

NEPA Philharmonic Mentoring Program Guidelines

The Mentoring Program pairs NEPA music students with our professional musicians for a unique learning experience. Over the course of the orchestra season (September – June), the students receive **private lessons, chamber music coachings, masterclasses** and the opportunity to **rehearse and perform in a side-by-side concert with the full orchestra.**

Additionally, the students will be assigned to in a chamber music group (i.e. duo, trio or quartet) with other students chosen for the program. They will receive **chamber music coachings** from NEPP musicians in preparation for a **chamber music recital**. Students enrolled in the mentoring program also receive **two complimentary tickets** to all NEPA Philharmonic performances.

***All mentoring students are required to be available for the program's student chamber music recital on Sunday, May 19th, 2024.**

//ELIGIBILITY

The Mentoring Program is open to **students in grades 8-12 from Luzerne and Lackawanna counties** for the following instruments:

- Strings
- Woodwinds
- Brass
- Piano

PLEASE NOTE: *We cannot accept saxophone and percussion students.*

//PROGRAM FORMAT

The Mentoring Program will operate on a **hybrid schedule**, providing **in-person and online lessons and chamber music coachings**. In-person lessons and coachings might occur in local churches, schools or concert venues.

//TUITION

The tuition for the 2023-24 season is \$1200 per student (payable in installments); however, we offer a limited number of partial scholarships (up to \$800 per student) based on merit. Additional need-based financial aid is available upon acceptance into the program.

**Partial scholarships are available solely based on financial needs. See "Apply for financial aid" in the online application.*

The tuition includes:

- 10 private lessons with NEPP musicians
- Chamber music coachings with NEPP musicians
- Sectionals with Mélisse Brunet & NEPP musicians
- Masterclasses with guest soloists & members of the NEPP
- 2 free concert tickets to all NEPA Philharmonic performances for the season
- Side-by-side performances with the NEPA Philharmonic (excludes pianists)
- Student chamber music recital

//APPLICATION PROCESS

Click the “Apply for the Mentoring Program” button below to complete your application and submit your audition videos. **The application fee is \$25 (non refundable) and is payable by credit card.**

//AUDITION PROCESS

Acceptance into the Mentoring Program is a 2-round process:

- **ROUND 1 – Video Audition:** Applicants will prepare and submit video recordings of two pieces of contrasting style (around 2 minutes each), one of which can be an étude. Those who are accepted based on playing ability will then proceed to round 2.
- **ROUND 2 – Zoom Interview:** A Zoom interview will be scheduled for round 2 applicants and their parent(s)/guardian(s). Interviews are scheduled shortly after application submission.
- **The interview process will conclude on September 23rd. Applicants will be notified of the results on Sunday, September 24th.**

For questions regarding the NEPP Mentoring Program, contact us:

mentoring@nepaphil.org

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VIDEO SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- **Instruments:** Strings, Woodwinds and Brass (no saxophone, no percussion, no piano)
- **Audition:** Video submission only
- **Divisions:** Currently in 8th to 12th Grades as of this September
- **Area:** Students from within Luzerne and Lackawanna counties only.
- **Repertoire:** Two pieces of contrasting style. One of the selections can be an étude.
- **Application Fee:** \$25.00 (non-refundable) payable to the NEPA Philharmonic
- **Payment:** Credit card. Follow the instructions in the online application form.

All completed applications with the application fee must be received

NO LATER THAN Sunday, September 17, 2023

in order to be considered.

GUIDELINES FOR VIDEO SUBMISSIONS

*****READ CAREFULLY*****

VIDEO QUALITY

Make sure you are recording video at a high quality (1080p HD or higher)

- To adjust **iPhone** video quality: Go to Settings > Camera > Record Video. 4K at 30 fps is ideal (1080p at 30 fps or higher will work)
- To adjust **Android** video quality: Go to Camera > Settings > Resolution. Use 3840 x 2160 or 1920 x 1080

PHONE/CAMERA POSITIONING

- Position your phone/camera on a stable surface.
- Position your phone **horizontally** to record in **landscape orientation**.

LIGHTING

- **Do not stand in front of a window.**
- Make sure that the strongest light source in the room is not behind you to avoid your face appearing in shadow.

- Make sure that there is adequate light in the room in which you are recording.
- In addition to natural light, overhead lights and/or light stands can ensure the best visual quality.
- Make sure that your hands and face are clearly in the shot.
- Stand at least six feet from the phone/camera for better audio quality.

*****IMPORTANT*** SHARING YOUR VIDEOS**

Deadline: Sunday, September 17, 2023

- Create a Google Drive folder and **label** the folder with your name
- Add both videos to the folder and **label** each video with the title of the selection
- Email the link to your Google Drive folder to **mentoring@nepaphil.org**
- **IMPORTANT: Make your Google Drive link shareable with “anyone with the link”**