CHARLOTTESVILLE
SYMPHONY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

To: Central Virginia Public and Private School Music Teachers and Principals
Home School Group Coordinators
From: Elizabeth Roberts, Director of Youth Education for the Charlottesville Symphony Society
Date: August 5, 2026
Re: Musicians available for 2026-2027 school year Sheridan *Preludes* In-Person Events

The professional members of the Charlottesville Symphony are ready to present this year's Preludes programs throughout the region. We will offer the following in-person events for the 2026-2027 season.

- Instrument demonstrations
- Programs that introduce basic musical concepts
- Music programs tied to other subject areas, such as literature or science
- Master classes to cover specific performing techniques and reed making
- Coaching sessions to help your students prepare for solo and ensemble festivals

Events are intended as interactive presentations that suit the needs of individual music teachers, not as concert-like performances. The types of programs listed above are suggested as guidelines, but we are not limited to them. If you'd like us to offer a specific program for your students, please let us know and we'll do our best to meet your needs.

How do you request a Preludes visit?
Complete the "Make a Reservation" form and return it via email to:
Elizabeth Roberts, Director of Youth Education, Charlottesville Symphony Society
education@cvillesymphony.org

Purpose of the Preludes visits
Elementary Schools - Our goal is to assist school districts' recruitment efforts for their band and orchestra programs through instrument demonstrations that acquaint your students with instruments from each orchestra family.

Middle and High Schools - Our goal is to assist you in teaching your students by providing extra attention to the section (or sections) that you feel would benefit from our help.

Who will offer Preludes visits for your school?
Our Preludes programs are offered by professional musicians who are either principal players in the Charlottesville Symphony, or who are members of the Charlottesville community. Sometimes two musicians will present a program together so that your students can compare and contrast instruments from different families.

How do you request that certain topics are covered during a Preludes visit?
We are happy to work with you to develop a program that will help achieve the goals you have established for your students, including Virginia State Standards of Learning. When you make your request for a Virtual Event, simply tell us specifically what you would like us to cover. If you want us to cover SOLs, please list the description of the SOL, not just the number.

When are the musicians available to offer Preludes programs for your school?
Musicians are available to offer Preludes programs at your school between Sept 1st and April 30th. Requests for other times of year will be met if possible.

How many Preludes visits can we make to your school?
Elementary Schools
We offer each public and private school in Central Virginia two Preludes visits per academic year. There is no charge to your school for our first two events, but we do ask that you fund any additional events.

Middle Schools & High Schools
We offer two Preludes visits per program (two for band, two for orchestra) to each public and private school in Central Virginia. There is no charge to your school for these events, but we do ask that you fund any additional events.

Home School Groups
We are pleased to offer one free Preludes visit for each home school group of at least 20 students.

What constitutes a Visit?
An in-person visit is one musician working with your students for up to two consecutive hours. Two musicians visiting either together or separately are considered two visits.

Extra Visit Fees
All school systems and home school groups may schedule additional visits at the rate of $150 per visit.

The Symphony Website
Information about our programs can be found at: www.cvillesymphony.org
Click on “Education & Community.” Then click on “Preludes Program.”

24-hour Cancellation Policy
Any in-person visit that is canceled within 24 hours of the event will not be rescheduled. This policy is in place to show respect for the musicians who have set aside time in their schedules to serve your students. Please check your school’s academic and activity calendars carefully to avoid scheduling conflicts. Exceptions are made for weather-related school delays and closings.

Feedback
After our Preludes visits we encourage you to complete an evaluation form. Please let us know what we've done well and anything you think we should consider improving in the future. We value your feedback. Thank you.

IMPORTANT EXPECTATIONS FOR TEACHERS DURING PRELUDES VISITS:

- Teachers are expected to be present in classrooms during programs and to assist with classroom management. Doing so will set Charlottesville Symphony musicians up for success.
- Charlottesville Symphony musicians are not legally sanctioned by any school district to act as substitute teachers. For legal reasons and out of courtesy, it is imperative that classroom teachers, or a substitute, be present when we are working with your students in your school. Charlottesville Symphony musicians are instructed to go directly to the office if a teacher or substitute is not present in the classroom. If no official of the school can cover the class, musicians are instructed to leave the school. In this instance, teachers will forfeit the coaching session/instrument demonstration.
- Similarly, for middle and high school directors, Charlottesville Symphony musicians should be booked to work with specific sections of your ensemble, and should never be asked to stand in front of the room, conducting your full ensemble rehearsal. You are encouraged to ask the Symphony musician to speak to, or perform for, your group in its entirety, but it is not acceptable to ask a Charlottesville Symphony musician to run your full ensemble rehearsal for the duration of your class.
- If you invite a coach to work with a few of your students within your large ensemble rehearsal, please allow the coach to speak with the students and to try passages that the coach requests in the context of their being present to help.
- Please remind your students to bring their instruments to school for the coaching session.
- Thank you for abiding by these expectations. Doing so will allow the Charlottesville Symphony musicians to make their best contributions to your program.

Support for the *Preludes* Events

Preludes school visits are supported by the Francis J. Sheridan Fund, the Richard and Tessa Ader Fund for Music Education, Bobbi and Lewis Dunn, the Mary and William Sihler Family Foundation and by Annual Fund and endowment contributions to the Charlottesville Symphony Society**.**