

# Hoff-Barthelson Music School

## Festival Orchestra: Spring 2021

Hoff-Barthelson Music School is delighted to announce the restoration of our Festival Orchestra for string students beginning in April 2021.

**Size:** The Festival Orchestra will comprise a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 16 string students. Should more than 16 students register, a second cohort of similar size will be established.

**Schedule:** 10 60-minute sessions on Tuesday evenings starting April 6 and ending June 8, 2021, rehearsing from 7:15 – 8:15 pm. Students may arrive between 7:00 – 7:15 pm.

If a second cohort is established, rehearsal times will be 6:45 – 7:45 pm for the first cohort and 8:30 – 9:30 pm for the second cohort. Students may arrive in the 15 minutes prior to the start of the rehearsal.

Final sessions will be live-streamed performances for family and friends.

We are aiming for one session to be devoted to online sectionals with members of the New York Philharmonic.

**Online Provision:** Rehearsals will be held online, as sectionals, in the event that Scarsdale is designated an Orange or Red Zone at any point during the program and until such designation is lifted.

**Eligibility:** All string students who auditioned and were accepted in the 2020-21 Festival Orchestra. Other interested string students may audition as well.

### Audition Information:

- An audition is only required for students who have not already auditioned and been accepted to the 2020-21 Festival Orchestra.
- Please scroll to the end of this document to find detailed audition information.

### Attendance Policy:

- Students who miss two rehearsals cannot perform in the final concert, but are welcome to be a part of each rehearsal up to the concert.
- There will be no refunds or prorated tuition for any missed rehearsals.

### Tuition

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- Comprehensive Students:
  - Extended Tier: **No extra charge.**
  - Core and Full Tiers:
    - The cost of adding the orchestra for students in the Core Tier is **\$250.**
    - The cost of adding either orchestra for students in the Full Tier is just **\$200.**
- A la carte students (those not enrolled in any level of our comprehensive program): **\$400**

## To Register:

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- Parents of students already accepted into the 2020-21 Festival Orchestra and parents of string students wishing to audition for the spring 2021 Festival Orchestra are invited to begin the registration process [here](#).

## FAQs

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### 1) Why consider restoring orchestral instruction this spring when there's still so much uncertainty about the course of the pandemic?

Most public health experts predict that COVID-19 vaccinations will not be broadly available to healthy adults and children until this summer and that K-12 education will not return to “normal” until sometime next fall.

This could well mean that students will miss up to *16 months* of training at a critical period in their development. Months matter in the realms of music education and child and youth development. Gaps of even a semester can significantly disadvantage students; longer gaps can be extraordinarily difficult to overcome. The harm children and youth are experiencing is real and impels us to respond.

### 2) What space will be used? What safety precautions will be in place?

Safety measures HBMS have undertaken have been informed by guidance from the [CDC](#), the [Performing Arts Aerosol Study](#), and the NYS Department of Health’s [Micro-Cluster Strategy](#), [Vaccination Program](#), and [Winter Plan](#). Drawing on these resources has enabled us to design group instructional programs we are confident can be conducted safely given the following precautions.

All activities will be conducted in our Joan Behrens Bergman Auditorium, which is served by an air handling system with MERV-13 filtration that completes 17 air changes per hour and provides a 50/50 mix of filtered and fresh air at all times. The air in our auditorium is fully filtered every four minutes and a full fresh air exchange takes just over seven minutes.

All music stands, chairs, tables and high-touch surfaces will be sanitized before and after each rehearsal.

All participants will be required to wear facemasks at all times. (This requirement prevents us from accommodating wind and brass students in orchestras until the pandemic has subsided.)

While the auditorium can accommodate more than 150 people under normal conditions, student participation will be capped at 16, with participants seated at least six feet apart, with just one student per stand, and no students sharing music or materials.

To reduce the risk posed by COVID-19 aerosols, rehearsals will be limited to a maximum of 45 minutes, with rooms not used for a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the beginning of each rehearsal to ensure at least three full air exchanges are completed in the auditorium prior to students’ arrival.

Health assessment forms will be completed by all participants prior to entering the rehearsal space.

No one with symptoms, possible exposure, etc., or with a member of their household in quarantine or isolation will be allowed to participate in person until cleared by health professionals.

In the event an individual—student, staff, faculty member, or family member—tests positive and is determined to have visited the facility during the period in which they may have been infectious, the administration will immediately consult with the Westchester County Department of Health to initiate contact tracing, notify the HBMS community, and take other protective measures as recommended by the Westchester County Department of Health.

To learn more, please consult [Hoff-Barthelson’s Safety Guidelines](#), which were most recently updated on December 9.

### 3) What must external conditions be in order for these programs to run?

With the above-described safety measures in place, programs will operate as scheduled. Because of the uncertainties regarding timeframes associated with NYS's five-phase [Vaccination Program](#), the programs are designed to be able to be run safely during Phase Two, and beyond, here in NYS.

The proposed program plans are designed so that the orchestras can operate safely even if Scarsdale is designated a Yellow Zone, as defined by NYS's [micro-cluster framework](#).

If at the time the program is scheduled to launch, or at any time following launch, our service area is designated an **Orange** or **Red Zone**, in which schools are required to shift all instruction online, in-person group instructional programs will shift to online instruction for the duration of such designation. Orchestras will host sectionals rather than full ensemble rehearsals any time they are required to be online.

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## Hoff-Barthelson Music School

### Spring 2021 Festival Orchestra Audition Requirements

- An audition is required only for students who have not already auditioned and been accepted to the 2020-21 Festival Orchestra.
- Auditions will be held live via Zoom on Sunday, March 14, 3-5 pm. The deadline to request an audition is end of day, Wednesday, March 10.
- Students wishing to audition must complete the [Registration Form](#), which includes an opportunity to select an audition time.
- Audition results will be communicated during the week of March 15.
- **Audition overview:** Auditions include a 2-minute presentation of a piece of your choice (NYSSMA Level 6 equivalent) that demonstrates your best technique and musicality and that is approved by your teacher; scales chosen by the conductor; and both 1st and 2nd prepared passages of *Schubert's Symphony No. 9*. Refer to the chart below for specific excerpt requirements by instrument. Results of the audition will determine placement within each section.

*Please download your Schubert part by clicking on the name of your instrument.*

Instrument	Scales	First Passage	Second Passage
<a href="#">Violin I</a>	One major scale chosen by the conductor and played from memory in 3 octaves.	1st Movement Letter A to the end of the page	N/A
<a href="#">Viola</a>	One major scale chosen by the conductor in 2 octaves by memory.	1st Movement Beginning to Letter A (play the top notes when the part is written as "divisi")	1st Movement b.119-151
<a href="#">Cello</a>	One major scale chosen by the conductor and played from memory in 3 octaves.	1st Movement b.17-b.29 (top notes)	1st Movement b.70-88
<a href="#">Bass</a>	One major scale chosen by the conductor and played from memory from the 2 octave scales e, f, f sharp, g only, and the rest of the 11 major scales in 1 octave only.	1st Movement 7th system, Arco to the end of the page	N/A