



**Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra  
&  
Hochstein Sinfonia Strings**

2022-2023  
Handbook

# **The Hochstein School**

## **Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra (HPO)**

### **Hochstein Sinfonia Strings (HSS)**

2022-2023

## **Mission Statement**

The Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra and Hochstein Sinfonia Strings offer orchestral training and musicianship building for instrumental music students through rehearsal and performance of standard orchestral repertoire as well as improvisation and composition activities.

## **Membership Guidelines**

### **Enrollment**

---

Enrollment is by audition only and is generally open to students in grades six through twelve at the discretion of the Music Director. Auditions are held in late spring with additional audition dates provided at the Directors' 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 homeschooled. Students are required to fill out and return an Understanding and Permission form to participate in the ensemble; these will be distributed at the first rehearsal.

Students are expected to 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 (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.

In the rare circumstance that the Directors do not believe an orchestra member is fulfilling his or her commitment to the ensemble, that member may be removed from the ensemble at the directors' discretion.

## 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 directors reserve the right to assign such seating in all sections.

Section auditions for strings will occur regularly in the ensemble. Members should expect to play excerpts from the ensemble's literature in front of their peers. The primary mission of these auditions is to give members added experience in the audition environment. Students may be videotaped or asked to play individually for the music directors. Section placements for winds, brass, and percussion (HPO) will be assigned and rotated by the music directors. On occasion, wind players may be asked to complete an audition for solo parts.

## Rehearsal and Performance Etiquette

---

Rehearsals for the Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra and Hochstein Sinfonia Strings will normally be held at Downtown United Presbyterian Church (DPC) at 121 North Fitzhugh St. on Saturday mornings (HPO: 9-11 AM, HSS: 11:30 AM-1PM). **Please take time to review the attached calendar and note well when rehearsals may be at alternate times and locations.** As students are expected to be playing promptly at the start of rehearsal, please arrive 15 minutes early to allow time to be seated, warmed up, and ready to rehearse. Directors will note frequent tardiness, which may result in a review of a student's membership status.

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 upon by the music directors and the ensemble members for each performance. Traditionally, the Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra and Hochstein Sinfonia Strings have worn all black with an accent color of the students' choice.

## **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 directors **at least two weeks in advance**. Absences must be submitted electronically at **[bit.ly/hochabsence](https://bit.ly/hochabsence)**. If a student is absent due to illness the morning of a rehearsal, call the Hochstein office as soon as possible (454-4596). **Please also fill out the electronic absence form following your phone call.** Repeated absences may result in leadership opportunities being limited, and/or removal from the group.

Each student is allowed no more than **two absences per concert cycle**, with **no absences permitted the two rehearsals before a concert**. Arriving late and/or leaving early will, at the discretion of the Directors, count toward a member's total absences. If a member exceeds two absences within the concert cycle, the Director reserves the right to change the member's seat, reassign solo parts, and remove the member from a concert cycle. Excessive absences, tardiness, and early departures will encourage the Directors to review membership status; the Directors reserve the right to remove a student from the group for these reasons.

Participation in an area All-State or All-County events is encouraged, but students must be diligent in notifying the music directors via the online absence form as soon as possible. **When signing up for any 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.** In the event you have a conflict, notify the music directors as soon as possible.

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 canceled due to weather only if the Hochstein School is closed.** Check local news channels and websites. Cancellations will also be posted on Twitter and sent out through ensemble e-mail distribution lists.

## **COVID-19 Protocols**

---

COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) is a continuing concern in our community. As this pandemic continues to evolve, guidance regarding health screening, distancing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other areas of concern will be given specific to each ensemble. As this information has the potential to change over time, it will be provided in a separate document and updated as necessary.

Students and families that do not follow Hochstein's COVID-19 protocols will be subject to immediate suspension and/or dismissal from their ensemble.

## Rehearsal and Performance Schedule

Report time before concerts is generally 90 minutes prior to the start time, but earlier times may be necessary for special 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.

