

Niagara Symphony Summer Music Camp



Presented at



Camp Manual 2026

Welcome to our 64th season of SMC!
Here you will find all the information necessary
to help you and your family prepare for camp.

Please read this manual carefully and contact us if you have any questions.

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WELCOME!

We are happy to welcome you to The Niagara Symphony Summer Music Camp's 64th year! After the incredible growth of last year, we are looking forward to continuing the momentum into another summer of inspiring music education. SMC offers an invaluable musical experience and education for campers from 18 months to 18 years and is a positive place for kids to make friends, play games, and immerse themselves in music. We are delighted to welcome back returning musicians and excited to see brand new faces at camp this summer!

SMC Admin Team

SMC Director Karlie Boyle, SMC Supervisors & SMC Lead Apprentice

Session 1: Monday, July 6 - Friday, July 17

Concerts: Thursday, July 16

Early Years at 5:30PM & Ensemble/Orchestral at 7:30PM

Session 2: Monday, July 20 - Friday, July 31

Concerts: Thursday, July 30

Early Years at 5:30PM & Ensemble/Orchestral at 7:30PM

If your camper is UNABLE to attend camp on any day
 PLEASE contact a member of the SMC Admin Team at
karlie.boyle@niagarasymphony.com in advance of absence.

Session 1: July 6 - 17 & Session 2: July 20 - 31

Contact by email at karlie.boyle@niagarasymphony.com or by phone **(905) 687-4993 x226**

Where is SMC?

SMC 2026 will be held at Beacon Christian School, located at 300 Scott St., St. Catharines. We will have signs at the entrances and SMC staff and volunteers will be waiting to assist in escorting campers to their classes where they will meet their teachers. A member of the SMC Admin Team, SMC Director Karlie Boyle, SMC Supervisors Emily Zapke and Austin Glaser or SMC Lead Apprentice Kalam Elgersma, will be present every morning and afternoon to answer any questions or address any concerns.

Sincere thanks to our friends at Beacon Christian School for hosting Summer Music Camp once again!



CONTACT US

The SMC Admin Team can be reached at 905-687-4993 ext. 226 until June 26. We will be unavailable by phone on June 29 & 30 – please contact via email. We will be available via phone again on July 2.

At camp, we take attendance every day upon arrival. If you know that your camper will be away for the day, it is very important that you let us know! Please contact us no later than 8:30AM on the day of the absence.

Phones are answered between 8:30AM and 5:30PM, Monday to Friday; however, email is the quickest and most reliable way to contact camp staff!

THE FIRST DAY

Classes begin at 9:00AM on **Monday, July 6 for Session 1** and **Monday, July 21 for Session 2**. Please plan on arriving by 8:50AM to allow yourself and your camper to get acquainted with the new facility and meet our friendly and knowledgeable staff! Following a familiarization tour of the building with their classes, all campers and staff will attend the big SMC welcome and introduction to our faculty, staff, and volunteers.

SMC DAILY SCHEDULE

Time	Activity
8:00 - 9:00 AM 8:50 AM	Extended Care (if previously arranged) AM Dropoff (Doors Lock at 9:10AM)
9:00 - 9:55 AM	Masterclass
10:00 - 10:35 AM	Recital
10:40 - 10:55 AM	Recess - Outside (inside during inclement weather)
11:00 - 11:55 AM	Masterclass
12:00 - 12:55 PM 12:00 PM 12:00 - 12:20 PM 12:20 - 12:50 PM 12:50 PM 12:50 - 12:55 PM	Lunch - Outside (inside during inclement weather) <i>AM Only Pickup (Doors Lock at 12:10PM)</i> Eating Activities (Craft / Play) <i>PM Only Dropoff (Doors Lock at 1:10PM)</i> Cleanup
1:00 - 1:55 PM	Masterclass
2:00 - 2:35 PM	Music Appreciation
2:40 - 2:55 PM	Recess - Outside (inside during inclement weather)
3:00 - 4:00 PM	Masterclass / Orchestra (Brass & Winds, Strings, and Percussion classes)
4:00 PM	PM Pickup (Doors Lock at 4:10PM)
4:00 - 5:30 PM	Extended Care (if previously arranged)
5:30 PM on	Any campers left are brought to the office

