

Hoff-Barthelson Music School

Young People's Symphonette and Chamber Orchestra: Spring 2021

The Hoff-Barthelson Music School is delighted to announce the restoration of in-person orchestral instruction for string students in grades 2-10 beginning in March 2021 via the following programs, each of which offers a choice of Monday and Thursday night rehearsals.

Young People's Symphonette (*HB's elementary string orchestra for students in grades 2-6**)

Size: The Young People's Symphonette will be split into two cohorts, with a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16 students per cohort.

Schedule: Both cohorts will meet **in-person** for a total of 11 weekly sessions, beginning the first week of March and continuing through late May. Final sessions will be live-streamed performances for family and friends.

Cohort A will rehearse on **Mondays** from 5:30 to 6:15 pm, beginning March 1 and ending May 17 with students expected to arrive by 5:15 pm for tuning. There will be no rehearsal on Monday, March 29 (spring break).

Cohort B will rehearse on **Thursdays** from 5:30 to 6:15 pm, beginning March 4 and ending May 20, with students expected to arrive by 5:15 pm for tuning. There will be no rehearsal on Thursday, April 1 (spring break).

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.

*Students must be ready to study the last piece in Suzuki Book 1 (or its equivalent) and be able to read the notes on all four strings.

Chamber Orchestra (*HB's intermediate string orchestra for students in grades 6-10*)

Size: The Chamber Orchestra will be split into two cohorts, with a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16 students per cohort

Schedule: Both cohorts will meet **in-person** for a total of 11 weekly sessions, beginning the first week of March and continuing through the late May. Final sessions will be live-streamed performances for family and friends.

Cohort A will rehearse on **Mondays** from 7:00 to 7:45 pm, beginning March 1 and ending May 17, with students expected to arrive between 6:45 and 7:00 pm for tuning. There will be no rehearsal on Monday, March 29 (spring break).

Cohort B will rehearse on **Thursdays** from 7:00 to 7:45 pm, beginning March 4 and ending May 20, with students expected to arrive between 6:45 and 7:00 pm for tuning. There will be no rehearsal on Thursday, April 1 (spring break).

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.

Tuition

- Comprehensive Students:
 - Extended Tier: **No extra charge.**
 - Core and Full Tiers: The cost of adding either 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): **\$380**.

How to Register

Please begin the registration process for the Young People's Symphonette or the Chamber Orchestra [here](#). A member of our Student and Faculty Services Team will follow up with you to complete your registration.

FAQs

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.

If accurate, these estimates 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 has 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 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.