

## Handbook for Students and Parents

Welcome to the Denver School of the Arts Orchestra. Congratulations! You are here because you have demonstrated great passion, skill and commitment to musical performance. The purpose of this program is to provide you with the opportunity to continue to improve your musicianship by playing excellent music with outstanding student musicians, perform in local and national stages, and work with the dedicated DSAO orchestra faculty.

**Important: If you are not currently receiving the newsletter, go to <http://www.dsaorchestra.org/> On the upper right hand side of the page click on **Subscribe to our Mail List.****

**The newsletter and the website are our official forms of communication. Please read each newsletter and check our website <http://www.dsaorchestra.org/> frequently!** The newsletter comes once a week (on weekends) but sometimes they are sent more frequently. **You are responsible for all the information in the newsletter and website, including all assignments, meetings, concerts and any instructions regarding DSAO activities.**

This year our orchestras have once again been invited to participate in prestigious festivals and special performances at the state and national levels: <http://dsapresents.org/dsao/honorsawards/>. Please become familiar with these events. There will be some meetings and additional concerts scheduled in conjunction with these events so again, please keep track of all orchestra activities at: <http://www.dsaorchestra.org/> and the newsletter.

It is also very important to observe all deadlines in terms of required forms and fees that arise throughout the year. We have an amazing parents' group: the Orchestra Family Association (OFA). The OFA works closely with our excellent DSAO administrative assistant, Ms. Terrie Tyree. They handle all trips, and other special events the orchestra is involved in. **They can only be effective with everyone's cooperation and adherence to orchestra procedures and deadlines.**

If you have general questions about forms, procedures, events etc. please contact Ms. Terrie Tyree at: [tyreeworld@centurylink.net](mailto:tyreeworld@centurylink.net)

If you are able and willing to volunteer with OFA please contact Ms. Melinda Kunzler at [melinda\\_kunzler@email.com](mailto:melinda_kunzler@email.com)

If you have a question about OFA activities please contact OFA president Ms. Alenka Han at [alenka720@gmail.com](mailto:alenka720@gmail.com)

If you have specific questions/concerns about your child regarding **classroom or musical issues** please contact Dr. Lasansky at: [Enrique\\_Lasansky@dpsk12.org](mailto:Enrique_Lasansky@dpsk12.org)

As a member of a performance-oriented organization with very high standards, you must follow certain procedures and expectations. Most of the requirements are listed below.

One of the highlights of the DSAO experience is the ability to work with professional musicians. All of our guest artists are fabulous, carefully chosen musicians that work with students in various groups such as sectionals and chamber music coaching. They lead in-depth, specialized sessions, in order to complement the director's work in large group settings.

**In order to fund these artists we are totally dependent on 100% parent participation in DSA's "Fill the Gap Campaign":**

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E201119&id=24>

**If you have not made your contribution for 2018-19, please visit the link above and contribute at whatever level is possible for you. We need to have 100% participation in order to be successful!**

DSAO will provide students with the experience you need for the next level, including professional orchestras and top college programs. And if you are not planning to be a professional musician the experience of playing in a great orchestra will serve you well in virtually all other fields!

**Reminder: Each student and her/his parents or legal guardians are required to read and agree to the terms presented in this handbook.** The *handbook acknowledgement contract* at the end of this document can be turned in at the Back to School night on 8/23. Otherwise please e-mail it to Administrative Assistant Terrie Tyree: tyreeworld@centurylink.net by 8/25/18. This form will constitute the first assignment and it is worth 200 pts if it's turned in on time. If you have any questions regarding the information contained here, please feel free to contact Dr. Lasansky.

Hope to see you on Back to School Night on the evening of 8/23! Looking forward to another great year!

### **Thank you!**

Dr. Enrique Leon Lasansky  
Denver School of the Arts  
7111 Montview Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80220

Office phone: 1-720-424-1735

Fax: 1-720-424-1845

Office location: room A106C, behind the circulation desk in the library

Office hours: Tue, Wed, Thu 2:40-3:20

DSAO Website: dsaaorchestra.org

Email: Enrique\_Lasansky@dpsk12.org

### ***Private Instruction***

**All DSAO students are expected to take private lessons during their enrollment at DSA.** It will be extremely difficult to meet the demands of the DSAO program as well as develop proper technique used in orchestras without private lessons. If your child does not have a private teacher, **please contact Dr. Lasansky immediately** to assist you in finding a teacher. In addition, a limited number of scholarships may be available in case of financial hardship.

