



August, 2020

Dear Student and Parents,

It seems like only yesterday we were gathered for the winter musical and listening to the February concerts in the FAC auditorium, and simultaneously it feels like ages ago. I am excited that many of our performing ensembles and activities will be resuming this fall, and we as music educators will get the chance to work with your children again. Please rest assured that we at Delbarton are taking the safety of your children very seriously, and we will be strictly following our health safety protocols detailed in the Roadmap to Reopening Hub. Rehearsal spaces, procedures, and even times have been altered this year to provide a safe rehearsal environment for our musicians while getting them back to what they love.

Again this year I have posted all the materials for music participation online. Please be sure to read all of the posted PDF files since each individual file will contain very different information including ensemble descriptions, music calendars, safety information, private lesson information, etc. I also ask you all to take a moment to think of others who would like to participate in the ensembles here at Delbarton. Students from other schools are welcome to take part in some of our ensembles, and for students passionate about the arts or have trouble scheduling music into their lives, the programs at Delbarton School are a great addition. You can send them an e-mail, forward them a link, tweet them, or whatever means you have of spreading the word about music at Delbarton. Since distancing in rehearsals is a very important requirement we will have an upper limit on the number of participants we can safely allow. If you are interested in participating this year please be vocal about your enthusiasm so that we save a seat for you!

In this document you will find a description of the Delbarton music program. We invite you to participate. It is important that all students (both new and returning) who plan to participate in ensembles and/or private lessons register using the online form provided through the Delbarton webpage, [www.delbarton.org/music](http://www.delbarton.org/music). Please complete this as soon as possible, as it helps us to better plan for the upcoming year. Complete online registrations by **Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**.

We are blessed to have an exceptionally talented, friendly, and passionate group of professional musicians directing the ensembles here at Delbarton School. Feel free to approach them and learn all you can from them in and out of the rehearsal room. With our beautiful performing spaces, our talented faculty, and our exceptional group of student musicians the Delbarton School music program is an incredible experience from year to year.

As we look ahead to the fall I would ask both students and parents alike to mark their calendars with the dates of all the various concerts and rehearsals. Your directors and private teachers will give you additional information about the specifics for each ensemble, but core dates, events, and policies are crucial. I look forward to seeing everyone at the opening day picnic and hearing the first notes of the year ring out in the Fine Arts Center.

Sincerely,

Mr. David Blazier

For further information about any of our ensembles, the private lesson program, or any other questions contact Mr. Blazier by e-mail @ [dblazier@delbarton.org](mailto:dblazier@delbarton.org) (preferred) or by phone @ 973-538-3231 x3077

# *Delbarton School Performing Arts Department*

## *First Rehearsals and Open House*

The goal of our first week is to get to know new people, welcome back our returning members, and get our student musicians playing right away. Parents are welcome to stay outside the FAC and meet with Mr. Blazier to answer questions about the programs we offer.

Please read our safety requirements outlined in the [Roadmap to Reopening Hub](#)

<https://www.delbarton.org/about/reopen-roadmap>

### **Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

5:45 PM      Wind Ensemble – All Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion players are encouraged to attend this first rehearsal. Players will meet initially in the Auditorium before breaking into sectionals for a portion of the evenings. This rehearsal will conclude at 7:45 PM.

### **Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 PM      Jazz Ensemble – All interested Delbarton students are encouraged to join us in the band room for this first rehearsal. No audition is required. This first rehearsal will conclude at 7:30 PM.

6:00 PM      Abbey Orchestra – String Players are encouraged to attend this opening rehearsal in the Auditorium. Auditions are required for placement in this ensemble and can be scheduled ahead of time or at this first rehearsal with Mrs. Davis. This rehearsal will conclude at 8:30 PM.

### **Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 PM      Young Abbey Orchestra – Our non-auditioned string ensemble geared towards less experienced players will meet for the first time in the Auditorium. This rehearsal will conclude at 8:15 PM.

### **Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 PM      Percussion Ensemble – Percussionists and students wishing to try something new are encouraged to come to this first rehearsal. This rehearsal will conclude at 7:30 PM.

If you haven't yet registered online please do so at [www.Delbarton.org/music](http://www.Delbarton.org/music) . If you know other talented young people who are looking for musical opportunities please tell them about us!

