



# All Strings Attached! Summer Strings Program

## 2025 STUDENT POLICIES AND RULES

(updated 3/3/25)



Dear parents and students,

First of all, CONGRATULATIONS!! We, at Anna Sammel Violin (ASV), are so excited to have your student participating in the All Strings Attached Summer Strings Program for its 4<sup>th</sup> year! Here are our policies and rules to keep the program running efficiently and to ensure your student has the BEST experience possible!

### EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS:

In order to make your student's experience the best that it can be, students are expected to follow these rules:

- Arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal. You'll need time to unpack, tune, and warm up.
- Come prepared!
  - Bring your own instrument. ASV is not responsible for furnishing students with instruments or accessories. If your child is in need of an instrument, you can rent one from a local shop (we recommend Fredericksburg Violin, formerly known as William Mason) or you can talk to your child's orchestra director if they use a school instrument.
  - Come with your music prepared to the best of your ability. Students will have access to music well in advance, so they should plan on preparing it BEFORE the first rehearsal. If you are unable to print the music, let the director know and they will make sure you receive one ahead of time. The conductor will put the pieces together as an orchestra, but the experience will be much more enjoyable if everyone comes as prepared as possible individually.
- DO NOT LEAVE THE PREMESIS. All students MUST remain in the theater for the duration of their time in the program.
- Don't touch anyone else's property OR anything belonging to the venue (piano, artwork, etc...)
- Clean up after yourself. We are required to leave the room clean and neat when we are finished with it, but neither the library staff nor the ASV personnel are maids. If we have to pick up your trash, you will help us put away chairs and music stands after the next rehearsal.
- Treat the venue, staff members, orchestra members, and any other living being with kindness and respect. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. **If a student is disrespectful or disruptive, they will be given one warning to fix their behavior. If they are disrespectful or disruptive again, they may be dismissed for the day and/or removed from the program with no refund.**  
**Our job is to nurture and educate, not to parent and discipline.**

## **PAYMENT: \*PLEASE READ CAREFULLY\***

The fee for All Strings Attached Summer Strings Program is **\$200 per participant**. Anna Sammel Violin accepts cash, check, Zelle, and Venmo. All payments are due IN FULL immediately after registration. No split payments.

### **If paying by cash or check:**

No post-dated checks. We recommend wrapping payment in card or scrap paper to prevent theft before mailing. The mail slot also faces William Street, so you're welcome to slip payment in the mail slot by hand if you wish to avoid postage. Please make payment out to Anna Sammel and mail to:

Anna Sammel Violin  
305 William Street Apt. A  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

### **If using Zelle:**

You may use either my phone number [7605877405](tel:7605877405) or my email [sammelac@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:sammelac@dukes.jmu.edu) to send payment via Zelle. There is NO TRANSACTION FEE for using Zelle.

### **If using Venmo, follow these guidelines:**

1. Search for **@annasammelviolin**
2. Type in your total payment (if you registered multiple children for the program, you may submit all their fees as 1 full payment).
3. **Please note that a \$4 transaction fee MUST be added to your payment using this method for a total of \$204/student. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

In order to receive your t-shirt, full payment is due NO LATER THAN June 1st. If payment is not received by June 1st, they may still participate, but will not receive a t-shirt. No partial refund for not receiving a t-shirt. Payment must be received in full no later than 1 week prior to the start of the program in order for your student to participate.

## **ORCHESTRA SKILL REQUIREMENTS:**

THIS PROGRAM IS NOT FOR BEGINNERS. The ASA Youth Orchestra is designed for intermediate/advanced students 13-18 years old, but if a younger student can meet the skill requirements for this orchestra, they may be able to participate with director's permission. Students aged 18 may only participate if they graduated high school within 3 months prior to the start of the program.

