



The New Brunswick Youth Orchestra (NBYO) is a youth symphony orchestra of approximately 70-75 musically talented young people who reside in New Brunswick. We have a great programme, we won an ECMA award in 2008, and we are always looking for outstanding talent on orchestral instruments. Although a considerable commitment is demanded from our orchestra members, we provide a great deal in return, both to the orchestra membership and to the Province. Indeed, we are the “Provincial Youth Orchestra;” as we often represent the Province in many of our activities.

The sizes of the orchestra sections are as follows: flute (3-4, may include piccolo); oboe (3-4, may include cor anglais); clarinet (3-4, may include bass clarinet); bassoon (3-4); French horn (4-5); trumpet (3-4, may include flugelhorn or cornet); trombone (3); tuba (1); percussion (3-5), including timpani); keyboard (1 – optional - drawn from the orchestra); harp; violin (20-24, in 2 sections); viola (6-8); violoncello (8); contrabass (2-4). Actual numbers will vary from year to year, depending on availability of players with sufficient ability.

All orchestra positions are open every year; previous participation in NBYO is not a guarantee of re-admission to the orchestra, or of promotion within the section.

NBYO’s musical programme is led by our Music Director, James Mark. We are fortunate to have thirteen distinguished faculty members to cover each section of the orchestra, and who are responsible for leading sectional rehearsals.

There are three categories of orchestra members (the term “member” is used in this document to mean all players, unless the context indicates otherwise):

1. *Regular members*– successful audition candidates who occupy a regular orchestra position;
2. *Alternate members* – successful audition candidates for whom there is not a place in the particular orchestra section. Alternates are normally appointed for every section, where possible;
3. *On call* – not “members” strictly speaking, but those otherwise qualified musicians who cannot commit to the entire season, but who wish to be available to play should they be needed. Although we prefer and recommend that they do, those musicians who wish to be placed on call need not audition, but must have demonstrated their proficiency in the recent past through membership in this or another youth orchestra. References may be requested in lieu of an audition. “On call” players will be accommodated and are expected to attend

rehearsals related to the particular concert where they're needed, but they are not charged programme fees.

What Are The Commitments?

Time and travel: NBYO's season is focused around six weekend events, and traditionally has begun with an extended rehearsal-only weekend in September at Green Hill Lake Camp, a beautiful rural retreat setting in central New Brunswick. Our season programme consists of intensive full orchestra (*tutti*) and sectional rehearsals. You should have received the music prior to the first weekend meeting, which is when we will start reading the bulk of the season's repertoire. Additional works may be rehearsed and performed later in the season. All regular and alternate orchestra players must participate in the initial rehearsal weekend. For the balance of the season (October to March), all players attend five additional rehearsal / concert weekends (roughly one a month, except December) at various centres. There will be additional rehearsal days (a total of 2-3; see details under "When and where...") on the Saturday or Sunday of weekends between the regularly scheduled weekends. Regular members are expected to rehearse and perform at all weekend events during the season. Alternates also participate at all rehearsals; more complete details regarding alternates are outlined below in a separate section.

The five concert weekends from October until March will start on the Friday evening (usually at 7:30); typically, they include *tutti* rehearsals led by the Music Director, plus sectional rehearsals with faculty, finishing with a public concert on the Sunday afternoon. One of these five weekends will have a public concert on the Sunday afternoon plus in-school concerts the following Monday morning. It is also possible that, during one of the weekends, a public concert could be scheduled on the Saturday night instead of Sunday afternoon, in which case rehearsals would be scheduled the following Sunday. Indeed, during this past season, one public concert was scheduled on the Sunday evening in addition to the Sunday afternoon concert. So, almost anything is possible!

You may therefore have to miss some class time on the Friday afternoon of a weekend, and probably all day the Friday of the first rehearsal weekend at Greenhill Lake (about which more below). This would depend on how far you have to travel to a weekend event. Also, once during the season, you will also have to miss classes on the Monday that the in-school concerts are performed. We recommend that you clear these absences with your school as early as possible; the schools tend to be very cooperative, as most educators in New Brunswick realize that your absence from a few classes is made up for in the instruction you will receive in our programme. In any event, when necessary, NBYO will support fully your requests for absence from school.