**Further Questions?** [dblazier@delbarton.org](mailto:dblazier@delbarton.org) or (973)- 538-3231 x3077.

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @DelbartonArts

## *Requirements for Participation*

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### *Delbarton Performing Ensembles*

It is our desire that every student has a quality and positive musical experience at Delbarton. Performing in an ensemble is very much a team effort. The ensemble simply cannot be at its best without everyone present. It is not enough to merely know your own part. Being a musician involves knowing your part and how it interacts with everyone else. With this in mind, the Performing Arts Department has decided upon the following attendance requirements for participation in our ensembles:

There are four major concert “seasons” each year: Fall, Christmas, Winter and Spring. For the Fall, Winter and Spring concerts, students may miss no more than two rehearsals in preparation for each concert. (Typically there are eight or nine rehearsals in preparation for each concert.)

For the Christmas concert, no rehearsals may be missed. (Typically there are three rehearsals in preparation for the Christmas concert.)

In addition, students must attend *all* dress rehearsals and pre-concert warm-ups.

**Please be conscious of these requirements when you schedule other commitments. Rehearsal and concert schedules are attached. You should place all rehearsals and concerts on your calendar as soon as possible so that conflicts can be avoided.**

**Unlike ensembles which rehearse daily, Delbarton Ensembles rehearse only once a week. That makes each rehearsal critical since missing a single rehearsal is the equivalent of missing a week’s worth of preparation.**

**Ensemble directors will supply students with additional details about concert dress, important dates, and expectations for behavior and rehearsal preparation.**

**The most important requirement for participation in the performing arts is a curious and enthusiastic spirit and the desire to work hard together towards a common goal!**

*\* Players with regular sports conflicts should speak to their coach and ensemble director immediately to try and find an acceptable compromise.*

## *Notes to Students and their Parents*

### **Schola Cantorum and other Vocal Ensembles**

At this time choral ensembles will not be rehearsing. It is our hope to resume these excellent programs as soon as we are able to do so.

### **Participation Fee – (Non Delbarton School Students)**

When you register for ensemble participation your contact information is submitted to the Delbarton School and St. Mary's Abbey Business Office. You can either submit a check during the month of September (preferred method), or as a courtesy our business office can generate a bill in the fall for the year's enrollment. When writing a check please include your son/daughter's full name in the memo line. Delbarton School students do not pay a participation fee for any ensembles.

The participation fee is a single flat price whether a student participates in one ensemble or several. This year we have moved to a season fee.

Please take advantage of all we have to offer here at Delbarton School!

- The fee for many instrumental ensembles (Wind, Brass, Percussion, Woodwind, etc) is \$300 for the 2020 – 2021 school year which amounts to \$75 per concert cycle. If families have more than one student participating in ensembles additional student registrations will be at a reduced fee.
- The fee for orchestral ensembles is \$375.00 (\$125 each season Fall/Winter/Spring) for the Young Abbey Orchestra and \$465.00 (\$155 each season Fall/Winter/Spring) for the Abbey Orchestra for the 2020 – 2021 school year. This higher price for orchestral ensembles is to defer the significantly higher cost of running these programs.
- The music participation fee is non-refundable.

### **Other Responsibilities**

Students are responsible for their folders and music. If materials are lost or otherwise need to be replaced it will be at the expense of the musician.

## **Scholarships and Financial Assistance**

If you would like to be considered for financial assistance for ensemble participation or private lessons, please contact Mr. David Blazier directly. We have a small scholarship program and an arts booster organization that may be able to assist. All requests are kept confidential. We never want a student to pass up an opportunity in the arts because of financial impediments, and we make every effort to meet each family's needs.

## **Private Music Lessons**

This is a *critical* part of any young musician's development. We **strongly** encourage each of our musicians to study with a private teacher to further the student's musical development, increase individual confidence, and experience the discipline necessary to achieve excellence in his art. This one-on-one mentoring relationship is an extremely important teaching tool to show a student what it means to be a musician.

Private instruction is available on all stringed, woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Piano, organ, guitar, and voice instruction is also available. Instruction takes place after 2:45 PM. Non-Delbarton students may also sign up for private lessons. A student cannot be excused from an ensemble rehearsal to attend a private lesson.

