

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Chamber Orchestra is available, by audition, to students, grades 9 – 12, who have exceeded Fairfield Skill Level VII and are current members of Concert or Symphonic Orchestra. Students taking this class will work individually and collaboratively to refine ensemble rehearsal and performance techniques, advanced instrumental techniques, music literacy and musicianship. Literature for this class will be selected from advanced string music from Baroque to Contemporary. Enrollment is limited and determined by balanced instrumentation in the ensemble. Chamber Orchestra meets one evening per week for two hours with sectional rehearsals to be determined. Participation in all scheduled rehearsals, concerts and other performing events as listed in the Orchestra Handbook is required. Adherence to department policies including the Code of Ethics and performance dress code is also required.

Course Overview

All students in the Fairfield Orchestra Program progress through an Ensemble Sequence and instrument specific Skill Levels.

Fairfield's Orchestra Program Ensemble Sequence

<u>Grade/Course</u>	<u>Instrument Skill Level</u>	<u>Ensemble Sequence Marker</u>
4 th Grade Orchestra	I	Novice
5 th Grade Orchestra	II	Novice
6 th Grade Orchestra	III	Intermediate
7 th Grade Orchestra	IV	Intermediate
8 th Grade Orchestra	V	Proficient
Concert Orchestra	VI	Accomplished
Symphonic Orchestra	VII	Advanced
Chamber Orchestra	*Extension Course	Advanced+

Course Goals

- Chamber Orchestra students will successfully perform NYSSMA grade 5-6 string orchestra literature encompassing a variety of musical time periods and genres.
- Chamber Orchestra students will be able to perform within the ensemble setting with appropriate balance, blend, tone, intonation and stylistic interpretations at an advanced level.
- Chamber Orchestra students will be able to use their advanced knowledge of elements of music, musical devices and string performance techniques to analyze and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of their own performances and the performances of others.

Artistic Processes

- Perform
- Respond

Anchor Standards

- Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.
- Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
- Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.
- Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.
- Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Summary Skill Objectives

Students will:

- Perform string orchestra music in a variety of genres and describe typical stylistic characteristics of performed repertoire.
- Play their instruments in tune with appropriate interpretation, technical accuracy and expression at NYSSMA grade 5-6.
- Listen to, analyze, and describe their own recorded performances, comment critically, and improve their own performance.
- Listen to, analyze, evaluate and describe exemplar performances of string orchestra music.

Assessments

Ensemble Performances:

- Fall concert
- Holiday concerts
- Winter concert
- Spring concert

Written Concert Evaluation after each performance

PERFORMING

Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation.

Enduring Understanding

- To express their musical ideas, musicians analyze, evaluate, and refine their performance over time through openness to new ideas, persistence, and the application of appropriate criteria.
- Musicians judge performance based on criteria that vary across time, place and cultures.

Essential Questions

- How do musicians improve the quality of their performance?
- When is a performance judged ready to present?

Process Components: Analyze, Interpret, Rehearse, Evaluate, Refine, Present

Repertoire

Students will:

- Perform advanced string orchestral music at NYSSMA grade 5 - 6, representing a variety of genres.

Tasks

- Students will play their instruments in tune and with characteristic tone, repertoire at NYSSMA levels 5-6 with expression, appropriate stylistic interpretation, and technical accuracy (*analyze, interpret, rehearse, evaluate, refine, present*) by:
 - demonstrating through playing and reading, a comprehensive knowledge and application of musical terms and symbols.
 - refining a characteristic tone and good intonation at all dynamic levels throughout the range on their instrument.
 - performing articulations with control at a wide variety of tempi and style appropriate to the repertoire performed.
- Students will perform some repertoire without a conductor.

Assessment

- Successful performance of literature encompassing a variety of string orchestra styles with appropriate balance, blend, tone, intonation, and stylistic interpretations.
- Individual improvement on targeted performance techniques

RESPONDING

Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning

Enduring Understanding

- The personal evaluation of musical works and performances is informed by analysis, interpretation, and established criteria based on the elements of music.

Essential Question

- How do we judge the quality of musical work(s) and performances?

Process Components: Analyze, Interpret, Evaluate

Repertoire

Students will:

- Perform advanced string orchestral music at NYSSMA grade 5 - 6, representing a variety of genres.
- Perform without a conductor

Tasks

Ensemble

- Analyze and discuss advanced instrumental techniques, ensemble skills, and elements of music during rehearsals
- Listen to, analyze, and evaluate their own recorded performances, comment critically, and improve their own performance.
- Evaluate, in writing, the quality of their own performances by describing the uses of elements of music and expressive devices
- Listen to, analyze, and evaluate exemplar performances by renowned string orchestras identifying effective uses of musical devices and string performance techniques.

Exemplar Repertoire: (assured literature)

- *Tchaikovsky serenade in C*
- *Dvorak Serenade*
- *Vivaldi Four Seasons*
- *Simple Symphony- Benjamin Britten*
- *Saint Paul's Suite- Holst*
- *Brandenburg concerti*
- *Capriol Suite – Peter Warlock*
- *Serenade for Strings-Elgar*

Assessment

- Written Concert Evaluation
- Class discussion of recordings of exemplar performances.

High School Orchestra Concert Evaluation

Name _____

Repertoire Performed:

Grade _____

Date _____

Ensemble _____

Instrument _____

1. Evaluate your orchestra's overall performance. Identify specific strengths and weaknesses.
2. In which piece did your orchestra most effectively and musically demonstrate ensemble performance techniques? Identify the specific performance techniques.
3. In which piece did your orchestra least effectively and musically demonstrate ensemble performance techniques? Identify specific techniques that were lacking.
4. Comment on the intonation of:
 - a. the ensemble –
 - b. your section –
 - c. you individually –
5. Which piece did you enjoy playing the most and why?

6. What is/are your goal(s) for improvement as an orchestra member? What is your strategy to achieve your goal(s)?

7. Evaluate your orchestra's performance etiquette; particularly behavior when not engaged in active performance, on stage and in the audience.

8. Comment on the effectiveness and musicality of the performances of the other groups that performed.