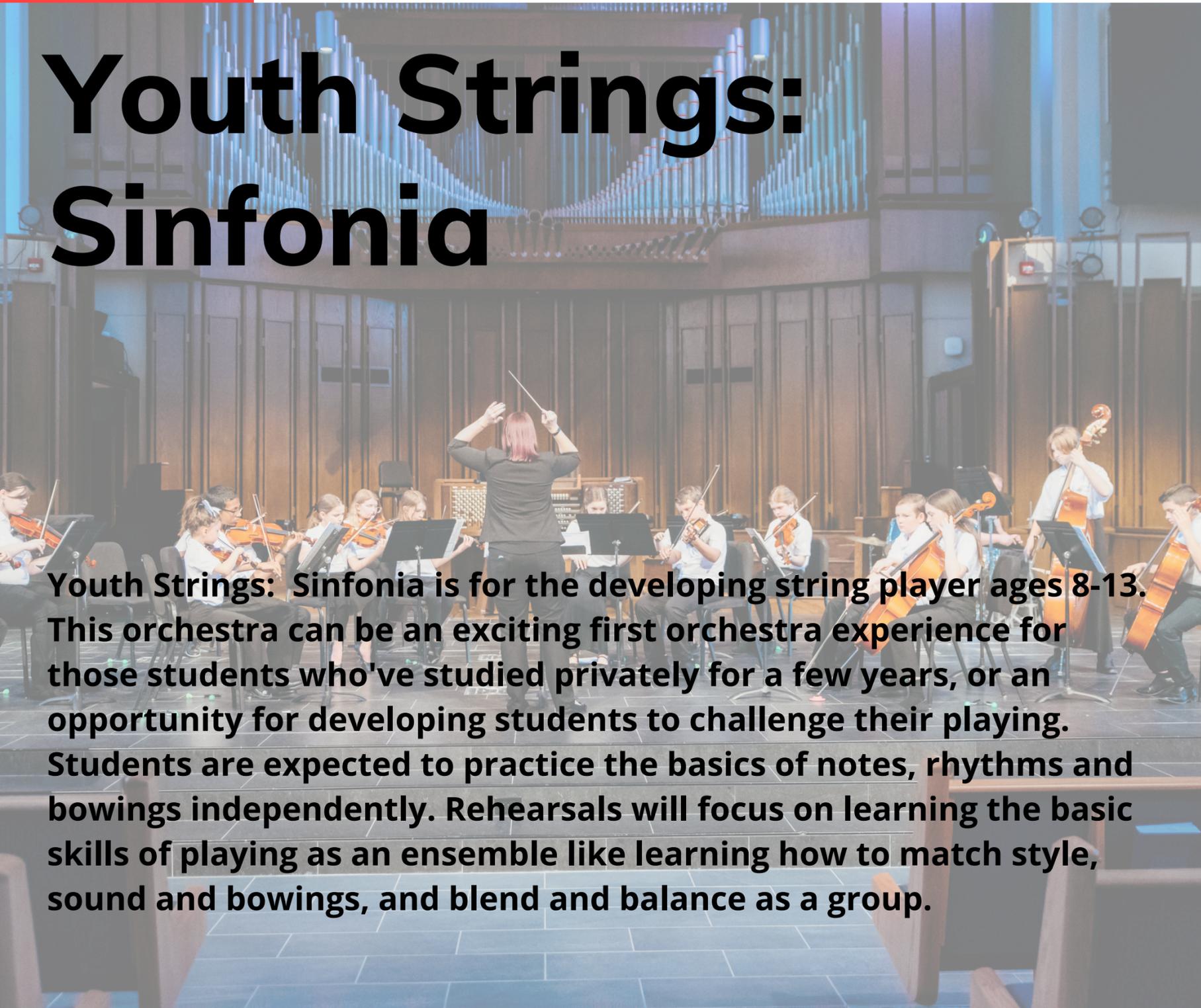
While the ages and skills vary within each ensemble, instruction will be most appropriate for the following:

