

Peninsula Community
Youth Orchestra



2026-2027 Sequim Handbook

Beginner and Intermediate Strings

Family Portal

<http://jovial.org/pcyo/family>

PCYO Website

pcyo.kids

PCYO Committee

Case Schmidt - SCO President

Randal Wilson - Sequim Classroom Coordinator

Sarah Dunford - PA Classroom Coordinator

Nicolena Hutchins - Fundraising Coordinator

Teacher

Amber Roskamp (Beginners and Intermediates)

Visit the Jovial Family Portal for contact information.

Communication

All communication will be sent through the Jovial Family portal, email, or a group text chat. Inform the Classroom Coordinator if you wish to opt out of the group text.

Class Schedule

These classes will meet Mondays and Wednesdays at Swisher Hall in the James Center for the Performing Arts.

This is the preliminary schedule for the classes. The final schedule will be in Jovial.

Intermediate & Advanced, 3:30 - 4:15

Beginner: 4:30-5:00

Please arrive early to set up and tune your instrument. Be seated and attentive at your class start time. **Food and drinks are *not* allowed in the building**, except for water in a covered container. When class ends, please put your chair and music stand away. The building closes at 6pm.

Class Levels

Suzuki Sprouts

Students 6 and under who would like to learn the basics of violin study in a group environment

Beginner

Students ages 6+ who cannot yet read music and are ready for 30 minutes of sustained focus in a classroom setting.

Intermediate

Students of any age who have played and can read music, but are not ready for youth orchestra. Generally, students spend 2 years in the intermediate class before graduating to youth orchestra.

Youth Orchestra

Students who are able to play 2 octave scales starting at the bottom of their with proper rhythm and position, who can read music in 2/4, 4/4, 3/4 and 6/8, and who are familiar with the concept of key signatures and know at least the keys of G and D.

Students who want to learn a second instrument may sign up for the beginner class for no additional fee, assuming there's room.

Instruments

Please read through the page online on our website about [instruments](#).

Please do not buy online without talking to your teacher as many instruments online are of very low quality.

Please attend one of the instrument checkout days between 3:30 and 5:30 on September 7 at Swisher or September 9th at First United Methodist Church to borrow an instrument. Students who wish to borrow an instrument must fill out the loan form in the portal and be paid up on tuition. Cellos must agree to a special loan agreement.

Please do not buy online without talking to your teacher as many instruments online are of very low quality.

Supplies

- Your instrument, pencil, and music folder
- Notebook for recording instructions
- Rosin and a cleaning cloth
- Shoulder rest (violin/viola), endpin anchor (cello), or rock stop (bass).
Violins should ideally purchase their own shoulder rest before the first class as these should not really be shared across years for our program as they accumulate oil from the children's skin and neck. We will have a few for you to try out to see which one is best for your child and their instrument and then you can buy from the Violin Shop or Click Music in Port Angeles.

Tuition

Tuition is \$150/term per child, with \$50 of that due at registration. We recognize parents with multiple students can find tuition difficult, so family discounts are available on request. Scholarships are also available and no student will be denied participation for inability to pay. Please email the registrar@sequimcommunityorchestra.org to request a family discount or

scholarship. Payment will always and only be done in the [Jovial family portal](#). You may pay via credit card or ACH with your bank account.

Beginner and Intermediate students will have one or two books that the students will use throughout the term that they will be allowed to keep. We will charge a small fee (less than \$15) to provide the first book and provide it on the first day of class. Parents will be informed when students are ready to be moved to a new book and may pick up books continuing the series online.

We appreciate your assistance in keeping payment matters only in Jovial or with the registrar via email as it helps keep program costs low. Our registrar is an unpaid volunteer and keeping payment matters to email or Jovial will help ensure volunteer hours are sufficient to handle these tasks.

Fundraising

Tuition payments only offset a part of the program expenses, so we hold bake sale fundraisers at the SCO (adult orchestra) concerts. Dates will be provided in the [Family Portal](#). Please drop off homemade, individually-wrapped baked goods before the concert. There may also be other fundraisers throughout the year.

About the Sequim Community Orchestra

The Peninsula Community Youth Orchestra (PCYO) is funded by the Sequim Community Orchestra, which is an educational non-competitive ensemble that performs orchestral music for the community. All program management for the PCYO is done by a volunteer board elected by the SCO at their annual general meeting which occurs in June each year. Parents paying dues are welcome to attend these meetings and contribute. The date will be announced in May. The Classroom Coordinator is currently staffed by a member from the SCO who has children in the program. To keep tuition low and ensure the program does not exclude

any students for not being able to pay, the PCYO operates at a deficit every year and is heavily subsidized. Additional funds come from dues paid by the adult program and fundraisers and donations from community members. (The SCO operates budget neutral as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.) The instrument library was originally funded by donations and grants, including from ArtsWA, Beta Nu, and Phi Beta Kappa and we seek grants as needed to expand the instrument library.

The [SCO's mission](#) includes string students in Sequim as a core requirement (because of the lack of a school program) and our board endeavors to support this however we are able. We believe a thriving music education program for children lifts up the entire community.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to help out, please talk to Amber, or message the registrar or speak with the Classroom Coordinator. We also welcome those who would like to be involved more formally with the program by attending the SCO's general meeting each Spring.

How to Practice

Play your instrument every day. Have fun! Play everything that you did in class. Check your notebook for specific skills or pieces to practice. Always be careful of your posture, bow hold, pressure, speed, and bow location.

If you feel distracted or unhappy, play through the things you enjoy, and then work on the difficult parts when you feel better.

PCYO Fall Calendar

Please see <https://pcyo.kids/calendar> for the most up to date schedule for the class or ensemble you have registered for.