

Musician's Handbook: Information for New Musicians

I. Rehearsal Preparation

The intention of the Orchestra rehearsal is to focus on ensemble playing, matching style, and playing with the correct interpretation, not to practice individual notes and parts. Thus, individual parts need to be practiced and figured out on your own time. The more prepared each person is with his/her part, the more efficient and effective our rehearsals can be, and can help us get down to why we are there...to make music!

Please arrive at least 10 minutes early to each rehearsal to allow plenty of time to warm up, get music organized, etc.

Always bring a pencil! The music is often changed, either parts are added or cut and we need everyone to have the same information written in their music. Feel free to write as much as you would like on your music.

Be sure you have all of the correct music as well as the correct part in the correct rehearsal order.

All measures need to be numbered to help rehearsals move smoothly. Please have this done before rehearsals. Some of the selections we play are quite long so check with your principal or stand partner to make sure you have your measures numbered correctly. While numbering your music, please understand that measures are numbered consecutively including first and second endings (e.g. if the first ending is measure 89 then the second ending would be measure 90).

II. Rehearsal conduct

The rehearsal atmosphere is conducive to proper learning.

There will be three tuning notes provided by the oboe at the start of each rehearsal. The concert master will approach the podium. This is the signal that we will start. The first tuning note is for woodwind players, the second one for brass players, and the third for string players.

When the director changes something in the music (e.g. articulation, dynamic, style, etc.) please write it down on your part. With only one rehearsal a week it may be difficult to remember changes without making a note on your music. To go over the same changes multiple times would result in wasting valuable rehearsal time.

Please refrain from talking or softly practicing while the director is working with a section other than yours during the rehearsal. This distracts the conductor and the musicians around you. Often times what is being said to one section will apply to everyone at some point in the music and much can be learned from just listening.

Gum, sodas, and other food items can be a distraction to others and harmful to your instrument. Please refrain from having these things during the rehearsal. Please use cologne or perfume sparingly, for those who might be allergic.

III. Missed Rehearsals

Members are required to attend all rehearsals unless excused due to extenuating circumstances. If something should arise, email your principal and CC the Director of Music and the Recording Secretary as soon as possible so they can plan for your absence. Each person is crucial to the success of the orchestra, and one absence does make a difference.

If you do miss a rehearsal, please check with your principal to make sure you did not miss any important cuts or changes to the music.

IV. Music

An email with a list of repertoire will be sent out. Look for correspondence regarding your music from the orchestra music librarian. Occasionally the Director of Music will convey part changes. Each member is responsible for **printing** **having** his/her own music **available** for practice and rehearsals.

V. Dues

To keep this organization running, each member is responsible for paying yearly dues. This covers music, equipment, performance venues, programs, etc. Dues are an important income resource that enables the orchestra to pursue its mission.

Membership dues are paid annually. Currently dues are \$50 (\$25 for regular dues and \$25 for society membership). Musicians under 18 pay \$25 in dues each year.

Dues are made payable to the Williamson County Symphony Orchestra (WCSO) and are tax deductible.

VI. Annual Corporation Meeting and Picnic

Each year toward the end of April, the members of the Orchestra Society, the musicians, and friends and family meet at a park to celebrate the end of the season. It is a picnic which is partially potluck. There are games and activities for children. At this meeting, new Board members are elected and orchestra scholarships are awarded. Instructions for applying for scholarships are given in the spring.

VII. Concert Etiquette and Tips

To help make sure we look clean and uniform on stage, please leave cases and purses backstage or in designated room.

All members will continue to display courtesy to soloists/ensembles performing between major sections. Refrain from talking to your neighbors or fiddling with our instrument.

Gum should not be chewed during concerts.

Some musicians might find a battery-operated stand light might improve reading the music at some venues, especially the outdoor ones.

Clips for music are almost always needed at the outdoor concerts because of the wind. Many musicians have found that by putting their music in plastic sheet protectors in a three-ring binder, the wind is not so bothersome.

VIII. Auditions

The Orchestra draws its musicians from talented high school and college students, teaching professionals, and dedicated, skilled, amateur musicians. Because of the dedication of

those who have built the orchestra, the turn-over of musicians each year is small in comparison to the approximately eighty musicians who staff the sections of the Orchestra.

Those who wish to play in the Orchestra are first asked to judge their long term commitment to the Orchestra. The Orchestra rehearses once a week on Monday nights. To achieve the level of professionalism in its performance, the Orchestra needs musicians who will become familiar with a repertoire developed, detailed, and polished over a period of several years.

If you are interested in becoming a long-term, dedicated member of the orchestra, please contact the Director of Music to set up a possible audition or to get more information on the orchestra.

IX. Other topics of importance

As an orchestra we are a performance-based organization and therefore rely on an audience to come to our concerts. Do your best to promote the orchestra and encourage people to support us. This is easily done by posting flyers, bringing friends and family to concerts, and being enthusiastic about the orchestra.

As well as filling up the seats at concerts we also encourage people to join the orchestra society to show their support. This is primarily for people who do not play an instrument, but still want to show their support and appreciation to the orchestra. Information on how to become a member is posted on our website.

Most importantly have fun and enjoy the gift of making music!