Approx. ages 7-12	1-2 years of playing experience	Can play in the keys of G, D, C in one and/or 2 octaves
Loud and soft dynamics	Rhythm: eighths, quarters, halves, dotted half and whole notes	able to follow basic downbow and upbow marking and slurs

**Standard
Repertoire
level
2-3**

**REHEARSAL TIME: 12:15-1:45pm
COST: \$125/semester
DIRECTOR: Jamie Whitmore**

Youth Strings: Sinfonia



Youth Strings: Sinfonia is for the developing string player ages 8-13. This orchestra can be an exciting first orchestra experience for those students who've studied privately for a few years, or an opportunity for developing students to challenge their playing. Students are expected to practice the basics of notes, rhythms and bowings independently. Rehearsals will focus on learning the basic skills of playing as an ensemble like learning how to match style, sound and bowings, and blend and balance as a group.

While the ages and skills vary within each ensemble, instruction will be most appropriate for the following:

Ages 8-14	Approx. 1-3 years playing experience	1-2 octave major scales in keys of D, G, A, C, F, Bb
Slurs, staccato, legato, hooked bowing	quarters, halves, dotted half and whole notes, eighth notes, sixteenth notes, simple dotted rhythms, some syncopation, triplets	METERS: 2/4, 3/4 , 4/4, 6/8
POSITIONS: Violins & violas 1st and 3rd positions, Cellos positions 1-4, Bass positions 1 & 3	DYNAMICS: f, mf, mp, p and crescendo and decrescendo	BOOK EQUIVALENTS Suzuki Book 3 Essential Elements or School Orchestra Book 2-3 equivalent

**Standard
Repertoire
level
4-5+**

REHEARSAL TIME: Saturdays, 3:30-5:30pm
COST: \$175/semester
DIRECTOR: Kristen Hruby

Youth Strings: Coda

This ensemble is for the string player in grades 6-12 with strong interest in learning the art of ensemble playing and improving their performance skills. More demanding repertoire is offered to challenge students who have already mastered basic string playing skills and wish to expand their playing abilities

In addition to the skills listed, students should have the ability to prepare their parts independently and to work in a fast paced rehearsal for two hours.

While the ages and skills vary within each ensemble, instruction will be most appropriate for the following:

Ages 12-18 Approx. 4+ years playing experience	2-3 octave Major and minor scales up to 4 sharps and 4 flats	BOWING: Slurs, staccato, spiccato, hooked bowing, tremolo, accents
RHYTHM: quarters, halves, dotted half and whole notes, eighth notes, sixteenth notes, simple dotted rhythms, some syncopation, triplets.	METER: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 5/4, 6/8	Learning or using vibrato.
POSITIONS: Violins 1 positions 1-6 Violin 2 positions 1-5 Viola positions: 1-5 Cello positions: 1-6+ Bass positions: 1-5	DYNAMICS: Full range of dynamics	Suzuki Book 5, Essential Elements Book 3+, Violas- Treble Clef Cellos- Tenor Clef

CLASS TIME: Saturdays, 2:30-3:15pm

COST: \$75/semester

Open to all Youth Strings Sinfonia and Coda players. Each chamber group will be coached by a MVSO member and will present their pieces at concerts and community events. Chamber musicians will develop personal musical expression and interpersonal communication since ensembles play without a conductor. All groups will be formed according to instrument, age and skill level.

To increase performance skills and opportunities for chamber musicians, performance hours will be held during chamber time. Here, chamber groups will gather in a workshop setting to practice performing and will receive comments and suggestions from the chamber music staff.

Chamber Music



Music Theory & Composition



CLASS TIME: Saturdays, 1:45-2:30pm

COST: \$75/semester

New for 2025-2026 we are pleased to offer a Music Theory and Composition class for our Sinfonia and Coda level students.

In this class students will discuss what composition and theory are and how they fit together. Students will learn about chords and intervals, melody and harmony, musical form and structure.

