

**String Masterclass**  
Lecturer: Mr. Wie  
Orange County High School of the Arts  
2005-2006

**Overview**

Welcome to String Masterclass.

For those of you who have been enrolled in this class before, its focus has changed substantially from last year. Our aims this year are to provide all string students grades 9-12 the opportunity to both play for visiting guest artists in a monthly masterclass, and have an introduction to basic chamber music (small ensembles like the string quartet and piano trio). We will of course have classes from time to time covering subjects like instrument maintenance, health/safety issues in string performance, and visiting experts in related fields; last year, violinmaker Gerrit Maurer from Lakewood, CA gave many of us a fascinating look into the creation of new instruments.

Our guest masterclasses this year will bring artist performers to OCHSA who at this time currently include Robert Becker, principal violist of the Pacific Symphony; Haroutune Bedelian, Professor of Violin at the University of California; Irvine, and William Fitzpatrick, founder director of ChamberArtsFest. Additional performers will be joining us throughout the year as their schedules are made available, and expect a masterclass at least once every month. If you would like to play for our visiting artists, a form will be made available in class and on the class website to indicate your interest in the specific masterclass, the work you wish to perform, and anything else you wish to communicate prior to the event.

**Basic Chamber Music** – The first part of our course will involve in-class rehearsal and discussion of small ensemble techniques, starting with instrumental duets and trios. As we progress throughout the year, all students will have the opportunity to study and rehearse string quartets and piano trios (as we will be working with the piano program), and the weekly class meetings will serve as a workshop for all to develop their ensemble playing skills through experimentation and performance. While a formal concert for this class is not planned, those groups (and I do mean “groups” PLURAL) who take the time outside of school to develop their established ensemble and demonstrate a high level of playing will be offered an opportunity to showcase their work on a local chamber music concert series, sponsored by the class instructor.

There is a class website on which every single piece of material released for this course will be posted. You should check it regularly for class updates. The world wide web (WWW) uniform resource locator (URL) address for our class website is:

*<http://www.solscope.com/~ochsa/>*

**Materials**

Every student should have with them at every class meeting:

1. Note paper
2. Pencil (NO pens)
3. Instrument (Violin, Viola, Cello)

**Citizenship**

School-wide behavioral standards will be strictly enforced at all times. As this course involves significant amounts of discussion and listening on the part of all students, those individuals who fail to focus on the material at hand, or do not maintain a respectful and appropriate composure to both the instructor and their peers will not be permitted to remain in this class. As students of a performing arts high school, I will expect a much higher level of discipline and work ethic with regard to your music education than a regular high school.

**Grading**

Every single student in this class should earn an “A.” Nothing less is acceptable for a performance/discussion class. Students who fail to participate, routinely forget their materials, or are disrespectful to their instructor and/or their peers will find their grades affected substantially.

**To The Parent**

I am committed to helping your son/daughter learn, and I look forward to working with your family. If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact me at any time at (949) 510-2592.

(detach and sign below)

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**Syllabus Agreement Form – String Masterclass**

We have read and understand the policies and procedures of Mr. Wie’s String Masterclass course, and by returning this document signed confirm our agreement to abide by the terms for class conduct and participation.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_