



International Academy Music Department Information for Incoming 9th Graders

On behalf of the IA Music Department, welcome to the International Academy! The IA is truly a uniquely spectacular place to learn and grow as a student, a musician, and as a person. For being a fairly small campus, we have a strong and vibrant music program with a great diversity of course offerings and opportunities. Please read the following so you may make the right course selection.

- All IA students must complete 2 years of fine arts credit. If you have considerable musical skill in an instrument or voice, or if you have experience in music, please make music your primary choice for your fine arts course. Space in the visual arts course is limited, and is best suited to those without a suitable music course.
- If you have no experience or limited experience in Band, Choir, or Orchestra, please read the section on Developing Musicians.
- If you have experience with a band instrument (brass, woodwind, or percussion), please read the portion on the IA Bands.
- If you have experience with an orchestral string instrument, please read the portion on the IA Orchestras.
- If you have experience with singing in choir and reading music, please read the portion on the IA Choirs.
- **Advanced musicians:** In order to get the proper class placement, please read the respective portions discussing audition procedures for incoming 9th graders who are interested in being placed in the Advanced music ensemble classes.

Developing Musicians

If you have never participated in a musical ensemble, or have very little experience, you should join Developing Musicians. This is a class designed to help you develop the music skills to participate in one of the ensemble music classes the following year, while also giving you the freedom to explore music more generally. It includes group playing, singing, composing, and project based learning. There are no concerts for this group.

If you have had some success with either a band or orchestra instrument, or choir experience, it is strongly encouraged that you enroll in the appropriate class based on that experience.

IA Bands

There are two band courses at the IA – Concert Band and Symphonic Band. Concert Band is an MYP band class, and *does not* require an audition, while Symphonic Band is for advanced students, and *does* require an audition. Mr. Eric LaNoue teaches both Band courses, as well as an after-school Jazz Band, which students may enroll in for an additional .5 credit. Jazz Band accepts Saxes, Trumpets, and Trombones. Pianists, guitarists, bass players, drummers, and non-traditional jazz instruments are accepted at the discretion of Mr. LaNoue, so contact him with inquiries.

All 9th Graders are allowed to audition for Symphonic Band, though typically only those who clearly demonstrate advanced skill, or those needed to fill missing instrument parts will be placed in the Symphonic Band their first year. For this coming year the following parts are particularly needed, so auditioning is strongly encouraged:

- Oboe, Bassoon, Trumpet, Horn, Baritone, Tuba, Percussionists with 4-mallet experience

AUDITIONS: If you are interested in auditioning for Symphonic Band, please email Mr. LaNoue at elanoue@bloomfield.org with your name, contact information, and what instrument you play to schedule a meeting/audition. The audition will consist of the following:

- 1-5 minutes of your best playing (Excerpts from previous band music, solos prepared for S&E, etudes prepared for lessons, etc.)
- As many major and minor scales as you have prepared (Prepare both tongued and slurred, any consistent tempo and rhythm. 1 octave acceptable, 2 preferred)
- A chromatic scale showing your range (2+ octave preferred)
- A short sight-reading activity

An audition time will be scheduled for shortly after school in late May or early June.

IA Orchestras

The IA has three orchestra classes: String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, and Full Orchestra. Mr. Joseph Lewin-Ziegler is the teacher for all orchestra classes.

The String Orchestra meets during the school day and requires at least one year of playing experience on a stringed instrument - violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Students must possess fundamental music reading skills to enroll in the String Orchestra.

The Symphony Orchestra also meets during the school day and is an auditioned only class. Symphony Orchestra members perform at a rare and extremely high level of achievement. Since Symphony performs at such a high level, it is strongly encouraged that students take private lessons and have experience in other symphonies. This class consists of students from grades 9-12 who have met all of the audition requirements as determined in the spring of the previous school year. Advanced musicianship is a prerequisite to membership in this orchestra. This ensemble plays a wide variety of orchestral repertoire including masterpieces by well-known composers as well as modern works. The Symphony Orchestra has rehearsals, concerts, and festivals throughout the year, which occur outside of the standard school day (about twice a month). Members of the Symphony Orchestra are expected to maintain their eligibility by being held accountable for passing all playing and written exams during the year and maintaining good academic standing in the IA. Failure to do so will result in a re-audition or placement in an appropriate ensemble level.

The Full Orchestra is an audition only class that meets once per week after school from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm on Thursdays and is intended for percussion, brass and woodwind musicians who are enrolled in band that wish to perform with the Symphony Strings as a Full Orchestra. String players are invited to audition for this ensemble and any musician enrolled for Symphony Orchestra may also enroll for this class without audition. If you are a Tuba, Trombone, Bassoon, Piccolo or Percussion with mallet experience, you should consider this group.

AUDITIONS: If you are interested in auditioning for the Symphony Strings, please prepare the following:

- Three octaves of music scales within 4 sharps and 4 flats (memorized) at a *Moderato* speed (quarter-notes at 100 bpm). Bass players may play scales in two octaves. I will pick at least one scale to perform.
- Three minutes of a solo performance on a piece that shows your most advanced techniques and musicality
- An excerpt provided by me for your appropriate instrument.
- Sight reading

The audition days are TBD in early June. Contact Mr. Lewin-Ziegler at jlewin-ziegler@bloomfield.org to receive the excerpts and set-up an audition time.

IA Choirs

There are two choir courses at the IA - Bel Canto (also listed as Singers in course request form) is an MYP choir class, and consists of beginning and intermediate singers. The course covers and develops the fundamentals of choral singing and music literacy. No audition is required for Bel Canto. Mr. Joseph Lewin-Ziegler teaches Bel Canto.

Chorale is an advanced choir, for which auditions *are* required. This course is for those who have mastered the fundamentals, and focuses on the performance of choral masterworks and contemporary choir music. Mr. Eric LaNoue teaches Chorale.

AUDITIONS: If you are interested in auditioning for Chorale, please email Mr. LaNoue at elanoue@bloomfield.org with your name, contact information, and which voice part(s) you sing to schedule a meeting/audition. The audition will consist of the following:

- 1-5 minutes of your best singing (Excerpts from previous choir music, solos you have prepared previously, etc. Classical/choral styles preferred over popular music for this audition)
- Voice fundamentals/range activities
- A short sight-reading activity (FYI, we use moveable-Do solfege)

An audition time will be scheduled for shortly after school in late May or early June.

Further Music Opportunities at the IA:

IACappella: The IA's student-run pop a cappella vocal group. For advanced singers in pop styles, by audition. Weekly rehearsals, advised by Mr. LaNoue.

MSBOA & MSVMA Festivals: The IA is a member of both MSBOA and MSVMA, so IA music students may participate in all related Solo & Ensemble festivals, honors ensembles, and All-State auditions.

Ukulele Club: Student-run club for students of all skill levels on ukulele. Perform at annual IA talent show: IFAF.

Chamber Music Club: Student-run club for instrumental and vocal musicians to collaborate on self-guided small-group music performance.

Tri-M Music Honor Society: Honors Society for dedicated and advanced musicians of all grade levels, engaging in public performance and school service activities.

Diploma Programme Music Curriculum: Additional music course available to 11th and 12th grade students as part of their IB Diploma Programme. The course teaches listening analysis, composition, theory, music history, and investigates music from other genres, cultures, and time periods. Mr. Lewin-Ziegler and Mr. LaNoue both teach this course.