### ***Supply List***

In order to assure the successful completion of the new school year in orchestra, these items are required:

All supplies must be purchased by August 25 , 2018.

cello board/strap (required for cello, optional for bass)

soft cleaning cloth

rosin

mute

**\*spare set of strings**

*Dr. Enrique Leon Lasansky, Director*

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luggage tag – attached to the outside of your instrument case  
3x5 index card w/name and contact info, placed inside of case  
tuner  
4 pencils with erasers (no pens)  
one 2-inch black 3-ring binder, with clear front sleeve for a title page  
writing paper, 3-hole punched, placed in binder

## **Grading Policy**

### **Product: 55%**

This grading category primarily reflects your knowledge of the music we will be performing. You will be assessed (usually by playing tests) at least once per marking period in accordance with the performance schedule. Look for “student assignments” and “resources” on our website to know what is expected of you in orchestra class. **It is an expectation of all DSAO students that once music is distributed or posted on the internet you will learn your part independently, as quickly as possible. This means you have homework in DSAO every day as there is not limit on how well you can know your parts.**

Grading for product component:

Playing and Chair Tests: 400 pts.each. This includes the preliminary placement audition. We will use a rubric for playing tests. These will provide you with information about your strengths and areas for improvements. We will also implement a chair challenge system developed by students on our Orchestra Council. **If you are not satisfied with your score on a test you are encouraged to re-take the test for a higher score (not a change in seating). The important thing is to learn your part to the best of your ability.** Your chair assignment for concerts will of course, depend on your playing tests. However, during most of the rehearsal process we will be rotating seating so that students have a chance to experience the orchestra from different vantage points.

Written Assignments: 200 pts. each These may be based on listening assignments. **You are required to listen to multiple performances of the pieces we are playing within a week of their inclusion on our performance schedule.** This is something you must take care of on your own time.

Final Exams: 10% (Product)

1. First Semester- Final (musical terms)
2. Second Semester-Jury (2 scales and solo piece)

## SECTIONALS ON THURSDAYS

Orchestra students will meet separately with their own sections to work out bowings, fingerings and learn the parts in terms of pitches and rhythms. **Bowings are the responsibility of the section leaders and should be completed and distributed to all the players within the first week of choosing a piece for a concert.** Sectionals are usually run by Master Mentors and/or student leaders. Students will be graded on their level of preparation and ability to focus during these sessions.

**Process Grade: 35%**

DPS definition of Process Component: “Reflects the intentional academic behaviors that support 21<sup>st</sup>. Century Skills and Readiness Competencies (invention, collaboration, critical thinking and reasoning, self-direction, and information literacy that lead to supporting the final product)”.

In orchestra class the above constitutes the class participation grade and is interpreted as follows:

1. All orchestra students are expected to contribute to class discussions and demonstrate an awareness of different orchestral parts, not just their own part. Make sure you listen to various versions of recorded performances of every piece we play. This is the only way you will be able to form a solid impression of the piece. You are always expected to listen to the entire orchestra in rehearsals as well as what is said in class by the conductor or other students. **A basic familiarity with the orchestral score**, is a class requirement and will count heavily in your process grade. If you have trouble locating a score, please ask Dr. Lasansky to help you.

2. During rehearsals you must be attentive and ready to play with the conductor at all times. **Your posture, punctuality and general attitude will contribute heavily to your class participation.**

3. In order to learn you must be “self-directed”. This means *you need take the initiative for your own learning*. This is one of the most important aspects of being a musician. Can you set your personal playing goals? Can you evaluate your playing objectively and make the necessary adjustments?

4. Do you understand musical terminology (content language) and can you use it to communicate your thoughts about a piece (orally and in writing) , as well as understand directions from the composer or conductor?

Process grades:

1. 50 pts. per week throughout grading period.
2. 50 pts. per sectional (this is a preparation grade-not a comprehensive evaluation of your playing)
3. Self-assessment : One at the start of the semester and another one at the end. These are worth 200 pts. each.
4. Concerts: 200 pts. each

You are required to attend the following concerts and possibly complete assignments based on these concerts:

1. **All DSAO concerts. High school students must be in the audience for all middle school concerts and vice versa. No exceptions please. This applies to both concerts in each cycle. DSAO students must be supportive of each other and also practice being listeners and audience members.**
2. **All Chamber Concerts.**
3. **Two (or more) Senior Recitals**

**All of these dates are available on our calendar: <http://dsapresents.org/dsao/performances/>**

You are encouraged to attend as many concerts as you can attend in the Denver metropolitan community. Keep in mind that only knowing the music you are required to play, will not give you the foundation you

need to be a complete musician. However, I will consider this an activity that you will do on your own free will.

