

String Orchestra
Conductor: Mr. Wie
Orange County High School of the Arts
2005-2006

Overview

Welcome to String Orchestra.

Over the course of one year, this ensemble aims to teach you the basic techniques of orchestral playing, including group coordination, bowings, fingerings, and other related subjects. Our primary focus is on developing the ability to play *with* other musicians, and at many times will seem much more oriented towards chamber music rather than “large orchestra.”

This ensemble performs a concert each semester. Our repertoire over the past few years has included pieces by Bach, Corelli, Elgar, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Schubert, and Vivaldi, to name a few. This coming year we are privileged to have two new works commissioned on my behalf for this ensemble from gifted young composers Melissa Craig and Jason Barabba, whose works we will premiere on our concerts.

We will be using material from two textbooks regularly in this class. The first is *Rhythmic Training* by Robert Starer, which will be checked out to you during one of our first class meetings. The second is *Orchestral Bowings and Routines* by Elizabeth Green, and excerpts from the book will be provided as necessary throughout the year.

Seating: There is no formal seating arrangement in this group of any kind. Ensemble members should expect to be placed in every possible arrangement within their instrumental sections throughout the year. At this particular playing level, ranking is neither important nor necessary, and in most groups is detrimental to group morale and an overall waste of time.

Concertmaster/Leader: Prior to the first concert, auditions will be held for the principal position in the orchestra. Whomever assumes this role will take on additional duties in ensuring the proper function of the orchestra at rehearsal and concerts, as well as tuning the ensemble each day and making musical/technical decisions for the group when necessary. This audition will require the applicant to play excerpts from the ensemble music at a high level, and take a short written exam that covers basic orchestral skills. While this position is usually filled by a violinist (as is traditional in most orchestras) any person on any instrument is welcome to audition for the position, as the leadership skills you will develop are required for anyone that will become a principal player in any kind of ensemble.

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, concert times, as well as downloadable copies of orchestra music. 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 rehearsal:

1. Music (distributed in class,)
2. Pencil (NO pens)
3. Textbook(s)
4. Instrument (Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass)

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 an ensemble class. Students who routinely forget their music, forget their instruments, speak out of turn in rehearsal, fail to be adequately prepared, or are disrespectful to their conductor 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)

Syllabus Agreement Form – String Orchestra

We have read and understand the policies and procedures of Mr. Wie’s String Orchestra class, 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 _____