



## The Minnesota Sinfonia: FAQs

**When was the Minnesota Sinfonia founded?** The Minnesota Sinfonia was founded in 1989 as an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization under the legal name “Friends of the Minnesota Sinfonia.”

**What is the Minnesota Sinfonia’s mission?** The mission of the Minnesota Sinfonia is to serve the musical and educational needs of the citizens of Minnesota, with special emphasis given to families with young children, inner-city youth, seniors and those with limited financial means. To further this end, all concerts are offered free of admission, and children are welcome and encouraged to attend all performances. In keeping with the goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Minnesota Sinfonia is committed to ensuring its programs and services are accessible to all people with disabilities. Its Music in the Schools inner-city education program brings performances directly into the schools and is integrated into students’ curricula.

**Are you a community orchestra?** No. The Minnesota Sinfonia is a professional, high-caliber orchestra, and all musicians and guest soloists are paid, union-member professionals. Sinfonia musicians are some of the most highly sought-after musicians in the region, and many have held high positions in orchestras around the world, including the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, RTE National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Russian State Symphony Orchestra and many others.

**If your musicians are paid, how can you afford to offer free concerts?** The Sinfonia relies on support from government and corporate entities, as well as contributions from private foundations and individuals. While the Minnesota Sinfonia never charges admission to concerts, it costs more than \$5,000 to provide an in-school performance as part of Music in the Schools, and \$18,000 - \$23,000 to perform a weekend of public concerts.

**Who do you serve?** The Minnesota Sinfonia’s mission is to serve all Minnesota residents. Its concerts attract diverse crowds that include a variety of ages, ethnicities, income levels and socioeconomic standings. According to annual surveys, more than half of Minnesota Sinfonia audiences have household incomes below \$50,000, with 37 percent below \$30,000. Schools that participate in the orchestra’s Music in the Schools education program report more than 80 percent of their students receive free or reduced-price lunches—a marker for poverty. And the student population is diverse: 33 percent African American, 32 percent white, 16 percent Asian, 16 percent Hispanic and 3 percent American Indian.

**How often do you perform?** The Minnesota Sinfonia performs up to 80 free-admission chamber orchestra concerts every year. Half of these concerts are performed for the general public during the Winter/Summer Concert Series and Community Concerts. The others are performed in inner-city public elementary schools as part of Music in the Schools. For a current schedule, please visit [www.mnsinfonia.org](http://www.mnsinfonia.org)

**Where do you perform?** The Sinfonia plays at accessible venues throughout the Metro area, including:

The Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis  
Metropolitan State University, St. Paul  
First Covenant Church, St. Paul  
The Minnesota Zoo, Apple Valley  
Como Park, St. Paul  
Caponi Art Park, Eagan

Camp Courage, Wright County  
Lake Harriet Bandstand, Minneapolis  
Lake Phalen Regional Park, St. Paul  
Temple Israel, Minneapolis  
Catholic Eldercare, Minneapolis  
Northside YMCA, Minneapolis