### **Skills Recommendation and Requirements**

- **Minimum 2 years of experience. Recommended 3+ years of experience.**
- **MUST be able to play the following 2 octave scales: C major, G Major, D major, A major, Bb Major, a melodic minor, b melodic minor, c melodic minor, d melodic minor and g melodic minor.**
- **Must be comfortable shifting to 3<sup>rd</sup> position. Recommended comfort to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> positions.**

The orchestra music is accessible to everyone prior to sign up so a student can determine if this program is right for them. If a student registers, but cannot meet the skill requirements set forth, they may be

removed from the program. **Refunds will not be issued due to overlooking or misunderstanding the skill requirements.**

### **PRINCIPAL AUDITIONS AND SEATING PLACEMENT:**

**PRINCIPALS:** While auditions are not required for general participation, any students interested in a principal position for any section **MUST** participate in an audition prior to or at the first rehearsal. **ASA reserves the right to hold “prescreening auditions” in the event that there is an over-abundance of interest in principal auditions.** These auditions will include:

- Playing 1-2 scales of the director’s choice from the listed requirements. Scales will rotate.
- Playing an excerpt(s) of the director’s choice from one of the pieces they will be performing. The excerpt(s) will be given to students in the audition room.
- Possible sight reading (this would take place the day of the first rehearsal).

#### **Skill Requirements for a PRINCIPAL position:**

- **Minimum 3 years of experience**
- **MUST be able to play the following 2 octave scales: C major, G major, D major, A major, Bb major, Eb major, a melodic minor, e melodic minor, b melodic minor, c melodic minor, d melodic minor, and g melodic minor.**
- **Comfort shifting to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> positions are required. Shifting to 5<sup>th</sup> position is heavily encouraged.**

Once the decision has been made regarding principals, **arguing against the decision will not be tolerated from students OR parents.** We want everyone to focus on having fun and creating music with one another. We are happy to give constructive feedback on a student’s audition, but we will not tolerate argumentative behavior from students OR parents. 2) **Using a section leader position to mock or degrade others also not be tolerated.** A section leader is a position of responsibility, not of power or authority. The purpose of a section leader is to have someone the rest of the section can look to as an example in attitude, skills, and cooperation. If we see any behaviors that do not reflect the qualities of a good section leader, they will be removed from the position, and/or possibly dismissed from the program.

**SEATING PLACEMENT:** We want to encourage students to focus on teamwork instead of where they are seated; therefore, except for principal positions, **ALL SEATING WILL ROTATE** throughout the week. **Violinists** should learn both the first AND second violin parts for every piece because all violins will play first AND second violin parts. Both sections are equally important and require different skills, so we want to give students the chance to improve all of those skills. ASA staff does reserve the right to move students throughout the week for any reason, but especially if it is thought a student would be better off paired with a different stand partner and/or needs more or less of a challenge in the music.

### **SCHEDULE (subject to change if needed):**

- 9M-12PM Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup>- Rehearsal Day
- 9AM-12PM Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup>- Rehearsal Day
- 9AM-12PM Wednesday June 25<sup>th</sup> - Rehearsal Day
- 9AM-12PM Thursday June 26<sup>th</sup> - Rehearsal Day
- 9AM-12PM Friday June 27<sup>th</sup>- Rehearsal Day
- 9AM-2PMish Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup>- CONCERT DAY! (Full concert day itinerary TBD)

Full itineraries for rehearsal days and concert day will be distributed closer to the start of the program. Concert day will include lunch provided by ASV as well as a small reception afterwards. If there are any allergies we should be aware of, please make us aware of it at least 3 days prior to the first day of rehearsal.

### **LOCATION AND DROP OFF/PICK UP**

The program will take place in the theater at The Riverside Center for the Performing Arts (95 Riverside Pkwy, Fredericksburg, VA 22406). There is parking lot in front of the building (Anna Sammel Violin is NOT responsible for any accrued parking violations or towed vehicles during the timeframe of the program). Rehearsals are closed, meaning parents are not allowed to sit in the space while we are rehearsing; however, you're welcome to spend time sitting in the lobby. From check in to check out, **STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE PREMESIS**. Children are precious, and ASV takes their safety very seriously.

