

East Lansing High School

Chamber, Symphonic, and Encore
Orchestras

Student
Handbook



Compiled by
D. Rosin, Orchestra Teacher

East Lansing High School

Ensembles Offered-

ELHS offers three orchestras. Each orchestra was developed to meet the needs of students in the program.

Concert Orchestra

This class is designed to train the intermediate string player in proper performance and rehearsal techniques and to nurture their potential through the rehearsal and performance of quality string orchestra literature appropriate to the level of their development. It is also designed to prepare the musician for performance at a more advanced level. Musical, historical and theoretical concepts are discussed and applied appropriately to every piece of music. This orchestra is for freshmen and sophomore string students.

Symphonic Orchestra

This class is designed to develop the potential of the instrumental musician through rehearsal and performance of quality string and symphony orchestra literature appropriate to the level of that development. It is also designed to prepare the musician for performance at the highest level. Musical, historical and theoretical concepts are discussed and applied appropriately to every piece of music. This class will also provide a full orchestra experience with the addition of the Symphonic Winds and Percussion students.

Symphonic Winds, Brass, & Percussion

Wind and percussion students will be invited to enroll in orchestra after marching band season is finished (mid-November). After band auditions have concluded, first chair players will be invited in chair position order until a full orchestra seating is completed.

Students enrolled in the class will rehearse two days a week and perform in all scheduled orchestra concerts that require full orchestra membership. They will receive .5 credit for the school year beginning late November unto late May. Grades will appear in the second semester schedule.

Most of the (full) orchestra concerts are scheduled on same dates as band concerts, thus, very few extra days of concert performing are added to any wind/percussion student's calendar. For more information, contact Mr. Rosin.

Encore Strings (Audition Only)

This ensemble is designed to develop the potential of the instrumental musician through rehearsal and performance of quality chamber orchestra literature appropriate to the level of that development. Musical, historical and theoretical concepts are discussed and applied appropriately to every piece of music. Musicians in this ensemble are accepted by **audition only**. Missing a rehearsal or performance without notification will result in removal from the ensemble.

Orchestra Purpose & Objectives

Purpose:

To create a quality orchestra utilizing and developing the talents of qualified student musicians.

To encourage, motivate and develop student talent through challenging symphonic, classical and popular music.

To perform public concerts in the school, community and district settings.

Objectives:

After 40 weeks, each student should be able to perform adequately using:

Set bowing patterns and different bowing styles

All indicated dynamic markings

Vibrato

Sensitivity and expression

Proper rhythms

Accurate intonation (pitch)

Understanding of the music

Applied music theory knowledge

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following breakdown of grading:

1. Concerts and Performance- 50%

2. Playing Exams- 10%

3. Participation/ Rehearsal Attendance- 30%

4. Written Assignments - 10%

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C =70-79

D =60-69

E =below 59



Performances (50%)

Performances are a major aspect of the orchestra curriculum. Because the performance grade accounts for a major part of the students' grade, missing a performance will result in a less than favorable grade. Students are expected to attend all performances. The ONLY excused absences are:

- Illness (requires a doctor's note)
- Unexpected death in the family

The following are examples of not excused absences and will need to be **made up**:

- Family vacations, wedding, reunions, birthdays, or other similar events
- College visits/orientations
- Church retreats
- Athletic events/meets (many times these can be worked out ahead of time through your coach and Mr. Rosin)

Please note: Please pay close attention to the orchestra calendar and events. One of the greatest privileges of attending East Lansing High School is to be a part of organizations that are very demanding, rigorous, and intense. Because every organization at ELHS demands so much, it is very possible that in the end you will have to choose the activities you will commit to. If you miss a performance and have properly filled out the conflict form, you will have one week to make up the performance.

Conflict Form/ Make up

In order to complete a make up assignment, you must properly fill out a **conflict form** one week prior to the concert. This will allow Mr. Rosin time to make any necessary adjustment to the ensemble and performance. Please place the **conflict form** in box labeled **conflict form** in the orchestra room. Within a week of the concert, it is your responsibility to complete the make up work. You may take a playing test on the concert music (excerpts to be determined by Mr. Rosin).