Our regular season ends in March, as we are sensitive to the fact that music festivals and university exams occur in April and May, when your availability might be compromised.

Additional special events are possible during the following spring or summer, as well as small ensemble performances. Any special event normally includes only our regular players (not alternates, unless needed, as explained elsewhere). These special events are considered optional for all members, as we recognize that they may have other commitments. Not surprisingly, most members choose to participate. Note, however, that once a player has committed to an optional event, he/she is expected to honour that commitment, including attending all extra rehearsals, participating in fundraising activities and fulfilling other obligations as needed.

Musicianship and personal commitment: All NBYO members are expected to attend all rehearsal and concert weekends and are to be fully prepared by having practised your parts in the repertoire in advance of the weekend. The repertoire is often very demanding; you must schedule individual practice time between rehearsals. The Music Director and faculty will supply practice tips to enhance and improve your experience.

In addition, you are expected to continue your commitment to playing in your music ensemble(s) in your region during the season, which remains essential to your development.

We realize membership in NBYO represents a considerable investment in your time and energy, which leads to the very important issue of ...

“Schedule-balancing” and attendance: We also are sensitive to the fact that most of you have other opportunities and commitments, both academic and extra-curricular. Please consider carefully the wisdom of participating in other optional activities which could conflict with NBYO events. Once you have committed to NBYO, we expect you to honour your commitment to us, and to make NBYO your first priority. We encourage you to advise your other leaders, directors, teachers and coaches of the details of your NBYO schedule, at the beginning of the school year (in September).

We strongly advise those who are considering a career in music to choose NBYO, as there is nowhere else in New Brunswick you will experience participation in a full-scale symphony orchestra.

Once you have committed to us, you become an essential part of NBYO, where every member’s participation is important. Your attendance at every event during the season is expected.

The Music Director reserves the right to accept or refuse your excuse to be absent from rehearsals and concerts. If you are unable to attend rehearsals at a particular weekend,

you will not usually be permitted to play that weekend's concert. In any case, absence should be a rare exception; frequent, persistent or unexcused absences will usually result in your being asked to leave the orchestra. As indicated elsewhere, participation in the initial Greenhill Lake weekend is compulsory, and only the most extreme circumstances constitute an excuse to be absent.

This information is being presented here at this time so that you have an idea of what is expected if you are successful in being admitted to NBYO.

Alternates: Alternates, who are a vital component of NBYO, are expected to rehearse with the orchestra at all NBYO regular season events. Alternates are also eligible to choose to perform in one of the regular season concerts. Alternates might also be asked to play additional concerts if they are needed due to the absence of a regular player or for another good reason. However, for special orchestra events, it is the policy of NBYO that alternates are not eligible to participate (i.e., those events over and above the regular orchestra season), unless invited to fill vacancies.

When and where are the NBYO weekends?

Except for the initial September rehearsal weekend at Greenhill Lake, **locations are tentative**, and are likely to be:

- **Fredericton**
- **Moncton**
- **Saint John**
- **Two more locations in New Brunswick, to be determined.**

Note that you will have to commit to most of Friday, September 17 (to allow for travel time to Greenhill Lake), and an entire Monday after one of the weekends for the school concerts, so please bear this in mind regarding your academic commitments.

The weekend dates* are as follows (dates are inclusive, and all are tentative, except where indicated):

- **September 17–19** (Greenhill Lake) – dates firm, compulsory attendance;
- **October 22-24**;
- **November 12-14 or 26-28**;
- **January 7-9 or 14-16**;
- **February 18-20**;
- **March 11-13.**

Once the actual event locations and dates have been finalized, they will be posted on the website.

