

YOUTH *Orchestra* & OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES **JUNIOR STRING ENSEMBLE**

WELCOME TO THE JUNIOR STRING ENSEMBLE 2021 – 2022 SEASON

INFORMATION FOR MUSICIANS AND FAMILIES

Welcome to a new year with the Junior String Ensemble! This should be an exciting season. We all look forward to many wonderful performances by young musicians under the direction of our conductor, Debrah Devine. The following information will help you with what you need to know about playing in the Junior String Ensemble and your involvement in making the program grow successfully.

Table of Contents

Section 1 – **The Junior String Ensemble**

History	page 2
Debrah Devine	page 2
Leadership	page 3

Section 2 - **Rehearsals and Performances**

Schedule	page 4
Concert Dress	page 5

Section 3 - **Membership Requirements**

Attendance	page 5
Parent Volunteers	page 6
Tuition	page 6

Section 4 - **Other Information**

Communications	page 7
Professional Concerts	page 7
School Ensembles	page 7
Photography	page 7

The Junior String Ensemble

History

The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes proudly announces the Junior String Ensemble's seventeenth season! This group is conducted by Debrah Devine and aims to help the development of young string players. It provides advanced challenges and opportunities for young people who are enthusiastic about music and will serve as a feeder program for the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes. Students from Corning, Elmira, and the surrounding areas rehearse weekly to prepare three public concerts.

As important members of Corning-Elmira Musical Arts, Inc. (CEMA), Junior String Ensemble players represent the finest young talent in the Twin Tiers region. As such, they strive to practice and perform with the utmost of their ability, as exemplified by the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes and its Music Director.

CEMA is the Twin Tiers' foremost classical music organization composed of a professional orchestra, a community chorus, the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes and the Junior String Ensemble. Through these ensembles, CEMA strives to be the region's leading resource for classical music through innovative programming, quality performances, and meaningful education initiatives.

Debrah Devine

Violinist, Debrah Devine, studied Violin Performance at SUNY Fredonia and CUNY Brooklyn College with Cornelius Dufallo and Liang Chai. Her talent has placed her on stage with many organizations, such as the Binghamton Philharmonic, Catskill Symphony (Principal Second Violin), Colgate University Orchestra, Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra, and the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes (Assistant Concertmaster). During July, she serves as Principal Second Violin at the MostArts Festival.

As a chamber musician, Debrah has performed extensively with several groups, including Star Trio, and is a member of the Castalia Quartet based in Oneonta.

A dedicated pedagogue in the Cooperstown and Oneonta region, Debrah has been teaching violin and viola in Upstate NY for 18 years. Since 2016 she has been the conductor of the Preparatory Orchestra of the Little Delaware Youth Ensemble in Oneonta, NY. In January 2017, she founded an amateur string orchestra for adults in Morris, NY. In September 2018, in partnership with the Little Delaware Youth Ensemble, she established a successful string program at Riverside Elementary in Oneonta.

Debrah accepted the position as the Junior String Ensemble Conductor in 2020, while previous JSE Conductor, Gary Chollet, takes a sabbatical.

Leadership

The individuals listed below are responsible for all functions of the Junior String Ensemble. The following contact information may be useful to you:

- Debrah Devine, Conductor
Phone: 607-376-1730
Email: debrahdevine@gmail.com
- Corning-Elmira Musical Arts Office
49 Bridge Street
PO Box 15
Corning, NY 14830
Phone: 607-936-2873
Email: info@osfl.org
Website: www.osfl.org
Hours: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday
- Karen Dusek, Managing Director
Phone: 607-936-2873
Email: karen@osfl.org

Rehearsals and Performances

Schedule

Rehearsals

Rehearsals take place most Sunday afternoons from September through May. Our rehearsals typically start at 4:00 pm and run to 5:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads, with additional rehearsals scheduled on concert weekends. First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads is located at 2943 Westinghouse Road, Horseheads, NY 14845. There is usually a break halfway into each rehearsal. Drinks and snacks will be provided by a parent volunteer.

***** This is VERY important. Students are required to stay on the premises during rehearsals.** In other words, **they may not leave the church grounds to go elsewhere during break.** OSFL has insurance for the rehearsal/concert locations only. OSFL cannot be responsible for the safety of a child who leaves the chaperoned areas against our policies.

Required Dates

You will receive a full schedule early in the season. You must contact the conductor about missing rehearsals as early as possible. If contacting the OSFL office, remember that the office has regular business hours. Leaving a message on a Saturday before rehearsal would **not** be helpful because no one would be there. Please plan ahead.

Rehearsal Procedures

1. Musicians should plan to arrive at rehearsals several minutes early. This means early enough to be seated, warmed up and ready to begin by 4:30 pm. If you arrive at 4:30 pm, you are late!
2. Always have a #2 or softer pencil, with eraser, at each rehearsal. If you make marks in your music in pen, you will be charged for the parts.
3. Bring your music stand to each rehearsal.

** Please remember that we are guests at our rehearsal and concert locations. As such, it is our responsibility to leave these spaces clean and undamaged.*

Concert Weekends

The Youth Orchestra and Junior String Ensemble perform three public concerts during the season. The 4 rehearsals (previous Sunday and concert weekend rehearsals) directly preceding each performance are mandatory.

