



SPOKANE  
YOUTH  
SYMPHONY

# Spokane Youth Symphony 2021 Seniors

**Emma Culbertson, *viola***

Emma has been playing the viola for 8 years and has been in the SYS program for 6 years. Emma has studied under Jennifer O'Bannan for almost all of her 8 years playing and she would like to thank Mrs. O'Bannan for sticking with her all these years. Emma will graduate from Northwest Christian Schools which she has attended since preschool. Emma will be attending Eastern Washington University next year with a plan to study Speech Language Pathology. Emma would like to thank her parents for encouraging her to continue playing her viola even when it was difficult.



**Ruth Dierdorff, *flute***

Ruth Dierdorff has played flute for 8 years and played in the symphony for 3. Currently she takes lessons from Jennifer Slaughter. Ruthie will graduate from The Oaks Classical Christian Academy and plans to attend the University of Arizona Honors College, majoring in Physics.

**Laila Galaz, *violin***

My name is Laila Galaz. I am a Senior at Coeur d'Alene High School, and I have been playing the violin for nine years. After moving to the Northwest, I joined SYS my sophomore year. I have been so blessed to have had the privilege of playing with fellow accomplished musicians these past couple of years, and will forever be thankful for all the skills I have learned along the way. Thank you Dr. Roberta Bottelli for being such an inspiring teacher, and thank you Mom and Dad for constantly reminding me to work hard, and follow my dreams.



**Chloe Issa, *oboe***

Chlöe Issa has been playing the oboe for two and a half years and has been in the SYS Philharmonic and Symphony orchestras for one year each. She has taken lessons from Denis Zwang through the Music Conservatory of Sandpoint, Jill Cathey through North Idaho College, and is currently studying privately with Dr. Holly Blanchette. She will be graduating from homeschool as well as the dual-credit program at North Idaho College where she has been taking general prerequisite courses for nursing. She plans to attend Southern Adventist University near Chattanooga, Tennessee in the fall and continue taking lessons and playing oboe with the ensembles there, and although she someday hopes to become a Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), music will always be a big part of her life and hold a special place in her heart.



**Isaac Johnson, *violin***

My name is Isaac Johnson and I have been playing violin for 8 years. I am in my third year of taking lessons from Grace Fishel. I am currently attending and am about to graduate from Cheney High School. I have been a part of SYS for 6 years. My plans for the future are to go to Seattle Pacific University for four years and major in Fashion/Apparel design. I am hoping to acquire a job at either Nike or Jordan brand in the future to work on sportswear and to potentially work with super-star athletes one day.

**Jeran Jordan, *horn***

Jeran Jordan plays the French horn and has performed with the Spokane Youth Symphony Ensemble for three years and the Spokane Youth Symphony Philharmonic for one year, beginning in his freshman year of high school. Jeran will be graduating from Mount Spokane High School this June and plans to attend Washington State University where he has been accepted into the School of Music, to study with Dr Martin King. Jeran will double major in Music Performance and Animal Science, Pre-Veterinary Medicine. Jeran has studied privately with Jorin Graham and Steven Munson. While finishing the Spokane Youth Symphony experience during the pandemic has not been ideal, every opportunity to rehearse and perform under the direction of Dr. Phillip Baldwin and Dr. Roberta Bottelli over the last few years has been sincerely appreciated.



**Danielle Jöstlein, *horn***

Danielle Jöstlein has enjoyed playing horn in SYS for the past four years. She is immensely grateful to her private instructors over the past years, Katie Upton and Emily Browne for their guidance, and especially her band instructors, Janeen Graham and Lisa Laulainen for their perpetual support and for always encouraging her to glorify God in her music. She is homeschooled and is dual-enrolled at North Idaho College. This fall, she will be attending Bard College and hopes to major in horn performance and something else still undecided. Thank you to Dr. Baldwin and to all the parents who make SYS possible!

**Helen Knaack, *violin***

Helen Knaack is a senior at Lewis and Clark High School. She has been playing the violin since the age of six, and currently studies with Jeanne Bourgeois-Swanson. Helen has been playing in the Spokane Youth Symphony Orchestras for seven years. She will be attending St. Olaf College after graduation, and will continue to pursue orchestra and ensemble work while in college. She will be studying pre-vet with the goal of becoming a large animal veterinarian.



**Lillian McCoy, oboe**

My private teacher is Sheila McNally Armstrong. I attend Lewis and Clark High School, and this is my second year in SYS. Next fall I will be attending the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach and will be working with Claire Brazeau and Joe Stone in the oboe studio. I will be a Bachelor of Music-Performance student.



