

Eden Prairie String Academy

General Information

Intermezzo, Divertimento & Concertino

2008-09

Attendance Policy and Absences

Attendance at all classes/rehearsals is the key ingredient to each ensemble's success. Each member of the orchestra has a responsibility to prepare the music at home and to come to rehearsal ready help prepare the music together for performance. Ensemble playing is very different from solo playing and your attendance is mandatory for membership.

To guarantee the quality of the program, attendance rules are strict and orchestra members need to be fully committed. Your commitment to attend is not to the teacher or parents, but to your fellow musicians.

For an absence, a written request should be presented immediately to the Ms. Persian stating why the absence should be excused or you may submit an online request at www.epstringacademy.org - absence request. Written requests for any absence to be excused which are made more than one week AFTER the absence will not be granted excused absence status. In the case of an unexpected absence, such as illness, you must call the EPSA voice mail at 952-947-9400 and leave a message informing us of your absence. A written absence form must be submitted the following week.

Missing more than two rehearsals will require a review of your participation. Unexcused absences will not be acceptable for membership. Students are responsible to practice and learn the music assigned/rehearsed while they were absent. Students are allowed two absences per semester (Sept – Dec or Jan – May). Starting with the 3rd absence, students must submit a 30-minute tape/cd of their practice of the EPSA music. You should not just play through the music for these tapes but actually practice! Being late to 3 rehearsals in a semester will equal 1 absence.

Rehearsals will start promptly at designated time. This will be signaled when the concertmaster stands to commence the tuning process. At this time, all talking and playing of instruments ceases in order to provide the needed silence and focus for accurate tuning. All instrumentalists should be in their seats 5 minutes before rehearsal. If you need help tuning, please arrive 10-15 minutes before your rehearsal. Remember: TO BE ON TIME IS TO BE LATE, ALWAYS ARRIVE EARLY!

ATTENDANCE AT EVERY DRESS REHEARSAL/CONCERT IS MANDATORY.

Music

The Eden Prairie String Academy music library is a costly and valuable asset. The physical condition and usefulness of orchestra parts depend entirely on each musician's care of the music assigned to her or him during the year. Music will be signed out throughout the year. All music will be returned at the end of the season.

All students are responsible for the condition of their music and folder, and will be charged if the music is damaged or lost. Music is considered damaged when it is excessively torn or wrinkled, or rendered illegible by overuse of non-erasable markings.

Students are required to bring a pencil and eraser to every class/rehearsal, and to keep these items accessible at all times during class/rehearsal. It is an important part of the orchestral experience to learn how to mark orchestra parts. **PLEASE MARK PARTS ONLY IN PENCIL! DO NOT USE COLORED PENCIL!!!!**

Students that do not turn in their folder on time will be charged a \$10.00 late fee or \$50.00 lost folder fee. Folders are turned in at the last concert of the season.

Rehearsal/Class Schedule

A schedule of weekly classes/rehearsals will be provided at the first rehearsal. Please watch for updates and/or revisions throughout the year. The most current copy of the schedule can be found at www.epstringacademy.org.

Auditions and Chair Placement

Auditions are primarily for orchestra placement. Chair placement will be based on the strengths and weaknesses demonstrated in the auditions, but are primarily decided on what is best for the ensemble. Every effort is given to seating students in a balanced section giving each student a stand partner that compliments their playing. Sections will rotate throughout the year and even within each rehearsal giving each musician the opportunity to experience both the joys and difficulties of sitting at different stands. The rotation will also give the conductor(s) a chance to see how everyone is doing and what everyone's potential can be within the orchestra.

Auditions only reflect the students playing on that particular day and does not necessarily reflect the students overall playing ability. Concerns about seating assignments or audition scores should be addressed to the conductor. Every effort will be made to explain the process and understand the students concerns.

Fees/Tuition

Audition/Registration fee of \$25.00 is due at audition/registration. Tuition is due at 1st rehearsal – you may make two payments; the first is due at the first rehearsal and the 2nd is due the week of January 2nd. Payment plan or tuition assistance is available. Please contact Michelle Persian at 952-947-9400 for an application. Tuition not received by the 3rd rehearsal of the semester will result in a \$25.00 late fee.

Private Lessons

All students in the Intermezzo and Divertimento Orchestras are strongly encouraged to be taking private lessons in addition to playing in orchestra. Concertino students should be already be taking weekly private lessons. If you need assistance finding a private teacher, please contact the EPSA office.

Carpooling

It is the responsibility of the students to find transportation to and from classes, rehearsals, and concerts. A carpool list will be provided to students and parents as a resource.

Promptness

All students are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes before rehearsal. During those 15 minutes, students are expected to get their instrument tuned, get their materials ready, warm up and be ready to start on time. Rehearsals start promptly; rehearsal time is valuable and lateness is disruptive to the conductor and the other musicians.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, which might result in dangerous conditions, a message will be left on EPSA voice mail 952-947-9400, www.epstringacademy.org, and on WCCO and KSTP TV. If school is closed for the day, there will be no rehearsals and we will try to schedule a make up if time and space permits. As a general rule, if the Eden Prairie Schools are closed for the day or are closed early, there will be no evening rehearsals.

Withdrawal

We expect you to make a full year's commitment to the orchestra. In the event of your withdrawal, you must give Ms. Persian written notice. A withdrawal conference between parents, student and teacher is suggested.

Refund Policy

The first payment of tuition will be refund (pro-rated by rehearsal) to withdrawing students up until 5:00PM on September 30, 2008. No refunds for the 1st semester will be given after this date. The 2nd payment of tuition (pro-rated by rehearsal) will be refunded up until 5:00PM on January 13th. No refunds will be given after this date.

If a student withdraws mid-year and has paid the full tuition (\$475 – Intermezzo, Divertimento; \$575 – Concertino) at the beginning of the year, they will be refunded (\$225 – Intermezzo, Divertimento; \$275 – Concertino) for the 2nd half of the year.