Again, lateness to class, eating in class, behavior that undermines the rehearsal process (such as talking, poor posture, using your cell phone, disengaged playing etc). and lack of required materials will lower your process grade! Failure to attend a concert will result in zero points awarded for the concert. Leaving a concert early (see above requirements for concert attendance) will result in 50 Pts. being deducted from your concert grade (200 pts.)

## **Auditions, Juries**

Please be prepared for a placement audition on 8/25-8/27 2018. Requirements for the audition can be found in the newsletter.

In addition to playing/chair tests interspersed during the semester there will be a final jury at the end of the second semester. This jury will be required of all students. Requirements will consist of scales, and a different solo piece that was used at the preliminary audition. Seniors are required to present a recital during their final DSAO semester.

## **Attendance in class and concerts:**

**Students are required to be at all class rehearsals, possible additional dress rehearsals and concerts.** It may be the case that at some point, there will be a DSAO concert (particularly chamber music) that you will not be playing in. **You are still required to attend the concert.** One of DSA's strengths is the interaction among students. Students have great camaraderie and often work in groups where they learn a great deal from each other. We are a team of musicians, not an aggregate of individuals who are getting solely personal benefits from the program. Remember your major is in Orchestra. Although your individual progress is a major part of the class our main goal is the success of the entire orchestra. Our goal is to make music as beautifully and as passionately as we can as a group. Supporting all students by attending every DSAO performance event is extremely important and a requirement of this class (see above). **It is strongly encouraged that at least one parent or guardian from every household be present at every concert.** Students need parental support in order to play at their highest potential. At every concert all students must check in with Ms. Tyree in order to receive credit for concert attendance.

The vast majority of events are already on the calendar. Please mark those in your personal calendars as soon as possible. Please do not schedule family events, college visits or any other non-DSA events during concert dates. DSAO is a performing organization and DSAO students are "pre-professionals" that must adhere to the obligations that are customary in the profession. **The only valid reasons for not being at DSAO concerts are severe illness and family emergencies. All families have signed a contract with DSA that requires attendance at all DSAO concerts and special events. In addition DSAO concerts always take precedence over any outside organizations you may belong to. If you have a conflict not covered in the above description, please contact Dr. Lasansky at least one month before the event in order to discuss the situation.**

**Please buy tickets for orchestra and chamber music concerts online, well before the concert.** This way you will be guaranteed a seat and you will not need to stand in a line for a long time. In addition we will be able to start the concert on time.

## **CLASS RULES AND EXPECTATIONS**

1. Arrive on time and be in your seat, ready to play (know your part and have all equipment and music ready) two minutes after the official beginning of class.
2. Observe "The Four Agreements" (will be discussed in class)
3. Raise your hand to speak in class.
4. Always ask for permission to leave the room. Do not leave the room unless it's absolutely necessary.

5. No food in the orchestra room unless authorized by the director.
6. Do not use your phone or other electronic devices during class unless we are on a break or you have been given permission.
7. Keep the room clean and tidy. Immediately after the rehearsal put your own chair and stand away.
8. If you are in class you are expected to play and to listen attentively to the rehearsal. If you don't feel well enough to play please take an absence or see the nurse.

### **DPS/DSA DISCIPLINE LADDER**

#### **1.WARNING IN IC**

#### **2. LEVEL A IN IC PARENT NOTIFICATION**

#### **3. LEVEL B IN IC PARENT NOTIFICATION**

#### **4. LEVEL C IN IC PARENT NOTIFICATION**

### **REFERRAL**

### **Arts Probation**

Orchestra majors are required to maintain an 80% average or higher in orchestra each semester. In the event a student receives a 79% or lower in orchestra, DSA Administration will place him or her on Arts Probation, a meeting is scheduled and an intervention plan is implemented. Parent(s)/guardian(s), student, teachers, and a member of DSA Administration sign the plan, which outlines expectations, strategies, and procedures designed to assist the student in raising their grade. This approach may seem harsh, but it is intended to help students succeed at DSA. It is because we care and want each student to thrive at our school that we have devised the probation watch.

### **Academic Probation**

Orchestra students are of course also required to maintain good grades in their academic classes. Please see the DSA Student Handbook for details.

### **Classroom Attendance Policy**

**Tardies** – In order to run a professional level organization you must be in your seat with all your materials two minutes after the beginning of the class period:

**Sickness**-if you are sick please stay home and take care of yourself or go see the school nurse. If you are in class you are always expected to play as a member of a professionally-run orchestra. **If you need to leave the room for any reason during class you must ask Dr. Lasansky for permission.**

**Absences** – Students are permitted to make up work missed during an *excused* absence. Excused absences are determined by the school administration. It is *the student's* responsibility to contact Dr. Lasansky to obtain make-up work. Unexcused absences will be reported to the office and dealt with according to school policy. Please see the school handbook for more information.