Students will also learn how to write for performers, the limits of composition as well as how the score is a tool of communication between the composer and the performer. In this class the students will be encouraged to listen to music they are unfamiliar with, to experience a variety of composers.

Students will begin writing their own short compositions with instructor guidance and possible performance by Chamber groups.

Registration and Payment

Registration and Ensemble Placement

We believe it is important that your musician is placed in a group where they will be challenged and have fun, without being overwhelmed. We look at what the student is working on or working toward, their current and previous ensemble experiences, and private lesson experiences. Please be sure the information on your registration is filled out as completely and accurately as possible to help us determine the best ensemble fit for your student. Please consider if the student is actively working toward each benchmark. If uncertain, please contact MVSO Youth Strings Director, Kristen Hruby at mvsyouthstrings@gmail.com with questions.

ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM at www.mvso.org/youthstrings

Semesters

Our program offers participation by the semester to help you and your family navigate around your many activities. While most students opt for the full year, you may choose semester one, AND/OR semester two. Please note that Beginning String Classes and Music Theory/Composition are a full year option only.

Semester one: Late August-December

Semester two: January-May

Payment & Assistance

Payments are collected at the start of each semester, **No payment is due at registration.** Families in need of financial assistance may request a no questions asked fee waiver on the registration form. Accepting the waiver does not require any additional responsibilities, though volunteering when the need arises is always appreciated.



2025-26 tuition and other costs

- Payments are collected at the start of each semester.
- Every family must provide a properly sized instrument in excellent working condition and uniform shirt for concerts.
- Class materials, sheet music, folders, etc... will be provided

SIBLING DISCOUNT

The oldest pays full price and each sibling pays 50%

FEE WAIVER

No questions asked fee waiver for families in need. Simply indicate on the registration form.

Beginning String Class 1

COST: \$100/semester

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Beginning String Class 2

COST: \$100/semester

n extension of our beginner class 1 for students who know the basics and are ready to begin reading notation.

Youth Strings: Da Capo

COST: \$100/semester

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Youth Strings: Sinfonia

COST: \$125/semester

For the developing string player who has good command of their instrument and is ready to expand their ensemble playing abilities.

Chamber Music

COST: \$75/SEMESTER

Music Theory/Composition

COST: \$75/SEMESTER

Youth Strings: Coda

COST: \$175/semester

For mature students who have several years playing experience who are ready to challenge their skills and expand their repertoire.

Chamber Music

COST: \$75/SEMESTER

Music Theory/Composition

COST: \$75/SEMESTER

MVSO Youth Strings Teaching Staff

Kristen Hruby
MVSO Youth Strings Director

Director, Youth Strings: Coda
MVSO Violin



Caroline Slocum
MVSO Youth Strings Asst. Director

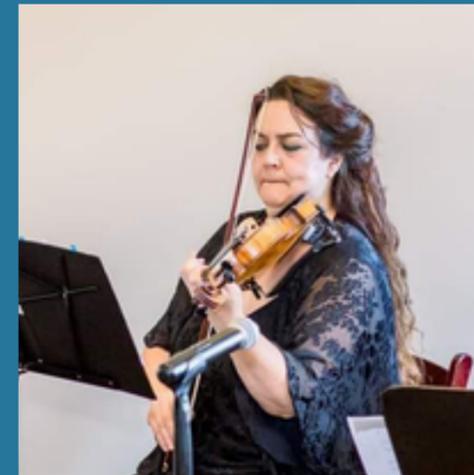
Instructor, Beginning String Classes
MVSO Cello



Lois Clond

Director, Youth Strings: Da Capo
Coach, Chamber Music
MVSO Associate Concertmaster

Moira Levant
Instructor, Music Theory & Composition



Jamie Whitmore

Director, Youth Strings: Sinfonia
Coach, Chamber Music

Susie Lowe
Coach, Chamber Music
MVSO Cello



"See you Saturday!"

Please complete the online
registration form.

www.mvso.org/youthstrings