Tuition for private lessons is typically \$35 for 30 minutes, \$50 for 45 minutes and \$70 for 60 minutes. Some instructors have alternate rates which they will inform you prior to your first lesson. All billing is handled by the Delbarton School Business Office at the end of each month. Please see the previous page regarding requests for financial assistance.

## **Participation in Multiple Extracurricular Activities at Delbarton**

Students are often concerned that participation in other extracurricular activities at Delbarton will interfere with participation in music. While this can be the case, the Performing Arts Department endeavors to keep conflicts between activities to a minimum. Many, many musicians at Delbarton also play on athletic teams, participate in academic clubs, act in school plays, write for the school newspaper, contribute to the yearbook, and are otherwise involved in multiple activities. What we ask of our musicians is that they respect the commitments they have made to their ensemble as they plan other activities, trips, appointments, etc. One of our goals is for students to learn to manage their time and develop the communication necessary as they face inevitable schedule challenges.

## **Starting a New Instrument?**

Students who wish to begin to learn to sing or play a musical instrument while at Delbarton are enthusiastically encouraged to do so. Please contact Mr. Blazier.

## **Other Important Information**

Virtually all musicians who choose to perform with the Wind Ensemble at Delbarton also perform with the small ensemble appropriate to their instruments and vice-versa. For example, trumpet players in the Wind Ensemble perform also with the Brass Ensemble and vice-versa. We strongly encourage this level of involvement since rehearsing with different ensembles broadens a student's musical experiences and helps him/her grow as a musician. Also, since small ensembles rehearse on Tuesday evenings, involvement in both the large and small ensembles is logistically simple.

String players who are unsure if they should play with the Abbey Orchestra or the Young Abbey Orchestra should attend the first *Abbey Orchestra* rehearsal on September 9, 2020. Ms. Davis and Ms. Tomblin will begin to determine proper placement at these times.

Students who wish to attend two or more overlapping rehearsals on this first day (e.g. Percussion Ensemble and Brass Ensemble) should speak with each of the ensemble directors.

During the year, student musicians at Delbarton who are not otherwise committed after school typically stay at school in the interim between the end of classes and the beginning of rehearsals. Most students use this time to practice or do homework. The Fine Arts Center lobby and picnic tables outside are common gathering spots and serve as a second home to many of these musicians. Food is also made available for purchase in the late afternoons by our dining service. This can be a convenient and inexpensive way to eat before an evening music rehearsal.



*Performing Arts Ensembles*

*Delbarton School*

*2020 – 2021*

## **Schola Cantorum**

*Director* Mr. David Blazier (973)-538-3231 x 3077

The Men's Chorus at Delbarton School pursues an active concert schedule throughout the school year performing alone and with choirs from other schools. In addition to seasonal concerts, Schola Cantorum performs at school liturgies, and other campus events. The Schola Cantorum is intended to provide new singers all they need to discover their voice and grow in their ability as well as challenge and inspire our advanced singers. Repertoire for this ensemble includes sacred and secular music in a variety of styles, historical periods, and languages.

*Open to* Delbarton students in all grades

*Get Involved* This ensemble will not be meeting at this time. We hope to offer choral ensembles as soon as possible.

*Rehearsals* Tuesdays 2:45 – 3:45 PM and Thursdays 5:30 – 7:00 PM, and occasional rehearsals during the school day in preparation for school masses.

## **The “Benedictones”**

*Director* Mr. David Blazier (973)-538-3231 x 3077

This is a smaller auditioned vocal group focusing on a cappella vocal music from pop, jazz, rock, and barbershop influences. This ensemble is geared towards more experienced singers capable of reading music well and singing confidently without accompaniment. Students in this ensemble are also encouraged to study, write, and prepare arrangements in order to teach and direct them with the ensemble.

*Open to* Delbarton students in all grades, audition required.

*Get Involved* This ensemble will not be meeting at this time. We hope to offer choral ensembles as soon as possible.

*Rehearsals* Tuesdays 4:00 - 4:30 PM and Thursdays 7:00 – 8:00 PM in FAC Rm. 171. (*subject to change*)

## Wind Ensemble

*Director* Mr. John Di Egidio, [jdiegidio@delbarton.org](mailto:jdiegidio@delbarton.org), or *Contact:* Mr. Blazier (973)-538-3231 x3077

The Delbarton Wind Ensemble is our large Concert Band which performs varied music from the Wind Band Repertoire. Selections are meant to challenge, educate, and inspire our musicians. The ensemble presents four concerts throughout the year.