**Maya McDonald, cello**

My name is Maya McDonald and I have been playing cello for 7 years under the direction of my private instructor, Mika Hood. I currently attend Central Valley High School and have been involved in both the CV Concert Orchestra and CV Symphonic Orchestra for all 4 years under the direction of Mr. Flemmer. I have been in the Spokane Youth Symphony Program for 3 years; 2 years in the Philharmonic orchestra and 1 year in the Spokane Youth Symphony Orchestra. I have been accepted to Utah State University and will be attending in the fall of 2021.

**Hope Noranbrock, oboe**

Hello, my name is Hope Noranbrock. I play the oboe. I am currently taking lessons with Shelia McNally. I am a senior at Lakeside High School. I have been in the Spokane Youth Symphony for about 3 years. In the future, the fall of 2021, I will be attending Whitworth University. I will be majoring in instrumental performance. I want to become a professional oboist.



**Jacob Ojennus, *viola***

Jacob Ojennus has been playing viola for eight years and studying with Angela Mitchell for the last seven years. He has been a member of the Spokane Youth Symphony for five years. Jacob is currently a senior at Mead High School, and after graduation he plans to attend Whitworth University where he will major in engineering.



**Max Reed, *violin***

Max plays the violin and has been a member of the Spokane Youth Symphony for five years, first participating in Philharmonic and more recently in the Symphony Orchestra. Max studies violin with Dr. Philip Baldwin and will be graduating from Sandpoint High School.

**Catherine Treis, *violin***

Hello! My name is Catherine Treis, and I have a passionate love for music. I have spent thirteen years studying violin, and my private teacher is Dr. Julia Salerno. Along with my eight siblings, I have been home-schooled all my life. This is my ninth year in the Spokane Youth Symphony, and SYS rehearsals and chamber practice sessions have always been some of the highlights of my week. The conductors are talented and wonderful teachers, and the sectional coaches have taught me many crucial playing skills. Aside from music, I also really enjoy gardening, running, camping, hiking, and swimming. As of right now, my plans for the future are uncertain, but I hope to attend college and major in violin performance and study for my Suzuki teacher certification. My experience in the Spokane Youth Symphony has been amazing, and I'm sincerely grateful for all the opportunities it has afforded me.



**Stephen White, *violin***

I will be graduating as a homeschool and running start student. I have been studying the violin under Mateusz Wolski, who has been an excellent and inspirational teacher. It has been a privilege and a wonderful experience to participate in the Spokane Youth Symphony for five years. Thank you to all my conductors who have helped me grow musically, Dr. Baldwin, Dr. Bottelli, and Ms. Montgomery. This Fall, I will be attending the University of Washington where I plan to pursue a major in Biology. Music, however, will always be an important part of my life.

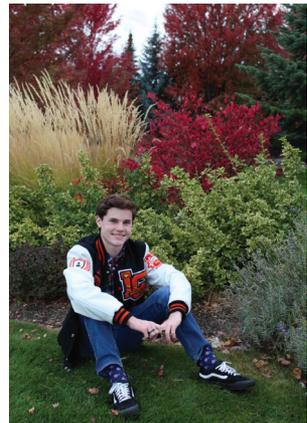


**Lucas White, *violin***

Lucas White has been playing the violin for 7 years, starting in grade 5. In grade 7, Luke was fortunate to have Natalie Cominiello as his orchestra teacher, he also started private lessons with her at that time. Lucas has been in the Youth Symphony for 4 seasons. After graduating from Shadle Park High School this year, Luke plans on attending Eastern Washington University. His future plans to study Nursing; continuing his music at the college level, and possibly playing in either the Coeur d'Alene or Spokane Symphony.

**Benjamin Whitney, *cello***

Benjamin Whitney will graduate, with honors, from Lewis and Clark High School. He currently studies cello under Dr. John Marshall, after several years with Louise Butler. He started playing the violin at age 5, switching to cello at age 10. Ben spent the last 8 years moving through the SYS ranks, getting into SYS at the end of his 8th grade year. He is an Eagle Scout and youth group leader. This summer he will start his two-year church service mission, followed by studying astrophysics and engineering at Brigham Young University. He hopes to become an astronaut for NASA.





**Spokane Youth Symphony**  
**MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide exemplary orchestral education and performance opportunities for the youth of the Inland Northwest

**SYS Orchestras**

Spokane Youth Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Philip Baldwin, conductor

Spokane Youth Philharmonic

Dr. Roberta Bottelli, conductor

Spokane Youth Sinfonietta

Ms. Jerilynn Harris, conductor

Spokane Youth Strings

Dr. John Marshall, conductor

[www.SpokaneYouthSymphony.org](http://www.SpokaneYouthSymphony.org)

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