Drop off: Students should be dropped off no later than 15 minutes to the start of rehearsals. On the first day of rehearsals, we ask parents/legal guardians to check in their students so we can put a face to the parent/guardian of each student. The remaining days, students can check themselves in at the beginning of each rehearsal with a staff member so we can keep track of attendance.

Pick up: Rehearsals will end promptly at their designated end times. For safety, students must be signed out after each rehearsal by a parent/legal guardian. A sibling or close family friend may be permitted to check them out at the end of the day, but this should be discussed with the director ahead of time. **PLEASE PICK UP YOUR STUDENTS ON TIME.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

#### MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

We will have medical release forms for parents of minors to fill out and sign on or before the first day of the camp.

#### FOOD AND BEVERAGE

In addition to a fulfilling week of musical training and building comradery with other young musicians, ASV will provide BREAKFAST to students 30 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal. Students are permitted to bring their own snacks from home, but as mentioned above, it is our responsibility to leave the space clean and neat, so please avoid any snacks that tend to be messy. If there are any allergies we should be aware of, please make us aware of it at least 3 days prior to the first day of rehearsal. Parents may provide snacks for the group if they wish, but items must be individually packaged. No homemade items please.

#### T-SHIRTS

T-shirts are included in the price of tuition for the program. The company from which we will be ordering t-shirts takes about 3 weeks to get them made, so **you must register AND pay in full NO LATER THAN June 1<sup>st</sup> in order to receive a t-shirt!**

#### COVID PROTOCOL

Since the program is being held at the Riverside Center, we will be following their protocol regarding COVID. These protocols are ever-changing, so please be patient and kind both to me and my staff as well as the library staff. If a student cannot comply with the regulations set forth, they will be removed from

the program with no refund. If your student contracts COVID while participating in the program, NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR IMMEDIATELY. Appropriate actions will be taken.

### **CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS**

In the event the program needs to be cancelled, it will be rescheduled at a later date. If the program is unable to be rescheduled, either a credit towards the next program or a refund will be issued to the affected parties.

If for any reason a student will no longer be participating in the program, a written notice must be given prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be eligible for a full refund or credit. To be eligible for a partial refund or credit, a written notice must be given by June 16<sup>th</sup>. Students who withdraw from the program for any reason on or after June 17<sup>th</sup> are not eligible for a refund or credit. No exceptions.

**ALL REFUNDS OR CREDITS ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR.**

### **DISCLAIMERS**

- Concert dress code: we will either wear camp t-shirts or standard concert dress. If wearing concert dress, students may wear their school orchestra uniforms for the concert. If a participating student does not have an orchestra uniform, all they should wear all black (including shoes).
- Non-discriminatory clause: No student shall be denied entry to the program based on race, ethnicity, sex, language, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, disability, or socioeconomic status.
- Media: Throughout the program, photos and/or videos will be taken in rehearsals and the concert and possibly shared on Anna Sammel Violin's website and/or social media for advertising and to show off the program! If you would like your child's face covered up in photos, please let us know.
- Liability: Everyone's personal property is their own responsibility. Neither The Riverside Center for the Performing Arts, nor Anna Sammel Violin are liable for private property brought into the building. In addition, neither The Riverside Center for the Performing Arts, nor Anna Sammel Violin are liable for any bodily injury that may occur during the length of the program. In the event a student damages any property belonging to Riverside Center for the Performing Arts, either they or their parents may be held liable for any and all damages.
- Legal action: In the event a student discontinues the program or is removed from the program for any reason (with or without a refund or credit), including but not limited to 1) not following the policies for the camp 2) unable to fulfill the skill requirements, 3) became a danger to themselves or others, 4) bodily injury, 5) damaged property or 6) dissatisfaction with the program, legal action CANNOT be taken against Anna Sammel, Anna Sammel Violin, staff members working the camp under Anna Sammel or Anna Sammel Violin's authority, or The Riverside Center for the Performing Arts.

**By registering your student for this program, you understand and are agreeing to ALL the above terms as well as any updated versions of the rules and policies that may be presented.**