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CONCERTS

The Final Concerts are a chance for our young musicians to showcase all they've learned at camp. For many, it is their first time performing - others can't get enough of the stage! On this special occasion, we ask campers to dress up, *please no jeans*. Due to the positioning of the stage, campers wearing a skirt or dress to the concert must make sure that it is at least knee-length or longer or is worn with leggings. If a skirt is too short, they **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO APPEAR ON STAGE**.

Session 1 Concerts: Thursday, July 16

Early Years at 5:30PM & Ensemble/Orchestral at 7:30PM

Session 2 Concerts: Thursday, July 30

Early Years at 5:30PM & Ensemble/Orchestral at 7:30PM

The 5:30PM concerts feature the Early Years classes (JK – Grade 3). PCampers performing in this concert should arrive back between 5:00 – 5:15PM. We anticipate this concert will end at approximately 6:30PM. The 7:30PM concerts feature the Ensemble & Orchestral classes (Grades 3 – 12). Campers performing in this concert should arrive back between 7:00PM – 7:15PM. Campers will be instructed to head directly to designated "green room" classrooms while guests can head directly to the gym, SMC staff and volunteers will be at the entrance to assist.

During the concerts, campers will be supervised in the green rooms until it is their time to perform. Seating for attendees is first come, first served; so, arrive early! To ensure constant supervision, campers remain in the green rooms until the entire concert is finished. At that time, they will be escorted to the gym.

Seats at the concerts are limited; as such, each family is guaranteed **two seats** to the concert your camper or campers are performing in. If you would like to request extra seats, please email SMC Director Karlie Boyle at karlie.boyle@niagarasymphony.com. If you do not need your initial two seats, or plans change and you can release initial or requested extras, please notify a member of the camp staff **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.

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DRESS REHEARSALS

If you or your family and friends would like to see any of the concerts but can not attend the evening performance, you are welcome to attend the dress rehearsal during the day of the concerts (**Session 1: July 16** & **Session 2: July 30**). Please be aware - this will not be a final performance and there will be lots of shuffling and waiting. More information regarding dress rehearsal schedules will be sent via email during the second week of each session.

MEDICAL & SAFETY INFORMATION

All SMC staff members are trained in CPR and First Aid.

Information Release

During your camper's time at SMC, there will be opportunities for them to appear in still photos or videos. If you **DO NOT** want your campers' image to appear in NSO communications, please contact a member of the SMC Admin Team at karlie.boyle@niagarasymphony.com.

Camper Safety

In compliance with the Niagara Symphony Association's safety policy, every staff and faculty member, as well as volunteers over the age of 18, will have a current Vulnerable Sector Clearance Certificate issued by Regional Police. To ensure the safety of all our campers we will be requiring our staff to check guardian's ID at pickup. If the person picking up your camper is NOT either the primary or secondary guardians listed on your registration form, please contact the SMC Admin Team at karlie.boyle@niagarasymphony.com.

Peanut Free

SMC is a peanut free camp! Please be aware that some campers are severely allergic to nuts. **Snacks or lunches containing nuts are not permitted at camp.** We have a snack exchange just in case, but it won't be enough to replace an entire lunch! To keep everyone safe during lunch and recess just follow these simple steps:

- 1) Only bring peanut and tree nut free snacks**
- 2) Wash your hands before and after eating**
- 3) Do not share your lunch or snack**



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Allergies

Please ensure that you have indicated any allergies your camper may encounter at SMC during your registration. If any changes occur, please inform a member of the SMC Admin Team by emailing karlie.boyle@niagarasymphony.com. **It is required that campers at risk of an anaphylactic reaction bring two EpiPens to camp, one of which will be kept in the office, the other to be kept with the camper at all times.** We have found that a fanny pack is the best way for your camper to carry their EpiPen. Please label all EpiPens with the camper's name. The spares can be picked up from the SMC staff on the last day of camp.