A Typical Concert Weekend

- Friday – 6 to 8 PM, Full ensemble rehearsal
- Saturday – 11 AM to 1 PM, Full ensemble rehearsal
- Sunday – 2 to 3:15 PM, Full ensemble dress rehearsal
- Sunday – 4 PM, Concert

Concert locations vary during the season and move throughout the Corning-Elmira Regional Area. Dates and venues will be announced at the beginning of the season.

Members with other activities that may be in conflict with this schedule should plan early to make the necessary adjustments.

Our concerts are open to the public. Please invite as many people as possible to the concert and help to publicize the event. You may contact the OSFL office at any time to receive flyers that can be posted for the concerts.

Concert Dress

***** Please go over this section with your student.**

It is very important that we play like a team and LOOK like a team as well. Please make sure that when you come to a concert that you are wearing the appropriate concert attire.

Students should dress in “Concert Black & White,” which consists of

- Black pants or skirts (at least knee length)
- White dress shirt or blouse (no sleeveless tops)
- Black dress shoes with black socks

Membership Requirements

Attendance

Every player has a responsibility to attend all rehearsals and practice consistently at home.

- 1 “Rehearsals” are for growing as a group and addressing group musical issues. **“Practice” is what occurs at home.**
- 2 Regular attendance at rehearsals and consistent practice of assigned music at home are crucial if our ensemble is to perform at our very best.
- 3 When you join the Junior String Ensemble you are making a commitment to your fellow musicians to work together and create a quality ensemble.

Absences

- 1 If you know about the absence in advance, please notify the conductor. **This is the option that is most preferred.**
- 2 If you know in advance but after the preceding rehearsal, please email or call the conductor as soon as possible.
- 3 If your absence is due to an emergency or illness that day, please bring a parent’s note to the next rehearsal.

While at rehearsals...

- 1 Members should always be respectful of leaders and adults.
- 2 Members are expected to help maintain the cleanliness of their surroundings
- 3 And, of course, to behave in a friendly manner towards their peers.

We are all here to aid our growth and development as musicians, but we are also here to enjoy our time together. Please help to make this a good experience for everyone!

Your cooperation with these policies will help us all make great music. If you have any questions, please call the office.

Parent Volunteers

Parents will be asked to take chaperone/snack duty at rehearsals on a rotating basis. It is very important that each parent fulfills the duties listed below on their assigned date. Please be sure to add the date(s) you are scheduled to your calendar **immediately!** If any parent anticipates difficulty fulfilling this role, please contact the office. If your assigned date is inconvenient, please arrange to switch with another parent on the schedule using the ensemble contact information sheet.

Duties include:

- Stay on-site for the duration of the rehearsal to deal with unexpected circumstances.
- Bring drinks and snacks for 20 musicians, to be served at a break in the middle of rehearsal. This responsibility will happen twice during the season on assigned dates.
- Make sure the rehearsal space is cleaned up, furniture and supplies are restored to standard arrangement, and the lights are turned off. The conductors will take care of locking the door and setting the alarm.
- Remain on-site until the last musician has been picked up to ensure that everyone gets home safely.

It is important for all of us to remember that we are guests at our rehearsal spaces. If you are unable to fulfill your duties on the date assigned **and** you are not able to find a replacement, contact the office.

Tuition

Each member must pay tuition of \$180 for the season. This non-refundable fee is due by September 30, 2021. Tuition may be paid by credit card online (<https://www.osfl.org/youth-ensemble-auditions--tuition.html>) or by phone, or by check mailed to the office.

We want to make certain that financial concerns do not preclude any musician from participating in this enriching program and are willing to work with those with difficulties. Please contact Karen Dusek, Managing Director, for tuition assistance or to take advantage of our two-installment payment plan.

Payments after September 30 will accrue a \$25 late fee for each month. The late due dates are as follows:

- Oct. 1 - Oct. 31: \$205
- Nov. 1 - Nov. 28: \$230
- Dec. 1 - Dec. 31: \$255
- Any time after the 1st of January: \$280

Other Information

Communications

A complete list of contact information for all Junior String Ensemble members will be distributed to the entire group to facilitate communication. **Much of the communication between the office and Junior String Ensemble members will be by email.** Those who do not have email access will receive messages verbally or in print copy. Please check your email frequently for information, particularly to check for changes in rehearsal plans. We will develop a “telephone tree” to contact the group for emergency cancellations of rehearsals. The emergency telephone tree will only be used for last-minute cancellations that occur on the day of a rehearsal or event.

Professional Concerts

Observation of a professional orchestra is particularly helpful to developing musicians. We are very fortunate to have an excellent musical organization in our backyard. Members of the Junior String Ensemble are strongly encouraged to attend concerts of the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes. Tickets for students under 18 are free or a student subscription may be purchased for \$30 for all four concerts with an adult subscription. Contact the Orchestra office for details (607-936-2873). Special discounts may be offered to JSE students and their families throughout the season.

School Ensembles

We strongly encourage all students that have the opportunity to participate in their school band and/or orchestra take advantage of that opportunity. By being involved in your school’s music organization you can continue to grow as a musician and help the Junior String Ensemble! JSE is meant to be an added experience in furthering your child’s musical development. It is not meant to be a substitute for school participation. We highly support the school music programs surrounding us as well as their teachers.

Photography

Please be aware that from time to time photographs will be taken of the Junior String Ensemble, which may, at the Managing Director’s discretion, be used for publicity in print media and on the Internet. Please complete and submit the attached Photo & Video Release Form to the office.