*Open to* Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and beyond. Musicians from surrounding schools and communities are welcome. Space is limited to 35 players this year due to distancing requirements and priority must be given to Delbarton students.

*Get Involved* Come to the first rehearsal on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM in the auditorium of the Fine Arts Center. Students with limited or no experience on their instruments who wish to join should speak with Mr. Di Egidio or Mr. Blazier at or before the Rehearsal regarding placement in the ensemble.

*Rehearsals* Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:45 PM in FAC Auditorium

## Abbey Orchestra

*Director* Ms. Norma Davis, [ndavis@delbarton.org](mailto:ndavis@delbarton.org), or *Contact:* Mr. David Blazier (973)-538-3231 x3077

The Abbey Orchestra performs works from all corners of the traditional orchestral repertoire at four concerts each year. This is a very unique ensemble because it draws from the talents of students, adults, and professional musicians to produce an exquisite concert each season performing film scores, movements from concertos and symphonies as well as complete symphonic masterworks.

*Open to* A placement audition is held for new members. Musicians from surrounding schools are encouraged to join!

*Get Involved* Contact Ms. Davis and come to the first rehearsal in the Auditorium on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Further information on placement auditions available online at [www.delbarton.org/music](http://www.delbarton.org/music)

*Rehearsals* Wednesdays 6:30 – 8:30 PM in the FAC Auditorium.

## **Young Abbey Orchestra**

*Director* Ms. Samantha Tomblin [stomblin@delbarton.org](mailto:stomblin@delbarton.org), or *Contact:* Mr. Blazier (973)-538-3231 x3077

The Young Abbey Orchestra is a non-auditioned ensemble catering to less experienced string players seeking a great ensemble playing experience. The repertoire for this ensemble challenges these developing musicians to read music at a higher level, count rhythms independently, and to sensitively follow a conductor. The group gives four concerts each year.

*Open to* Students in all grades

*Get Involved* Contact Ms. Tomblin and come to the first rehearsal on Thursday 9/10. Speak with Ms. Tomblin and Ms. Davis to determine proper placement.

*Rehearsals* Thursdays 7:00 – 8:15 PM in the FAC Auditorium.

## **Jazz Ensemble**

*Director* Mr. Nathan Eklund [neklund@delbarton.org](mailto:neklund@delbarton.org), or *Contact:* Mr. Blazier (973) 538-3231 ext3077

The Delbarton Jazz Ensemble is a traditional Big Band of approximately 16 pieces. This incomparable ensemble performs the works of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Thad Jones and other great composers of jazz. Students will learn how to swing in this ensemble, and will also study the jazz theory and techniques to help them improvise.

*Open to* Delbarton students in all grades

*Get Involved* Contact Mr. Eklund and attend the first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 9th.

*Rehearsals* Wednesdays 5:30 - 7:30 PM in FAC Rm. 065. First Rehearsal is Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Percussion Ensemble**

*Director* Ms. Celine Fitzpatrick, [cfitzpatrick@delbarton.org](mailto:cfitzpatrick@delbarton.org) or *Contact:* Mr. Blazier (973) 538-3231 ext3077

The Delbarton Percussion Ensemble numbers approximately 12 musicians who perform on a wide variety of percussion instruments. In addition to experienced percussionists, musicians who have played other instruments, especially the piano are welcome. This can be a great opportunity for students who have no musical experience if they are willing to take private percussion lessons. The Ensemble performs at the Instrumental Concerts throughout the year.

*Open to* Delbarton students in all grades

*Get Involved* Contact Ms. Fitzpatrick and attend the first rehearsal on Monday, September 14th. Students with limited or no experience who wish to join should speak with Ms. Fitzpatrick at or before the Rehearsal regarding placement in the ensemble.

*Rehearsals* Mondays 5:30 – 7:30 PM in FAC Rm. 065

## **Woodwind Ensemble**

*Director* Mr. John DiEgidio, [jdiegidio@delbarton.org](mailto:jdiegidio@delbarton.org), or *Contact:* Mr. Blazier (973)-538-3231 x3077

The Delbarton Woodwind Ensemble performs various repertoire from the Woodwind Quintet, and Saxophone Quartet Repertoire.