### **Music**

In most cases, the music will be available on our website: <http://www.dsaorchestra.org/students/#>

Password is Beethoven2017! . **You are responsible for printing your own parts and having them at every rehearsal. Do not depend on anyone else to bring your music to rehearsal. Failure to have your music will result in a process grade of zero for the week.**

### **Instrument Maintenance**

Each student is responsible for keeping his or her instrument in proper working order **at all times**.

You are required to keep a set of spare strings in your case (see the orchestra supply list) at all times, in case of an emergency string break. If your instrument is in the shop being repaired please have a secondary instrument ready to play during rehearsal. If this is not possible, please see Dr. Lasansky, in advance of any situation in which you may find yourself without an instrument, so that he may help you find a temporary solution.

### **Instrument Storage Lockers**

There are instrument storage lockers in the hallway outside the orchestra room where students may store their instruments during the school day. Cellos and basses are stored in the orchestra room directly. Lockers will be assigned the first week of school. All instruments must be properly identified with a luggage tag on the outside of the case and a 3x5 index card on the inside of the case – this includes all rental instruments. Instrument storage lockers are for instruments and music only. They are not for personal storage since space is an issue.

### **Principal Positions and Seating**

Principal players are chosen by audition and playing tests. Therefore principal assignments may change throughout the year. Principals must be exemplary members of the orchestra. In addition, they should arrive at rehearsals early, work together and be responsible for bowings, and lead their sections. There will be a new challenge procedure announced in class this year.

### **Chamber Music Class**

This year the chamber class will offer alternative string repertoire opportunities as well as the classic repertoire.

All orchestra students should have chamber music experience. Chamber music fosters the development of personal responsibility (usually there's only one person on a part), listening skills and social skills. **If you have not participated in chamber music at DSA it is highly recommended that you sign up for this class.**

### **Festivals**

DSAO high school students are encouraged to audition and participate in at least one of the two festivals listed below. Please go to the respective websites for these events to inquire about audition information, travel, etc.

Western States Honor Orchestra Festival: 9-12 <http://www.unco.edu/arts/music/WSHOF/default.html>

Colorado All State Orchestra: 10-12 <http://coloradoallstateorchestra.org/>

Information about High School CityWide Orchestra is forthcoming.

All DSAO middle school students must participate in CityWide Orchestra:

### **DSAO Dress Code for Performances – Middle and High School**

All orchestra members are required to purchase appropriate concert attire; the cost of which is borne by the student and/or parent/guardian. Failure to adhere by these guidelines will result in lowering of your grade.

#### **Boys' Dress Guidelines**

- 🕒 Black tuxedo
- 🕒 White dress shirt – clean and pressed!
- 🕒 Black socks and black dress shoes

- ⌚ Black cummerbund or black tuxedo vest
- ⌚ Suspenders are permitted, but must be either black or white
- ⌚ Black bow tie

### Girls' Dress Guidelines

⌚ Plain, black, ⌚ Discrete length black skirt or black dress slacks with a black top. ⌚ Black or neutral hosiery and black dress shoes (No open-toed shoes or sandals)

⌚ No plunging necklines, rising slits, low-cut backs, or displays of midriff. Dress and skirt slits must not exceed six inches in length. Wear a slip if the outfit requires it.

Students will need to purchase a DSAO t-shirt to wear for fundraising functions, special days at DSA, and service projects, as instructed by Dr. Lasansky.

## ***Orchestra Family Association***

The OFA is the parent support organization created to support the DSAO and its director in two primary ways:

1. Volunteering.
2. Fundraising.

### **Volunteering**

All DSAO parents, guardians, friends and family members are invited to support the DSAO by volunteering their time and skills through the Orchestra Family Association.

### **Fundraising**

The DSAO director and the OFA have identified two general needs for raising additional funds for the program:

1. To offset some of the program's general expenses, such as music, equipment, supplies, and other related expenses.
2. <http://www.dsaorchestra.org/students/#> To pay for or subsidize the cost of DSAO program fees and travel;

The Orchestra Family Association will be hosting various fundraising activities throughout the school year designed to meet all of the above-listed financial needs of our program. Please look for information through DSAO Newsletter and the orchestra website.

### **CONCERT SCHEDULE**

Please see the DSAO Calendar *of Events* on the website.

## ***DSAO Handbook Acknowledgement Contract 2018-19***

I agree to follow all the requirements and procedures of the DSAO as stated in this handbook.

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Student name

Date

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Parent name

Date

You do not need to scan your signature. Please e-mail this contract to Ms. Tyree at: [tyreeworld@centurylink.net](mailto:tyreeworld@centurylink.net) by 8/25/17