### **Sunday, October 23, 2022**

HPO & HSS  
Hochstein Performance Hall, 2:00 PM  
(Call Time: HPO-12:30, HSS-1:00)

### **Sunday, March 5, 2023**

HSS & HCS  
Hochstein Performance Hall, 2:00 PM  
(Call Time: HSS-1:00)

### **Sunday, February 12, 2023**

HYSO & HPO  
Hochstein Performance Hall, 2:00 PM  
(Call Time: HPO-12:30)

### **Sunday, May 7, 2023**

HPO, HSS, HCS  
Hochstein Performance Hall, 2:00 PM  
(Call Time: HPO-12:30, HSS-1:00)

## Important Contact Information

|   | Phone   | Email   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>John Fetter</b><br>Music Director          | <b>(585) 749-9983</b><br>Emergencies only   | <b>john.fetter@hochstein.org</b><br>For personal concerns only, NOT absences*   |
| <b>Matt Osika</b><br>Assistant Director, HPO  | <b>(585) 474-2420</b><br>Emergencies only   | <b>matthew.osika@hochstein.org</b><br>For personal concerns only, NOT absences* |
| <b>Terry Smith</b><br>Assistant Director, HSS | <b>(585) 509-2745</b><br>Emergencies only   | <b>terry.smith@hochstein.org</b><br>For personal concerns only, NOT absences*   |
| <b>Hochstein School</b>                       | <b>(585) 454-4596</b><br>For general questions or concerns and unforeseen absences due to illness or emergency* |   |
| <b>Absence Reporting</b>                      | <b>bit.ly/hochabsence</b><br>Link is case-sensitive   |   |

\*Please see section on attendance

## Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra (HPO) & Hochstein Sinfonia Strings (HSS) 2022-2023 Schedule

DUPC= Downtown United Presbyterian Church

HPH= Hochstein Performance Hall

*PLEASE OBSERVE DIFFERENT REHEARSAL START TIMES ON SOME DAYS!*

| Date          | Day             | Location/Event   |
|---------------|-----------------|--|
| 10-Sep        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 17-Sep        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 24-Sep        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 1-Oct         | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 8-Oct         | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 15-Oct        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| <b>22-Oct</b> | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>HPH – HSS 11:30-1:00 pm / HPO 1:00-3:00 pm</b>                |
| <b>23-Oct</b> | <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>CONCERT – HPO/HSS HPH – 2:00 pm</b>                           |
| 29-Oct        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 5-Nov         | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 12-Nov        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 19-Nov        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| <b>26-Nov</b> | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>OFF Thanksgiving Break</b>                                    |
| 3-Dec         | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 10-Dec        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 17-Dec        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| <b>24-Dec</b> | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>OFF Holiday Recess</b>  |
| <b>31-Dec</b> | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>OFF Holiday Recess</b>  |
| 7-Jan         | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 14-Jan        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 21-Jan        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 28-Jan        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 4-Feb         | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| <b>11-Feb</b> | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>DUPC: HSS 11:30 am-1:00 pm / HPH: HPO 2:00-4:00</b>           |
| <b>12-Feb</b> | <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>HPO ONLY: CONCERT w/HYSO – HPH – 2:00 pm</b>                  |
| 18-Feb        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| <b>25-Feb</b> | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>OFF End of Winter Recess</b>                                  |
| <b>4-Mar</b>  | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>HPH – HCS 9:00-9:30 / HPO 9:30-11:30am / HSS 11:30am-1:00</b> |
| <b>5-Mar</b>  | <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>HSS ONLY: CONCERT w/HCS – HPH – 2:00 pm</b>                   |
| 11-Mar        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 18-Mar        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 25-Mar        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 1-Apr         | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| <b>8-Apr</b>  | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>Off End of Spring Break</b>                                   |
| 15-Apr        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 22-Apr        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| 29-Apr        | Saturday        | DUPC   |
| <b>6-May</b>  | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>HPH – HCS 9:00-9:30 / HPO 9:30-11:30am / HSS 11:30am-1:00</b> |
| <b>7-May</b>  | <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>CONCERT - HPO/HSS/HCS HPH – 2:00 pm</b>                       |