Medication

If your camper needs medication while at camp, please list them during registration. With the exception of EpiPens and asthma puffers at your direction, all medications should be properly labeled and stored in the office, not with the campers. Guardians will provide the following information if SMC staff are required to administer medication to campers:

- The reason for the medication
- The name of the medication with the camper's name on the container
- Written instructions of administration, including explicit permission to the SMC staff to administer it

Fire Drills and Lock-Down Procedure

In order to acquaint the campers with a safe method for exiting the building in case of emergency, we will describe the procedure to the campers, and the SMC faculty and staff will be instructed on proper fire drill and lock-down procedures prior to SMC.

Sun Sense

Summers can get very hot! The facility is air-conditioned, but the campers do go outside during recess and lunch. We recommend that campers bring their own reusable water bottle labelled with their name to use at water fountains; this way everyone can stay hydrated and safe! A hat and sunglasses are recommended, as well as sunscreen. If sending sunscreen with your camper, please ensure they are able to apply it themselves, as our staff are not able to assist with this.

EXTRAS

Extended Care

For campers needing additional supervision outside of regular SMC hours Extended Care is available from **8:00AM** to 9:00AM and 4:00PM to **5:30PM** for an additional fee. Please note that **no staff will be available to supervise campers outside these hours**. Extended Care is offered on all days of SMC, however please note that on **CONCERT NIGHTS extended care will end at 5:00PM**.

Late Pickup

Late pickup fees apply at a rate of \$1 per minute after 10 minutes (4:10PM for campers not in Extended Care and 5:40PM for campers that are in Extended Care)

Instruments



All campers will be provided a rental instrument free of charge thanks to our friends at Long & McQuade St. Catharines. If your camper is registered in any of the Ukulele, EY Winds (Recorder), Guitar, Strings or Brass & Winds classes, they may choose to bring their own instrument by indicating as such during registration. If you indicated that your camper would be bringing their own instrument, but you now require a rental instrument, please contact a member of the SMC Admin Team at karlie.boyle@niagarasymphony.com immediately, as instrument rentals must be arranged in advance of the start of camp.

Theme Days

We offer a variety of dress-up theme days for our campers, from Superhero Day to Crazy Hat Day! Each family will receive a calendar indicating the theme days as well as the craft schedule so that both guardians and campers can stay informed. It is not mandatory to dress up for theme days, but highly recommended! Graphic T-shirts are a great way to showcase Theme Day support!



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Crafts

During each lunch hour, full day campers may choose to participate in making the daily craft. All materials for crafts are provided by SMC.

SMC Souvenir & Tie-Dye Day!

The camp souvenir is an SMC T-Shirt! Because this shirt is white, full day campers are welcome to tie-dye it if they wish. If your camper would like to tie-dye a different white item, please bring one from home. We ask that all items for tie-dye be labelled clearly with the camper's name! We ask that each camper only bring one item to tie-dye, as we have a large number of campers, and we want to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to participate.



WHAT TO BRING

- Instrument & Music
- Peanut-Free Lunch & Snacks
- Labelled Reusable Water Bottle
- Hat & Sunglasses
- Sweater
- Sensory Devices:
 - Headphones
 - Quiet Fidgets

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Expensive Technology
- Tree-Nuts

We request that campers do not bring expensive technology to SMC. If campers do bring their cell phone to camp, we will ask that it be accessed only at recess and lunch, and in the case of emergencies. We also ask that campers leave personal gaming devices at home as SMC is a time for friends, fun, and music! If a camper brings any of these items and they are found to interfere with programming, they may be held in the office to be picked up at the end of the day. The Niagara Symphony cannot be responsible for any items lost, stolen or damaged.