

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.

CONTENTS

Welcome	3
Where is SMC?	4
Contact Us	4
First Day	5
Daily Schedule	5
Concerts	6
Dress Rehearsals	7
Medical & Safety Information	7
Extras	9
What to Bring and What NOT to Bring to SMC	10
Meet the Staff	11



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.

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

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**

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**.

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**

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**



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

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!



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

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.

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**

MEET THE STAFF - THIS YEAR IN **BERRY**

Karlie Boyle – SMC Director



Karlie Boyle is a passionate and committed musician, teacher, composer, and arranger. Karlie started her studies at the age of 4 and continued with private teachers in viola, piano, composition, theory, and history. As well as private studies, Karlie attended Laura Secord Secondary School, the University of Toronto and completed her Bachelor of Arts in Music at the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts. An active member of the Niagara arts community, Karlie has collaborated with several chamber ensembles such as the [Avanti Chamber Singers](#), [the Gallery Players of Niagara](#), and the popular Niagara based string ensemble, [Grace Notes](#); for whom she has written many arrangements. She has also worked for many years with the Niagara Symphony Orchestra's Summer Music Camp in various positions, now as the Camp Director, which has fostered her passion for sharing the love of music with young people. In her current position as the Director of Education and Administration of the Niagara Symphony, she is excited to be moving the education department forward and enhancing music education in our region!

Austin Glaser – SMC Supervisor



Austin Glaser is a drummer, bass player, band member, and music teacher. He is a graduate of Notre Dame College School in Welland and currently attends Brock University as a Bachelor of Business Administration Student. At his high school, he was the drummer in both the jazz big band, as well as the jazz combo. These groups would compete at MusicFest Canada winning numerous golds, and in 2024, Austin won a MusicFest Canada National Honour Award. In recent years Austin has been playing gigs on both bass and drums for numerous bands across the Niagara region. He began learning the drums at the Fonthill Music Academy in 2016 and is now a teacher there with over 20 of his own students.

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**

Emily Zapke – SMC Supervisor



Emily Zapke is a multi-instrumentalist with a primary focus in violin and has completed her studies at Brock University with a concentration in Music Education; she will also be starting her bachelor's in education at Western University in the fall. She has studied violin privately in the past and is currently teaching violin and flute lessons and was also the Brass and Winds instructor at Summer Music Camp in past years. Emily was a member of her high school orchestra for four years and during this time, would also assist in teaching in other music classes.

Kalam Elgersma – SMC Lead Apprentice



Kalam Elgersma is a dedicated and award-winning multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, producer, and private music teacher from Grimsby, Ontario. Kalam will be graduating with a BMus in Professional Music at Berklee College of Music with specializations in songwriting and production in May 2026. During his time in Boston, Kalam studied under notable musicians such as Victor Wooten, Monte Croft, Keli Nicole Price, Jalon Smith, and Jimmy Kachulis. He played with the Niagara Youth Orchestra from 2013 – 2022 and attended SMC for years as a camper.

This is now Kalam's 3rd year at Summer Music Camp as Lead Apprentice and his 5th year working at SMC overall. Kalam has two album releases under his name, with another coming this summer, as well as multiple session and writing credits on released music. He is most notably one sixth of the popular psychedelic-folk-pop group, Fünboht, from Hamilton and gigs regularly in Southern Ontario with Fünboht and other bands.

Nicola Fornelli – SMC Apprentice



Nicola is currently finishing her last year at Governor Simcoe Secondary School, and will be studying Earth Sciences at Brock University in the fall. At school, she is a member of the Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Arts Council. Nicola was a camper at SMC for 10 years and a volunteer for four years afterward – this will be her first year as an Apprentice. In her spare time, Nicola enjoys playing piano, drums, bass, or guitar, listening to music, curating her CD collection, cooking, and reading.

Maxx Schafrick – SMC Apprentice



Maxx R. Schafrick is a Fonthill based musician focused on guitar who will be attending Humber Polytechnic in fall of 2026 for a Bachelors of Music focusing in jazz. Maxx hopes to become a musician and music teacher in the future, as well as having experience teaching guitar at the Fonthill Music Academy for 3 years. Maxx was a member of his high school Jazz Band, Choir and marching band playing various different instruments. Maxx is passionate about music and music education and is extremely happy to be an apprentice at SMC!