***Notes:**

- **One of the above weekends between October and March will have a Monday morning added (to be determined);**
- **Additional one-day rehearsals will be scheduled on at least two (and possibly all three) of the following weekends:**
 - **October 2 or 3**
 - **Dec 11 or 12**
 - **Jan 29 or 30**
 - **Note that these rehearsals will be held either the Saturday or the Sunday, so there would be no overnight stay. The venues will likely be in two or all three major centres (Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John).**

Other Important Details

Orchestra Fees: In addition to the \$20.00 audition fee, there is a \$350 programme fee for full members (\$225 for alternates). These fees contribute in part to the season costs of auditions, music purchase or rental, instruction, and other operational expenses. Member fees account for only about 10% of the total operating cost of NBYO with the balance coming from generous donors, concert ticket sales, CD sales and other sources. Note that there could be additional fees charged for essential materials.

Financial Aid: The NBYO Foundation makes available funding for bursaries to help defray the costs of membership for those who need it. We may also grant awards through additional donations. Any orchestra player (regular or alternate) is invited to apply for financial aid once notification of acceptance has been received.

Fundraising: All members will be expected to contribute some time to fundraising initiatives, which will be announced at the beginning of the season. Members will be consulted on the preferred method(s) of fundraising.

Transportation: All members and alternates are responsible for their own transportation to all weekends, unless otherwise arranged. This is often accomplished by car-pooling, and, where numbers and circumstances warrant, parents may decide to pool their resources to rent a bus. On rare occasions, and where the situation warrants it, NBYO may initiate bus or other vehicle rental, which could mean a small additional cost to each member.

Accommodation and meals: Other than the Greenhill Lake weekend, which is a camp setting, accommodation at NBYO weekends is by billeting with local families of orchestra members and friends of NBYO. All meals and snacks are provided, either at the rehearsal location or by the billeting families. To supplement, members are usually asked to bring some snacks with them to each weekend event.

There are well-established parent committees in the major centres. These regional committees (under the supervision of the Executive Director, Don Matheson) are responsible for billeting, meals and other weekend activities in their particular centre, and may wish to have a coordinator for transportation of their members to out-of-town weekend events. Without the efforts of these generous, hard-working people, holding these weekend events would otherwise be very difficult (and expensive), if not impossible.

Some parents choose to accommodate their own children (and perhaps a friend in the Orchestra) by travelling to the weekend venue; in these cases, they may have to purchase some meals, such as breakfast, which is normally provided only to those being billeted. We encourage all parents to travel and stay over at least once during the season, as it's a great experience (not to mention the opportunity for a "weekend getaway"). We are often able to obtain preferred hotel rates for NBYO members and parents.

The Audition

Your audition will be heard by an **Audition Panel** consisting of the Music Director and one or two music professionals. In addition, the audition will be recorded to allow the panel to evaluate and discuss your audition, and to allow for the possibility of the absence of a panel member at an in-person audition.

The panel for the 2010 auditions will be: Dr. James Mark (Music Director-NBYO), Dr. Richard Gibson (Professor of Music, Université de Moncton, composer, brass specialist) and Christopher Buckley (violinist, Saint John String Quartet, string specialist). Both Dr. Gibson and Mr. Buckley are members of the NBYO faculty.

Eligibility: To be considered for membership in NBYO:

1. you will be required to demonstrate at an audition, either in person or through a recording, your ability in playing an orchestral instrument; and
2. you should be a resident of New Brunswick during the NBYO season (although occasional exceptions from a neighbouring Province could be made to fill a key position for which there is no qualified player residing in New Brunswick).

Note, there are no set age limits for membership, nor is it required that members be students at educational institutions. Neither are there any particular grade levels required in your musicianship, but a high standard is expected (your teacher can probably advise you whether you are ready to audition). Typically, our players' ages range from 11 to the early 20s and most (if not all) attend school, college or university in New Brunswick.

Members must be sufficiently mature to deal with the demands of full weekends away from home. If lack of maturity is an issue with an otherwise successful candidate, the

candidate's parents will be contacted prior to the start of the season to discuss the matter in order to come to an agreement. For instance, in the event that a talented (but very young) musician should successfully audition, he or she may be admitted, but a parent may have to commit to accompanying the youngster to NBYO events.