*Open to* Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, and Saxophone students.

*Get Involved* Come to the first rehearsal of the wind ensemble of Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and more information about small ensembles will be given. Students with limited or no experience on their instruments who wish to join should speak with Mr. DiEgidio at or before the first rehearsal regarding placement in the ensemble.

*Rehearsals* This group rehearses Wednesdays from 5:45 – 6:15 PM in FAC Auditorium.

## **Brass Ensemble**

*Director* Mr. Nathan Eklund, [neklund@delbarton.org](mailto:neklund@delbarton.org), or Contact Mr. Blazier (973)538-3231 x3077

The Delbarton Brass Ensemble consists of trumpet players, trombonists, tuba players and all other brass instrumentalists. The group performs a repertoire that ranges from the ancient to the modern, tackling the unique technical challenges of the brass instrument family, and bringing to life its majesty and beauty. This ensemble performs throughout the year.

*Open to* Students in all grades

*Get Involved* Come to the first rehearsal of the Wind Ensemble of Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and more information about small ensembles will be given. Students with limited or no experience on their instruments who wish to join should speak with Mr. Eklund or Mr. Blazier at or before the Rehearsal/Picnic regarding placement in the ensemble.

*Rehearsals* Tuesdays 5:45 – 6:15 PM in FAC Rm. 065

## **“Arma Lucis” (Liturgical & Early Music Ensemble)**

*Director* Mr. Chris Hatcher, [chatcher@delbarton.org](mailto:chatcher@delbarton.org), or *Contact:* Mr. Blazier (973)-538-3231 x3077

This early music ensemble performs on several concerts throughout the year with music ranging from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This ensemble is also a great chance to work in a smaller chamber group and develop music reading skills and confidence holding a part. The ensemble will focus on performing chant and preparing sacred music for school masses and regular masses at St. Mary’s Abbey.

*Open to* Delbarton students in all grades

*Get Involved*

*Rehearsals* This ensemble will not be meeting at this time. We hope to off choral ensembles as soon as possible.

## **Rock Band**

*Director* Mr. Dan Pieraccini and Mr. Rose; *Contact* [DPieraccini@delbarton.org](mailto:DPieraccini@delbarton.org)

This group meets afterschool throughout the school year and combines the talents of pianists, guitarists, bassists, and other instrumentalists to learn rock music and prepare for performances at morning meetings, and the Delbarton coffeehouses. At this time there will only be instrumental rehearsals and performances for this group.

*Open to* Delbarton students in all grades

*Get Involved* Look for announcements during the first few weeks of school regarding an organizational meeting and rehearsals.

*Rehearsals* TBA

*Performing Arts Faculty*

David Blazier, B.M. Ithaca College	Chair of the Performing Arts Department, AP Music Theory, 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Music Theory, Class Piano, Schola Cantorum, Benedictones, Private voice and piano teacher
Matt Corica, B.A. George Washington University	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Music, 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Music, Class Piano, Drama Director
Rick Lebreuz, B.A. University of North Carolina	Technical Director
Dr. Rachel Carlson, B.A. Reed College, M.A. , Ph.D. University of Washington	One Act Festival Moderator
Greg Wyatt	One Act Festival Moderator
Norma Davis, B.M. Mason Gross School of the Arts, M.A. Steinhardt School, New York University	Abbey Orchestra Director, Private violin and viola teacher
John DiEgidio, B.M.E. Mason Gross School of the Arts, M.M. The Cali School of Music, Montclair State University	Wind Ensemble & Woodwind Ensemble Director, Private Clarinet & Saxophone Teacher



Nathan Eklund, B.M. William Patterson University, M.M. New Jersey City University	Wind, Jazz and Brass Ensembles, Private Brass instruction
Celine Fitzpatrick, B.M. William Patterson University	Percussion Ensemble, Private Percussion Teacher
Chris Hatcher, B.M. Southern Illinois University, M.M. Westminster Choir College	Arma Lucis Director, Piano Teacher, Accompanist
Dan Pieraccini	Rock Band Club
Sean Rose, B.A. Kean University	Rock Band Club
Samantha Tomblin, B.M. Mason Gross School of the Arts	Young Abbey Orchestra Director