



Hochstein Concertino Strings

2026-2027
Handbook

The Hochstein School Hochstein Concertino Strings (HCS)

2026-2027

Mission Statement

The Hochstein Concertino Strings offers 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 private 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. The success and growth of any excellent ensemble is based on the collective work of all individuals. It is not enough to know your part! We rehearse carefully so each player can act and react with all the others. Absences must be submitted electronically by email to the Director - **marcos.kreutzer@hochstein.org**. 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**. 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 event is encouraged, but students must be diligent in notifying the music directors via email 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. Information about school closings can be found online at <http://hochstein.org/About/Weather-Alerts>, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HochsteinSchool>, and you can hear cancellation information on the radio at 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, **students must arrive at 8:45am 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. All students arriving at 9am are already 15 minutes late!

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

Black and white with an optional accent color of the students' choice. No sneakers or colored socks, please!!!! By matching attire, the visual distraction is reduced and the audience's focus is on the music and the aural experience of the concert.

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 2026-2027 school year, we have three concerts scheduled:

- Sunday, November 22, 2026, at 1pm – Winter Concert
- Sunday, February 28, 2027, at 2pm – Concert with Sinfonia
- Sunday, May 2, 2027, at 2pm – Concert with Sinfonia and Philharmonia

Location (all three concerts): Hochstein Performance Hall

Please note: If you discover you have COVID, you may reference our [COVID safety page](#) for information. Masking remains optional in our building.

Important Contact Information

	Phone	Email
Marcos Kreutzer, Music Director (HCS)	585-230-2235 Emergencies only	marcos.kreutzer@hochstein.org
Hochstein School	585-454-4596	
Absence Reporting	marcos.kreutzer@hochstein.org	

Date	Day	Event
Saturday 9/12	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 9/19	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 9/26	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 10/3	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 10/10	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 10/17	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 10/24	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 10/31	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 11/7	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 11/14	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
<u>Saturday 11/21</u>	<u>9:00-10:00 am</u>	<u>Dress Rehearsal in Performance Hall</u>
Sunday 11/22	1:00 PM	Concert 1 in Performance Hall (HCS)
Saturday 11/28		OFF Thanksgiving Break
Saturday 12/5	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 12/12	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 12/19	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 12/26		OFF Holiday Recess
Saturday 1/2	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 1/9	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 1/16	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 1/23	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 1/30	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal (<u>note: Elementary Solofest weekend</u>)
Saturday 2/6	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 2/13	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 2/20		OFF Winter Recess
<u>Saturday 2/27</u>	<u>2:00-3:00 pm</u>	<u>Dress Rehearsal in Performance Hall</u>
Sunday 2/28	2:00 PM	Concert 2 in Performance Hall (HCS/HSS)
Saturday 3/6	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 3/13	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 3/20	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 3/27		Off Spring Recess
Saturday 4/3	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 4/10	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 4/17	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
Saturday 4/24	9:00-10:00 am	Rehearsal
<u>Saturday 5/1</u>	<u>2:00-3:00 PM</u>	<u>Dress Rehearsal in Performance Hall</u>
Sunday 5/2	2:00 PM	Concert 3 in Performance Hall (HCS/HSS/HPO)