Playing Exams (10%)

Many times throughout the year, directors will assess students' ability to perform scales, etudes, and orchestra music. At the director's discretion, this assessment may be live, or recorded. After most exams, students will be provided with written feedback of their performance.

Participation (30%)

If a student is found not obeying the *classroom rules and procedures*, not observing proper rehearsal etiquette, or other classroom instructions given by directors, points will be deducted incrementally. After school attendance will be considered as participation points. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals. Excessive amount of tardiness or absences to rehearsals, as deemed by the director, will result in severe consequences in terms of grade and membership in the orchestra. Each member is expected to attend 2 sectional during each concert cycle. These will be scheduled and led by the section leaders of each orchestra.

Projects/ Assignments (10%)

Each Marking Period will contain at least one writing assignment related to the class. Each Semester will contain one project related to the class.

Classroom Policy

Good attitude is essential! No team ever achieved great successes without each member giving 100%. Our orchestra HAS achieved quality performances over the past sixty years due to dedicated and committed students. The orchestra will provide you with musical challenges, memorable experiences, musical growth and lasting friendships. For that to happen we need your willingness to move as a group and be a team player not only at concert settings, but every time we meet as a group. Without your support, we cannot achieve those wondrous moments.

Personal responsibility includes the following:

Arriving to class on time and prepared with the following:

1. Instrument
2. Music Folder
3. Pencil
4. Orchestra Calendar of Scheduled Concerts and Events
5. Good posture when performing (rehearsals & concerts)
6. Cooperative spirit and positive attitude

Please leave these items out of the classroom and stage area:

1. **Cell phones and other distractions that create a negative learning environment**
2. Food, drinks, candy and gum
3. Poor manners, improper behavior and negative attitude

Students are to be in their seats, ready to perform two minutes after the final bell rings. Class time is limited. If you are late to class, it is mandatory you have a pass either from another teacher, or from the attendance office. Students entering class late distract others as they enter the room. Every minute is valuable; every scheduled concert is important. Performances are equal to exams in other classes. It is the students' responsibility to continually check their calendars for possible conflicts between sports, debate, theater, orchestra, etc.) I will always be available to discuss your conflict with you. Please don't hesitate to talk to me.

Concert-Event Conflict Form

*****Must be turned in 1 week prior to conflict to receive alternate assignment*****

Name _____
Date _____
Orchestra. Concert or Event _____
Date of Conflict _____

Reason for Conflict:

Can you attend part of this event? Time _____

When did you first learn of this conflict? Date _____

Have you tried to resolve this conflict? Yes No

*Please give name of contact person
who can support this conflict.*

Name _____ Phone _____

Student's signature _____

Date form is being turned in _____
(Conflict forms are available in the orchestra room.)

Lockers

We are very fortunate here at ELHS to have one of the best performing arts facilities in the State of Michigan. To this end we must show respect, pride, and ownership by taking care of our instruments and facility. Students who wish to store their instruments during the school day **MUST** do so in their assigned lockers **ONLY**. Instruments found on the orchestra room's floor, hallway, corner, or anywhere else other than their locker will be taken directly to lost and found and it will become the student's responsibility to get it back. Class participation points will also be taken away. The school and/or directors **CANNOT** be held responsible for instruments that are 'left out' or not stored properly in the instrument lockers. Any students caught vandalizing instruments, facility, or creating a mess in our learning environment will be disciplined and held accountable for any damaged cost.

No student should ever give his/her combination to another person. Security by everyone is required in maintaining safety for all orchestra members. Also, no food or perishables should be left in lockers overnight.

Orchestra Seating

Students will be seated in the orchestra based on ability. There will be a chair seating playing exam in September. In between those chair tests, specific times will be set up for chair challenges. (Please see Chair Challenges system/rules)

The first stand of each section accommodates a Principal and Assistant-Principal position. In the first violin section, the first chair player is referred to as Concertmaster, followed by Assistant Concertmaster.

