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**MUSIC COMPOSITION ACADEMY TO BE HELD AT
ST. JOSEPH'S INDIAN SCHOOL, CHAMBERLAIN SD IN JUNE 2026**

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Sioux Falls, SD – The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra announces a new music composition academy location at St. Joseph Indian School in Chamberlain, SD June 22-26, 2026.

The Music Composition Academy (MCA), founded in 2017, serves as a catalyst for community while teaching students to express their creativity and write original music, providing two, week-long admission-free summer composition camps serving middle and high school students from tribal communities in South Dakota. It was the success of the Lakota Music Project which led to the development of the MCA.

Since the inception of the MCA, student compositions have been featured in concerts across South Dakota. As of 2026, students have written over 150 compositions in the program that have been heard by over 10,000 people through performances and students sharing their stories.

“St. Joseph’s Indian School is doing impactful work for students,” says SDSO Executive Director, Jennifer Teisinger, “and we are so pleased to be partnering with them to bring this unique music composition program to their campus this summer.”

“We are very excited to host student composers on our campus this summer,” said Jennifer Renner-Meyer, CEP at St. Joseph’s Indian School. “The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra has been doing great work through their Lakota Music Project, and we are proud to support their work, especially in inspiring the next generation of musicians.”

The Music Composition Academy at St. Joseph’s Indian School will be in session Monday, June 22 through Friday, June 26, 2026. Registration is now open. Visit sdsymphony.org for further details.

Lakota Music Project

The Lakota Music Project (LMP) is a program developed by the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (SDSO) in collaboration with Lakota and Dakota advisors and musicians. LMP planning began in 2005 with the intent of addressing the history of multigenerational racial tension disparities in South Dakota by creating a shared musical experience which could demonstrate cooperation and friendship between Native and non-Native peoples. Music brings people together. Through the love of music, the Lakota Music Project explores what our cultures share and provides a unique opportunity to understand one another. An LMP performance features combinations of SDSO musicians, the Lakota drumming group The Creekside Singers, Dakota cedar flutist Bryan Akipa, all performing music from their distinct musical heritages as well as unique repertoire commissioned for the musicians to play together. These programs typically include a shared meal for the audience and musicians in order to provide opportunity for all to discuss their experience.

South Dakota Symphony Orchestra

As the state's preeminent arts organization, the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (SDSO) is nationally recognized as a driver for how an orchestra engages with its community. Founded in 1922 at Augustana University, the SDSO is now a fully professional 75-member orchestra with a history of performing in towns throughout South Dakota. The SDSO's concert seasons feature a diverse mix of classical and pops programming, performed at the Mary W. Sommervold Concert Hall at the Washington Pavilion. The orchestra's nine full-time musicians make up the Dakota String Quartet and the Dakota Wind Quintet, who perform 150 times annually in schools, health and care facilities, and community centers throughout the region.

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