Audition Requirements: The audition consists of three components:

1. Several (2-3) major scales.
2. Candidate's choice of a prepared unaccompanied short work, appropriate to your level of proficiency. The work should be a single work or a portion thereof, and include contrasting fast and slow portions OR two separate shorter studies, one fast and one slow.
3. Sight-reading a short passage provided by the audition panel.

The entire audition takes about 10 minutes.

Selection process and classification: You should bear in mind that, since the audition is competitive, lots of practice before the audition is important. All positions in the orchestra are open every year. The Audition Panel has discretion in choosing players and establishing placement in sections based on your audition performance and their judgement of the candidate's talent and aptitude. The Music Director has the final say, should there be any disagreement among the panel members.

The high quality of music instruction we are fortunate to have available in many parts of New Brunswick ensures that, in a given year, many more talented young musicians might qualify for the NBYO than can be admitted, due to the limited number of orchestra positions. However, we always encourage any young musician to audition, as the process in itself is a valuable and educational experience and will be of benefit to all who participate. You should take heart in realizing that we have had many young musicians who did not succeed on the first try (or even the second), yet eventually, with persistence, successfully auditioned.

After all auditions have been evaluated, candidates will be notified by email, probably in June, in which category they have been classified, which are:

1. those offered a regular place in the NBYO;
2. those offered a place as an alternate in the NBYO;
3. those requiring more development to reach NBYO standards, or who are impossible to place in the Orchestra because of an excess of qualified candidates for a particular instrument.

Note that, in the initial notification of acceptance, section positioning will not be indicated; tentative positioning will be determined by the Music Director and Faculty

when all replies from successful candidates have been received, and final positioning will take place after the initial rehearsals at Greenhill Lake.

Those who are unsuccessful (under #3 above), or who may be offered a place as an alternate, might later be offered a regular place in the event of another musician who is unable to accept our offer of a place. Also, those selected as regular members, who later feel they may not be able to commit to all the events of the season, may ask to be placed as an alternate or to be called on an as-needed basis, thereby freeing up a regular place.

Audition Details

Locations and dates are as follows:

- **Université de Moncton** – April 15
- **Sackville / Mt. Allison** – April 16
- **Bathurst / Miramichi** - May 5 (if numbers are sufficient)
- **Fredericton** – May 11 and 13 (or May 12 and 13 if no auditions in Edmundston)
- **Edmundston** – May 12 (if numbers are sufficient)
- **Moncton** – May 17 and 18
- **Rochesay** – May 27 and 28

You must apply to the Orchestra Manager (contact info below) for an audition time.

You will be given an audition time and location. The exact audition venues are listed. Those that have not been finalized will be announced soon on the website. You must appear at your audition at the scheduled time and place; if you are late, you would be bumped down to the next available time slot. If you fail to show at all, you may still audition at another centre, if space is available, or by recorded audition, at the discretion of the Music Director.

More audition locations may be added, subject to demand. Audition times will be in the afternoon, and perhaps into the early evening, if necessary. You may have to miss an afternoon class as we cannot schedule all auditions in after-school hours. You are certainly welcome to audition at another location than your home centre if it's more convenient for you

You may also register to audition at any of the above locations through our website: http://www.nbyo-ojnb.ca/audition_en.htm (English) or http://www.nbyo-ojnb.ca/audition_fr.htm (French). This should be done through the "Contact Us" section of the website: please provide complete information including your instrument and your preferred audition location.

The cost for your audition is \$20, to be paid in cash, cheque (payable to "NBYO/OJNB"), Visa or MasterCard at the time of your audition. Those who choose to audition on two instruments are not charged extra, but you must indicate your intention in advance to

audition on two instruments to allow for scheduling a second audition time. We would schedule the second audition at a time not following immediately after the first audition, to allow you to warm up and tune the second instrument. Note that it is not necessary to audition on an “auxiliary” instrument such as bass clarinet or cor anglais (English horn).