The Concertmaster is responsible for setting bowings and calling special rehearsals for the first violin section and coordinates bowings with the Principal Second Violinist, Violist and Cellist whenever possible. The Concertmaster is the last person to be seated on stage, acknowledged by the audience with applause as he/she enters, gives the appropriate cue for tuning, and then takes first chair position. Following the Concertmaster is the Conductor. Often students will stand as the conductor approaches the podium on signal from the Concertmaster.

Following a performance, the Conductor departs first, followed by the members of the orchestra, again, upon cue from the Concertmaster. (If the Concertmaster should ever break a string in performance, the last chair performer would offer his/her violin to maintain the leadership.)



East Lansing Symphonic Orchestra Challenge System and Rules

- 1- All Challenges will be held during Excel or lunch.
- 2- You are allowed one challenge per cycle. Higher chairs will have to challenge first. (note: you could be challenged more than once per cycle)
- 3- If you decline a challenge or **miss the agreed upon challenge time**, then you give up your seat.
- 4- Each person should pick an excerpt from our current music at least 16 measures in length (you do not need to tell the other person what you picked until the time of the challenge), and prepare it.
- 5- Each person will be assigned a letter **A** or **B**. **A** will play their selection, then **B** will play same selection. Then, **B** will play their selection, then **A** will follow. So order will go **A,B** then **B,A**.
- 6- If the challenger wins the challenge, then they move to higher chair and everyone else moves down a seat.
- 7- If challenger loses or it is a tie, then there is no change in seating.

MSBOA Solo-Ensemble Rules

Eligible Students: 9-12 grade Band & Orchestra students
 Deadline to register: (date to be announced)
 Performance Date: (date to be announced)
 Place: (School to be announced along with map)
 Fee lists will be distributed.
 Checks payable to: **ELBOPA**

Festival Rules

Students may be in a maximum of 3 events.
 Each piece you perform must be at least 2 minutes long.
 You must give the judge a score of your music.
 You must number each measure in the score.
 Put your name on all of your music.
 You must be accompanied by a pianist if an accompaniment is written.
 Plan to pay your accompanist for his/her time. (\$20.00 - 35.00)
 Inform your accompanist of your scheduled performance time and room number.
 Arrive at least one-half hour before your scheduled performance time.
 All performance time conflicts must be adjusted by the room chairperson.
 When you arrive, go to your warm-up room first.
 You may practice in the warm-up room 15 minutes before your performance.
 The chairperson will take you to the performance room

MSBOA Solo-Ensemble Festival Proficiency Exams (State level only)

Scales for soloists in grades 10-11-12 only

<i>Instru.</i>	<i>Proficiency I (10th grade)</i>	<i>Proficiency II (11th grade)</i>	<i>Proficiency III (12th grade)</i>
<i>Violin</i>	<i>G³, Ab³, A³, Bb³ e², f², f#², g³ G chromatic²</i>	<i>B³, C³, Db³, D³ g#³, a³, bb³, b³ D chromatic²</i>	<i>Eb³, E³, F³, F#³ c³, c#³, d³, d#³ G chromatic³</i>
<i>Viola</i>	<i>C³, Db³, D³, Eb³ a², bb², b², c³ C chromatic²</i>	<i>E³, F³, F#³, G³ c#³, d³, d#³, e³ G chromatic²</i>	<i>Ab³, A³, Bb³, B³ f³, f#³, g³, g#³ C chromatic³</i>
<i>Cello</i>	<i>C³, D³, F³, G³ a², b², d³, e³ C chromatic²</i>	<i>Eb³, Ab³, A³, Bb³ c³, f³, f#³, g³ G chromatic²</i>	<i>E³, B³, Db³, F#³ c#³, g#³, bb³, d#³ C chromatic³</i>
<i>Bass</i>	<i>D¹, Eb¹, E², F² b¹, c¹, c#¹, d¹ A chromatic¹</i>	<i>G, Ab², A², Bb² e², f², f#², g² D chromatic¹</i>	<i>B², C², D², Gb² g#², a², b², eb² E chromatic²</i>
<i>Piano</i>	<i>Information available upon request from Band/Orch. Office</i>		

