



Concertino Strings

2017-2018

Handbook

Hochstein School of Music & Dance

Concertino Strings

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Mission Statement

The Hochstein Concertino Strings offer orchestral training to instrumental music students through rehearsal and performance of standard orchestral repertoire.

Membership Guidelines

Enrollment

Enrollment is by audition only and is generally open to students in grades one through five at the discretion of the Music Director. Auditions are held in late spring with additional audition dates provided at the Director's discretion.

Students must be members of their school band and/or orchestra programs. The only exceptions are for students whose schools do not provide an appropriate ensemble program, or for students who are home schooled.

Students should be studying their instrument on a private basis. The Hochstein School offers a discount on ensemble tuition to orchestra members taking private lessons through the school. Please call the main office (585 454 4596) for a complete list of available teachers.

Commitment

Artistic commitment to the group means that all students are prepared for each rehearsal and performance. Students are required to practice their parts and work on difficult passages with their teachers continuously during the season. The music directors will give clear instructions as to which pieces and/or sections should be prepared for the following rehearsal or performance. Students are encouraged to ask any questions that might help them prepare their parts more effectively.

Seating

The function of student seating is to create a well-balanced and blended ensemble, and to give leadership opportunities and/or solos opportunities to many players. Students will be assigned a variety of seating arrangements depending on, but not limited to: musical repertoire, ability, leadership traits, needed soloists, and age. The music director reserves the right to assign such seating in all sections.

Attendance Policy

Because of the importance of each member to the success and growth of the group, it is imperative that students attend every rehearsal. If a student must miss a rehearsal, an absence form must be filled out and turned in to the music director at least two weeks in advance. Absences must be submitted electronically at **bit.ly/hochabsence**. If a student is absent due to illness the morning of a rehearsal, call the Hochstein office as soon as possible (585 454 4596). An absence form should be filled out following notifying the front office. Repeated absences may result in leadership opportunities being necessarily limited, and/or removal from the group.

Each member is allowed **two rehearsal absences per concert cycle**. After the second absence, the student must submit in writing the reasons for the absences and justification for why the student should be allowed to continue as a member of the ensemble. Membership status will then be reviewed, and the music director reserves the right to remove the student from the group after such a review. **Consecutive absences and/or absences in the two weeks before a concert may result in removal from the group.**

Participation in an area All-State or All-County events is encouraged, but students must be diligent in notifying the music directors via the absence form as soon as possible. When signing up for NYSSMA Solo Festival, students and/or parents should talk to their school music directors and request time slots on Friday evening or late Saturday afternoon time. These requests can often be fulfilled if they are made early.

Students are highly encouraged to participate in performance opportunities outside of their Hochstein ensemble, but must remain aware of the above attendance policy. When agreeing to participate in other events such as musicals, orchestra pits, competitions, etc., please make every effort to avoid missing rehearsals close to a concert date. Many of these conflicts can be mediated through advance conversations.

Ensemble events will be cancelled due to weather only if the Hochstein School is closed. You can hear cancellation information on WXXI-AM (1370) or WHAM-AM (1180).

Rehearsal and Performance Etiquette

Rehearsals for Concertino Strings will be held in the Shaw room at Downtown United Presbyterian Church (DUPC) at 121 North Fitzhugh St. on Saturdays from 9am to 10am. As students are expected to be playing promptly at the start of rehearsal, arrive **15 minutes early to allow time to be seated, warmed up, and ready to rehearse**. Students arriving late disrupt the rehearsal and cause unnecessary distractions among other students.

Each student must bring the following items to every event:

- Music folder, with current concert music
- Instrument (in working order) and all necessary accessories (Hochstein does NOT have supplies)
- **PENCIL**

Each student is to behave in an appropriate manner during all events. This includes listening attentively to and following all the instructions of the music directors, or any agent of the ensemble or Hochstein School. Failure to do so may result in immediate removal. If a student behaves inappropriately, the student may be asked to submit to the music directors a letter stating the reasons for the behavior, as well as justification for why the student should be allowed to continue as a member of the ensemble.

Concert Attire

Concert attire will be discussed in rehearsals and decided by the music director and the ensemble members for each performance. Traditionally, Concertino Strings has worn black and white with an optional accent color of the students' choice.

Rehearsal and Performance Schedule

Report time before concerts is generally 60-90 minutes prior to the start time, but earlier times may be necessary for "pickup" rehearsals. It is crucial that each member of the orchestra attend all performances during our season. Each student holds the same responsibility to practice the music and perform at his/her highest level. Please notify the music directors immediately when conflicts arise so that a solution may be discussed. Limited performances may be added to our calendar as opportunities present themselves. The music directors will give as much advance notice as possible when such performances are added.

For the 2017-2018 school year, we have three concerts scheduled:

- Sunday, November 12th at 1pm – Winter Concert
- Sunday, March 4th at 2pm – Concert with Sinfonia
- Sunday, May 6th at 3pm – Concert with Sinfonia and Philharmonia

Location (all three concerts): Hochstein Performance Hall

Important Contact Information

	Phone	Email
Marcos Kreutzer, Music Director (CONC)	585-230-2235 Emergencies only	marcos.kreutzer@hochstein.org For personal concerns only, NOT absences*
Hochstein School	585-454-4596 For general questions or concerns and unforeseen absences due to illness or emergency*	
Absence Reporting	bit.ly/hochabsence Link is case-sensitive @Hoch_Ensembles For last-minute changes and reminders – do not direct message	

*Please see section on attendance

Hochstein School of Music and Dance

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2017-2018 Rehearsal and Performance Calendar

HPH = Hochstein Performance Hall DUPC = Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Date	Day	Location / Event
Sep. 16	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Sep. 23	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Sep. 30	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Oct. 7	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Oct. 14	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Oct. 21	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Oct. 28	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Nov. 4	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Nov. 11	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Nov. 12	Sunday	HPH - 1:00 pm Concert
Nov. 18	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Nov. 25	Saturday	NO REHEARSAL - THANKSGIVING
Dec. 2	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Dec. 9	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Dec. 16	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Dec. 23	Saturday	NO REHEARSAL - HOLIDAY RECESS
Dec. 30	Saturday	NO REHEARSAL - HOLIDAY RECESS
Jan. 6	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Jan. 13	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Jan. 20	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Jan. 27	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Feb. 3	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Feb. 10	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Feb. 17	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Feb. 24	Saturday	NO REHEARSAL - WINTER RECESS
Mar. 3	Saturday	HPH - Rehearsal - 9:00 am
Mar. 4	Sunday	HPH - 2:00 pm CONCERT with Sinfonia
Mar. 10	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Mar. 17	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Mar. 24	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Mar. 31	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Apr. 7	Saturday	NO REHEARSAL - SPRING RECESS
Apr. 14	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Apr. 21	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
Apr. 28	Saturday	DUPC - Rehearsal
May 5	Saturday	HPH - Rehearsal - 9:00 am
May 6	Sunday	HPH - 3:00 pm CONCERT with Sinfonia and Philharmonia