

# Hoff-Barthelson Music School Virtual Performance Program

## FALL SEMESTER 2020-21 FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-12 AND ADULTS

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### What is the Virtual Performance Program?

During this one-semester program (Fall 2020), students in grades 5-12, as well as adult students, develop ensemble skills while learning the entire process of creating a virtual ensemble performance that includes learning and recording their parts, synching, editing, and publishing final recordings on social media. Students will share work, exchange feedback, and develop the ability to navigate the challenges and opportunities of learning, creating, and sharing online performances with digital tools.

Students participate in two separate 45-minute classes each week:

- **Virtual Performance Technology Class** (15 weeks, September - January): recording; compiling and editing tracks; applying digital audio effects; synching with video; sharing files; and publishing final recordings on a variety of platforms.
- **Lab Ensemble** (12 weeks, October - January) of 4 to 6 students that will work together to learn a piece of music (classical or jazz) specifically selected for their age and level of advancement through 12 weekly ensemble coaching sessions during the fall semester.

By the end of the semester, each student will have produced their own version of a virtual performance by the ensemble. Virtual performances may be shared via social media with appropriate permissions. A panel of judges will select up to three videos for spotlighting on Hoff-Barthelson's YouTube Channel. Virtual performances completed prior to the Winter Holiday may also be shared with friends and family as gifts of the season.

### Interested in Participating or Have Questions?

To indicate your interest in the program, or if you would like to learn more, please fill out the pre-registration form [HERE](#). Completing this form does not commit you to participation but will prompt us to reach to you.

### How does it work?

- The Virtual Performance Program is comprised of two separate 45-minute classes - *Virtual Performance Technology*, and *Lab Ensemble* - that meet for 15 and 12 weeks respectively.
- **Ensembles:**
  - Students will be assigned to a lab ensemble by a faculty committee which will also assign a coach for the ensemble and determine the group's weekly rehearsal schedule.
  - Multiple sections of the *Virtual Performance Technology* class are available for families/students to choose from.
  - To ensure that students are placed in appropriate ensembles, we will conduct a placement process in early September. This is not an audition but an opportunity to assess each student's interests and level of advancement.
  - Ensembles may focus on instrumental or vocal music in classical, jazz, or popular styles.
  - Many different ensemble configurations are possible, including groups of all the same instrument (e.g., four pianos, five flutes), mixed-instrument ensembles with multiple instruments on a part, chamber music groups, vocal groups, and jazz ensembles.
- **Technology:**
  - Students will learn the entire process of engineering a final, polished virtual performance inclusive of audio and visual elements.

- Each student will develop their own individual version of a virtual performance for their ensemble; if time permits students may also work with their own solo repertoire to create recordings suitable for auditions or competitions.
- Technology used will include Reaper and Adobe Premiere.

### **When do classes take place?**

Music technology classes will be available most days of the week. For the convenience of students enrolled in Young People's Symphonette, Chamber Orchestra, Wind Ensemble or Festival Orchestra, Lab Ensemble sessions may be scheduled during these orchestras' standard rehearsal times as these programs will be on hiatus for the Fall Semester.

### **What is the value in having each student in an ensemble make their own edited version of the same ensemble selection?**

Audio and video engineering invite an astounding array of creative choices for the audio/video engineer. Each choice produces a distinct effect in the final product. Having each student work with the same materials allows for the opportunity to explore the actual impact of decisions made by the editor/engineer (the student). The inclusion of video leans towards a form of media art in which the sensibilities of the engineer lead to a distinct artistic statement.

### **What equipment must I have at home?**

Either a smartphone or computer that can record HD Video and Audio (all smartphones should have this) or a separate HD video camera and microphone.

### **My child is only entering 5th grade. Is this the right opportunity for her/him?**

We have learned to never underestimate the tech savviness of a 5<sup>th</sup> grader! Also, the tech class and the small ensemble will be 'fit' to the abilities and needs of students.

### **Do the small ensembles rehearse in-person?**

Not at the School, until further notice. However, students comfortable rehearsing together outside of the School may elect to do so, with the permission of their parents/guardians.

### **Does the technology portion of the class need to meet in-person?**

No. Thanks to the abilities of screen-sharing and remote-control teaching, we can teach your students and respond to questions on how to maneuver these programs from anywhere.

### **What does it cost to participate?**

The Virtual Performance Program comprises two separate, single-semester classes during the Fall 2020, and provides an exciting learning opportunity for students enrolled in an orchestra and/or chamber music ensemble while those programs are on hiatus.

- There is no additional cost for students enrolled in the Extended Tier (unlimited classes) of our Comprehensive Program.
- For students enrolled in both an orchestra and in chamber music, there is no cost to transfer your registration to the Virtual Performance Program for the Fall Semester. (And we will happily re-enroll you in your orchestra and the chamber music program for the Spring semester.)

- The maximum cost for students at the Full Tier (two classes) is \$200.
- The cost for students at the Core Tier (one class) is \$450, if you are adding the Virtual Performance Program on top of another class. If you choose to register for just the VPP, the additional cost will be just \$250.

## Will enrolling in the Virtual Performance Program Count toward my Honors Requirements?

Full participation in the Virtual Performance Program will fulfill Honor's students requirements for the Fall 2020—21.



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