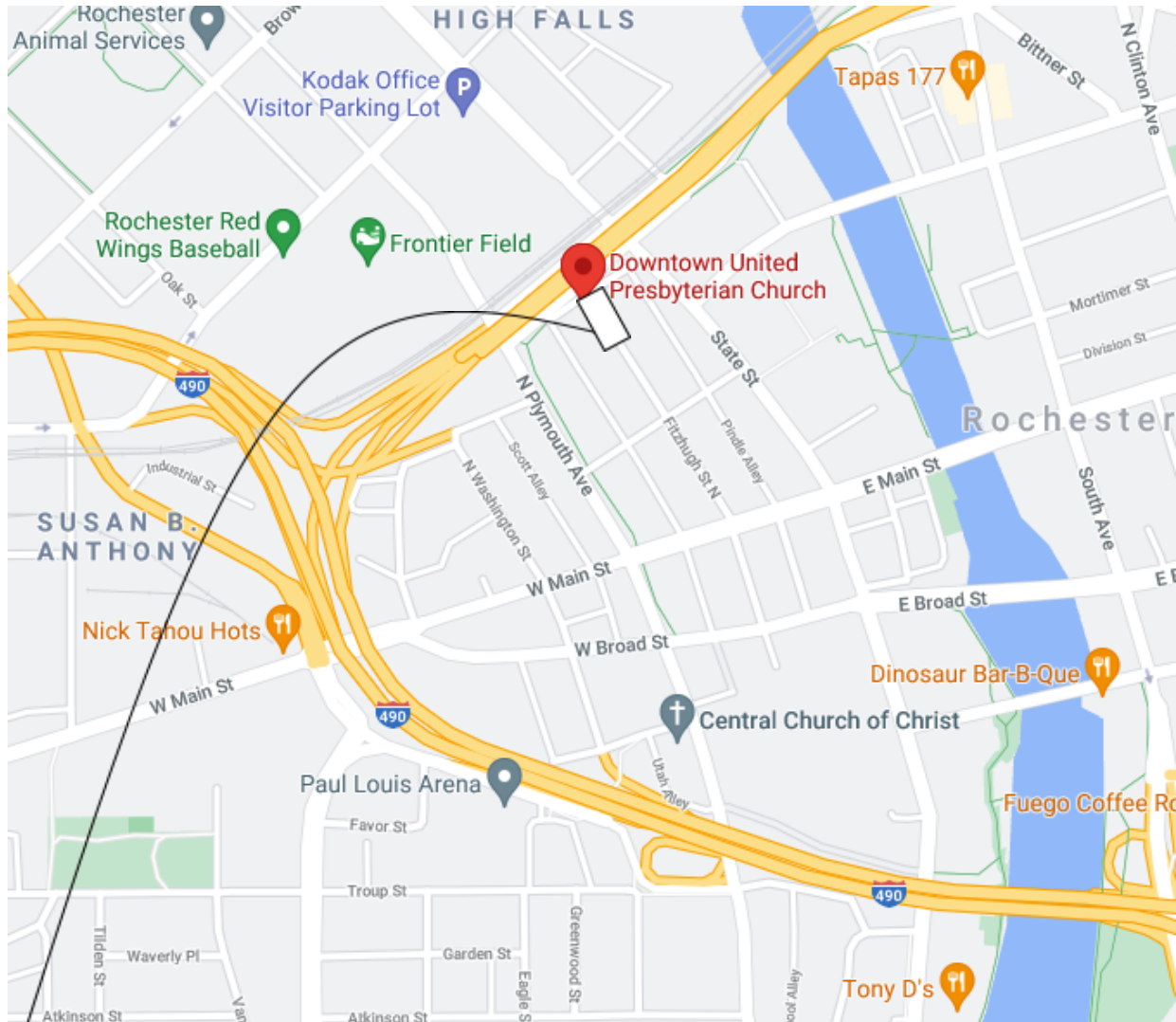
# The Hochstein School

## Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra (HPO)

## Hochstein Sinfonia Strings (HSS)

### Map

Downtown Presbyterian Church (DPC)



•Downtown Presbyterian Church  
(DPC)  
121 N. Fitzhugh St.  
Rochester, NY 14614

From the Hochstein School:

- Turn **right** onto Church Street
- Turn **left** onto Fitzhugh at stop sign
- DPC will be on your left near the end of the block
- Come through glass door on the left that is set back from the road. There is a buzzer if the door is not open. Parking is available on Saturday across from the church.