Please fill in the audition application form with all information requested (please print legibly), in advance of the audition. Bring both the completed audition form and the audition fee with you to the audition. Please be accurate, print clearly, and fill in the form entirely – this information will be used to contact you once the auditions results are ready. Note that your privacy and our integrity with respect to the information you provide are assured, as it will be used for no other purpose than for contact. Note also that your audition result will not be released to you unless your audition fee has been paid.

If you wish, you may also provide a short (i.e., one- or two-page) *curriculum vitae* (CV) outlining your accomplishments in music (dates and particulars of training, grade levels, teacher(s), ensemble and orchestra work, if applicable). Please be brief (use point form); we do not need statements of your ambitions, etc. No doubt the members of the audition committee will be speaking to you about those things. Note that this would be conversational in tone, rather than a formal “interview.”

You should receive the result of your audition in June, by email (or by phone if you have no email), so please make sure your contact information on the form is accurate and clearly legible (printed in block letters). We assume all emails sent containing your audition result will have been received and read. If you haven’t heard anything by the end of June, please contact the Orchestra Manager, as it’s possible the email containing your audition result might have gone astray.

Things to bring (and not to bring) to your audition, and other details:

- Your audition fee of \$20
- Your completed application form and CV (if applicable)
- Your instrument with fresh (new) strings, if applicable, and all necessary accessories (rosin, lubricants, etc);
- Brass and woodwind instruments should be clean and well maintained, for best sound and performance; new (but broken in) reeds are a good idea;
- Sheet music of your audition piece(s);
- You do not need to bring a music stand, as one will be provided. However, if you’re more comfortable with it, you may bring your own stand if you wish;
- Please do not bring an accompanist. The audition panel wants to hear evidence of your ability and to evaluate your potential, and it’s much easier for the panel to focus on these aspects when you are unaccompanied;
- All candidates may sit or stand, as preferred. Contrabassists may want to bring a special chair or stool if used to playing that way;

- Percussionists should bring sticks, a snare drum and stand, if there is not a range of percussion instruments available at the audition location. Possibly arrangements can be made to have the audition committee and the candidate move to an appropriate location if available, and time permitting;
- If you have been recently ill, or injured, or if, for example, you have recently had braces put on (or removed), you may wish to delay your audition. If something happens after your audition has been scheduled, please notify the Orchestra Manager promptly to make other arrangements.
- We strongly recommend you arrive at least 15 minutes before your audition time to allow time to warm up. We will do our best to have auditions running on time, but short delays could occur due to unforeseen circumstances.

Recorded Auditions

We encourage those who are not able to audition in person to send a recorded audition. This is commonly done where the candidates may be widely scattered geographically, such as is the case in New Brunswick. If so, please consider a recorded audition, more about which is outlined below.

For a recorded audition, you must send directly to the Music Director (his contact information is at the end of this document), in electronic form, by post or by courier service, the following:

- a cassette tape, CD or MP3 file containing your performance of your prepared piece(s) (unaccompanied), and 3 major scales (please “announce” them – for example, say out loud: “G major,” then do the scale, announce the next one, and so on);
- the \$20 audition fee (cheque or money order – please do not send cash)
- a completed audition form and CV (if applicable) (hard copy or PDF file);
- a legible photocopy or PDF file of the sheet music of your prepared piece, and
- a note from your music teacher attesting to the authenticity of your recorded audition, and his/her evaluation of your ability to sight-read. Please also include your teacher’s contact information. This can also be a PDF file or in an email.

All the audition material is to be received by the Music Director as soon as possible (and no later than May 31), and becomes the property of NBYO. Note that a large (over 2 MB) computer file should not be sent by email, as it strains the limits of the recipient’s internet service; instead, the files should be uploaded to the following website: <http://www.transferbigfiles.com/> or a similar site. The Music Director is then notified by email (you must include his email address in the upload process), and he can then access your files. It’s free to do this (so far) and works very well.

It is recommended that you do an audition, even if you are unsure of your plans for 2010-11. Even if you think you may be leaving the province next year, things can happen

to change that. Remember, you wouldn't have to commit to NBYO until after you have received an offer of a place in the Orchestra.

Further information about the NBYO and its programmes may be seen on our website, or obtained from:

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