Chromatic Scales:

Start on the lowest open string. Suggested fingering patterns are:

*Violin & Viola: 0 1-1 2-2 3 4 0 etc.
 Cello: 0 1 2 3 1 2 3 0 etc.
 String Bass: 0 1-1 2-4 0 etc./*

You can obtain a current list of Solo and Ensemble accompanists from Mr. Rosin

**Expect to pay accompanists for rehearsals, performance and traveling to festival sites. Discuss fees beforehand. Music should be given to pianists as early as possible to allow ample time for them to practice for your performance. Don't wait until the last minute!

Private String Teachers

If you are participating in MSBOA Solo and Ensemble festival it is highly recommended that you take private lessons. Private teacher rosters are available in the Band & Orchestra Office for string students. Check with Mr. Rosin on prices, availability, etc.

Senior Solo Recital

Band & Orchestra seniors have the opportunity to perform solos (or small ensembles) at this concert. Forms are available in February and may be obtained from Mr. Rosin in the Band/Orchestra Office. Deadline dates for turning them in will be announced. If openings remain, choir students will be invited as well to participate, with Elsingers having first choice. * **Students performing at Senior Solo recital must have received a division I rating on their piece at District Solo and Ensemble, or have cleared their selection with their private instructor and Mr. Rosin.**

This traditional concert has held much appeal to the community over the past twenty years and honors our talented seniors from Band & Orchestra for their dedication to our music programs.

A short biography, small photo, and music selection are required for applications to be accepted in addition to passing an audition, or being recommended by your school music director. Students who wish to have the orchestra accompany them are to check with Mr. Rosin prior before turning in their completed form to determine if an accompaniment is available.

School Instruments

Larger instruments will be supplied to students (viola, cello, & string bass) but shall remain at the high school for school use only. This eliminates the problem of transporting large instruments from home each day to daily rehearsals. However, all students are expected to bring their own instruments for all concert performances.

Recommendations

Orchestra members may request recommendation letters when needed. Contact your director as early as possible to allow sufficient time for writing and mailing your letter before deadlines.

Transportation

Students are required to travel as a group on a school approved vehicle to all “away” concerts & events. **Students are not permitted to drive to or from any orchestra event when the school has arranged for the group to travel by bus or other approved vehicle.**

Parents who wish to drive to an “away” event may transport only their child and not other students. For any additional information regarding school policy on transportation, contact the Activities Office at the high school.

Parties

By tradition, the orchestra not only offers a wonderful music opportunity, but a spirit of camaraderie and lasting friendships. Since most orchestra students have played together for years prior to entering high school, they have already bonded with many of the musicians. These students will wish to continue free time with members after school hours as well. Parents wishing to host orchestra parties are encouraged to do so, providing proper supervision is provided.

During the past years, we have held two parties in the orchestra room each year during school hours: one in the fall, to officially welcome each new member, and again in June, thanking our seniors and wishing them well at our annual Senior Mock Awards party.
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Performance DVDs

DVDs of past performances are available for a limited amount of time beyond each performance. To order a copy of a DVD, email Aaron Most, TV Production Supervisor, at: most_ar@elps.k12.mi.us or call 333-7547. Concert DVDs typically cost \$15 and the Winter Collage concert costs \$20

Contact

Parents and students are welcome to contact me, David Rosin, anytime by phone or email (fastest). If I am not available, leave a message and I will return your call ASAP.

Phone: 333-7302

Email: david.rosin@elps.us
eastlansingorchestra@gmail.com

Also you can follow the orchestra on the Web @:

www.eastlansingorchestra.org

Facebook @ East Lansing Orchestra

Twitter @ twitter/ELHSroom107

Instagram @ ELHSRoom107