

# WWVA Orchestra Syllabus 2021-2022

## Empowering Students for Christ!

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Our orchestra program at WWVA is all about service learning: Performances are viewed as mission service with the focus on sharing God's love, joy, and peace through music. These performances take place in a variety of settings, Churches, service organizations, and schools. In many ways God has made it obvious that He wants our lives surrounded in beauty (through nature, literature, and art). Ministry in music is like teaming up with God to bring beautiful things into people's lives. This mission is not enhanced or diminished based on where we perform. Every venue is equally important. All members are needed and expected at every event!

**Regarding COVID19:** For the safety of our orchestra members we need to be diligent about the protocols asked of us. The social distances and masks will keep us safe even if a case happens the exposure within orchestra can be minimized by due diligence. Other things that help are good rest, good diet, prevent vitamins, and carefulness in public at other times. All of these things can help us all at WWVA stay in person!

**Orchestra:** We rehearse 4 days a week. The performance schedule is carefully planned to avoid conflicts, but there may be a rare occasion which will require a student to miss another outside social event. Please understand and be gracious. The whole group counts on every musician every time. Check the performance schedule often to avoid conflicts!

**Expectations:** Students are expected to continue to developing their skills for a life of service. Students should have prior orchestra experience and be able to read music. They should demonstrate ability to play their instrument with proper technique, solid tone, and a desire to continually grow their skills (preferably with continued private instruction). Expect to learn standard string orchestra literature and some arrangements in a positive and fun environment (hard work, humor, and success).

Some basic expectations to avoid random chaos that can steal our joy:

1. Every member is expected to play for the whole school year.
2. Each student should value the opportunity to serve Christ through music.
3. Each member being eager to put forth their best effort (rehearsals and performance).
4. Each person must place high priority on all rehearsal and performance times, be there and be on time!!!!
5. Outside practice likely will be needed especially if not taking lessons (1 hour per week).
6. Correct playing habits help make great music (body, instrument, and bow).
7. **In case of emergency or illness causing an absence call me! (not just the office) let me know what is happening!**

**Activities:** Throughout the year orchestra members learn a wide variety of sacred and secular music preparing them to serve their community in a variety of ways. The orchestra rehearses to perform at a high level. A typical performance year includes several Sabbath church services, vesper concerts, WWVA events, Music Department concerts, and community outreach performances for schools, service clubs, other church denominations, and our veterans. Small groups will be formed to meet some of these performance venues. Efforts are also made for the orchestra members to be able to attend other significant performances whenever possible locally and during tour events.

**Grading:** Each student is expected to strive for an A (who wants to hear an orchestra striving for B?). Grading is as follows: Daily Attendance (Participation and effort 50%) tardiness will hurt this part of your grade, Performances 50%. A missed performance except in extreme emergency will lower one's grade for the quarter by a letter.

**Daily Attendance:** Be on time and tuned and ready to rehearse before the second bell. Plan on being early.

**Assignments:** Occasionally I will need something looked up, or communication returned, record of attending a concert, maybe record of a music related community service you were involved in. or a photo of a hard place to practice using the iPads camera.

**Performances:** Make every possible effort to be there. Everyone counts on everyone else!! Missing one of these will drop your grade by one letter for that quarter.\* Make every possible effort to never miss!

A performance involves the entire time we are at a performance venue as we can be effective witnesses the whole time we are in contact with people at these venues. We want to partner with God to brighten others day even when not playing.

\*An excused performance absence is given if there is a serious illness or extreme emergency. Advance notice is really important when possible. Unexcused absences are given for all non-emergency absences and will lower that quarter's grade one letter.

**Community Service outside of class:** These activities are strongly encouraged, helping out musically for other churches or Sabbath schools, coaching and mentoring other students. I would like to know and have a record.

**Cell Phones:** Put away and OFF!

## Parents:

- 1 Review Syllabus and Schedule then insert the dates into your family calendar.
- 2 Begin to put together concert attire: Please no jewelry when we are performing—just in case  
Girls modest black (pants or skirts that are below knees, dark black tights, tops that are modest with sleeves at least to the elbow. Guys: Tux & bow tie (preferably hand tied). Black shoes and black socks no Crocs.
- 3 Review our orchestra philosophy (some director expectations clarified below).

**Orchestra is like a team:** We work hard together helping each person be their best separately and collectively. We draw on our strengths while recognizing and working on our weaknesses. We work during school hours and outside school hours with practices and performances. We count on each other to be to everything, bringing and giving our best in all we do!

**Orchestra is a class:** We learn to notice and appreciate small details in sound. Learn problem solving techniques as we master our music. We will learn a wide variety of music from current pieces to old master pieces. Through practice students will continually refine personal playing habits to more and more successful ways of playing (improve your tone, improve your intonation, and build technique to increase your facility on your instrument).

# Orchestra Calendar (2021-2022) Save These Dates! (details and slight adjustments will follow)

Oct 2 – orchestra for church

Oct 16 – alumni

Oct 30 – orchestra for church

Nov 6 – acoustic eidolon (FYI Nov 6 – RAS orch church)

Nov \_\_ – pie fundraiser TBA

Dec 11 – Milton Church and Evening Christmas Concert

Feb 5 – orch for church

Feb 9-12 – WWU Festival select by audition

Feb 26 – Possible Church Appt. ? or March 5

(March 5 – Maybe Mini quick trip?) [Dvorak NW SeattleSym]

April 9 – orchestra/choir? Church

?? April 16 – WOW music involvement

School weekday April 27 – Lincoln HS, Woosical Wed – morning

May 21 – Orchestra Village Church and Evening Music Dept. Program

June 1 – RAS Grad

June 5 – WWVA Grad

June 7-15 – European Tour

## Date of Extra Curricular Interest

Seattle Symphony Dates:

March 5 – Dvorak New World

March 19 – Tchaik 5

March 22 – Lang Lang

March 31 – Mahler Symphony No. 6

April 1 – Yuja Wang

April 9 – Sibelius No. 2