



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

OVERVIEW

The goal of the music program is to help students discover the value of music and all the arts in their lives. The study of music develops cultural literacy and aural sensitivity. General music classes and performing ensembles promote the development of musical understanding and technical skills. They encourage the development of the imagination and aesthetic sensitivity. Students explore music from a wide range of cultures, styles, and musical traditions. In doing so, they develop a deeper understanding of music as a reflection of society and humanity.

At Holton we strive to make musical experiences of high quality available to every interested student. In both Middle and Upper School, the principal performance ensembles - Chorus, Wind Ensemble, and String Orchestra, do not require an audition. Outstanding rehearsal spaces, three theaters, a music technology lab, and individual practice rooms support the musical experience.

UPPER SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

Performance Ensembles

At Holton-Arms, we believe **all** students should have the opportunity to continue their musical growth through performance. These non-auditioned groups, which constitute the centerpiece of Upper School music, are open to each student who has an interest in working towards excellence in performance within an ensemble setting. These are year-long elective courses that meet during the curricular day:

- Upper School Chorus
- Upper School String Orchestra
- Upper School Wind Ensemble

Auditioned Performance Ensembles

The following provide opportunities for those who have a passion for music and wish to dedicate more time to study, practice, and performance in a particular area. These are year-long elective courses:

- Jazz Band (co-requisite is Wind Ensemble, except for pianists and guitarists) *
- Chamber Orchestra (co-requisite is String Orchestra or Wind Ensemble) *
- Swing Choir (co-requisite is Upper School Chorus)
- Chamber Singers (co-requisite is Upper School Chorus) *
- Handbells

* Denotes ensembles that meet at 7:10 am before the regular curricular day begins

Trimester Elective Courses

Music Theory 1

Open to all US Students

Music Composition and Technology

Open to all US Students

Music Theory 2

Prerequisite: Music Theory 1

Vocal Technique, Auditioning, and Cabaret

Open to all US Students

Portfolio Collaboration Lab

Open to grades 10-12

Prerequisite: Participation in a performing arts class, ensemble, or theater production

Upper School Music FAQs

Do performing ensembles meet during the school day?

The large ensembles – Upper School Chorus, String Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble, all meet during the curricular day. Each ensemble has at least one after-school or weekend rehearsal prior to major concert performances.

Class times for select ensembles vary. Chamber Orchestra, Jazz Band, and Chamber Singers meet twice a week beginning at 7:10 a.m. Handbell Choir and Swing Choir meet during the school day. Swing Choir and Chamber Singers have four or five evening rehearsals per year.

Can I be in chorus and an instrumental ensemble?

Yes, if a student has enough open periods. Chorus does not meet simultaneously with band and orchestra.

Do I have to audition for the performing ensembles?

The Upper School Chorus, Wind Ensemble, and String Orchestra are open to anyone who wants to participate. Students are selected by audition for Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Singers, Handbell Choir, Jazz Band, and Swing Choir. Students must be members of the large ensemble (Chorus, Wind Ensemble, String Orchestra) to audition for the select ensembles, with the exception of Handbell Choir and guitar and piano players in Jazz Band.

How can I fulfill the graduation requirement in the fine and performing arts?

The graduation requirement can be met by taking four trimesters of an elective course in the fine or performing arts, or one year in a performing ensemble and one trimester elective course.

When are the auditions for select ensembles? Are students new to Holton eligible to audition?

Auditions for Swing Choir and Chamber Singers are held in the spring for the following fall. Auditions for Jazz Band and Chamber Orchestra are held in the fall. Auditions for Handbells are held in the spring and again in the fall. Students new to Holton are eligible to audition for the select ensembles.

In addition to performance ensembles, what other music courses are available?

Music Composition and Technology is a one-trimester course taught in our state-of-the-art Music Technology Lab that focuses on fundamentals of music theory, composition, arranging, and exploration of multimedia tools.

Can I take a general music class and be in an ensemble?

Yes, if there are no schedule conflicts.

Can I be in an ensemble and participate in the plays?

Yes.

Can I be in an ensemble and participate in athletics?

Yes. There are no scheduling conflicts that preclude participation in both.

Do I have to take private lessons to play in an instrumental ensemble?

No, private lessons are not required, but they are STRONGLY recommended for all instrumentalists.

MUSIC FACULTY

[Mark Schuppener](#)

Director of Fine and Performing Arts
Lower, Middle & Upper School Director of Strings

[Mark Robinson](#)

Performing Arts Department Chair
Technical Director & Theater Manager

[Allyson Royster](#)

Lower, Middle & Upper School Director of Bands
Middle School Director of Handbells

[Melissa Novak](#)

Lower School Director of Choral Ensembles
Lower & Middle School General Music Teacher

[Trevor Fanning](#)

Middle & Upper School Director of Choral Ensembles
Upper School Director of Handbells
General Music Teacher

[Yee Von Ng](#)

Collaborative Pianist
Administrative/Teaching Assistant

US MUSIC CONCERTS CALENDAR 2021-2022 (Subject to Change)

- ISCF CHORAL FESTIVAL - October 27 - National Cathedral
- MS/US WINTER INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT - December 2 - Lewis Theater
- MS/US WINTER CHORAL CONCERT - December 12 - Lewis Theater
- MS/US WINTER HANDBELLS & CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT - December 16 - Simms Reception Room
- COFFEEHOUSE - March 12 - Beebe Black Box Theater
- ISCF VOCAL ENSEMBLE NIGHT - April 6 - Sidwell Friends School
- MS/US SPRING CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT - April 14 - Simms Reception Room
- US SPRING CHORAL CONCERT - April 24 - Lewis Theater
- WISH HANDBELLS FESTIVAL - April 25 - TBD
- US SPRING INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT - April 28 - Lewis Theater