SYLLABUS: TUSCALOOSA YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Rehearsals: Mondays – 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm - Instrumental Rehearsal Room, Moody Music Bldg., University of Alabama Campus. Auditions: Fall = Last Monday of August, 5:30 p.m., Excerpt PDF files on CMS page, scales and sight-reading. Check-in starts at 5:00 p.m., room 204 (Instrumental Rehearsal Room). Auditions: Spring = only open chairs will be filled for spring semester. Questions: email Dr. Weigel.

Prof. Jenny Gregoire, Faculty Member of Record
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Dr. Jane Weigel, Director
Community Music School
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OFFICE HOURS: by appointment
TEXT: Assigned orchestral repertoire

Ensemble Description/Objectives: The ensemble will provide experience in performing orchestral literature and is open to any high school or University student through audition. This ensemble is conducted by School of Music faculty members with some assistance from graduate conducting majors.

Outline of Topics: Throughout the semester, the following skills will have been emphasized:

1. Development of tonal concepts in the ensemble
2. Development of intonation in the ensemble
3. Ensemble rhythmic accuracy and awareness
4. Ensemble balance
5. Orchestral accompaniment styles
6. Articulation in the ensemble
7. Proper musical and acoustical seating arrangements

Ensemble Requirements: Everyone will be evaluated on the following aspects:

1. Rhythm
2. Pitch
3. Note accuracy
4. Musicality
5. Tempo maintenance

In addition, more emphasis will be placed on the specific disciplines listed below:

STRINGS
1. Proper articulation - Bow strokes
2. Correct bowings
3. Proper dynamics

WINDS/BRASS
1. Proper articulation
2. Blend and/or balance of sound

Expectations: The Tuscaloosa Youth Orchestra will act, in every way, similar to University and professional orchestras.
1. Everyone should be seated at the exact time of rehearsal for the Concertmaster will ask for the tuning note at that exact time.
2. Students will prepare music outside of class.
3. On concerts, when the orchestra stands to receive applause, it will turn to face the audience and the members will smile.
4. Folders must be taken after every rehearsal. The Orchestra Assistant will decide on what happens with folders after concerts. Students will be assessed a $25 fee if the ensemble music and folder is not returned to the CMS office within 2 days of a concert.
5. Extra rehearsals called by the conductor will be treated as normal rehearsals in terms of attendance.

**Grading Policy:** For University of Alabama students enrolling in MUA 169, 269, 369, 469, section 023, 1 credit hour, in addition to rehearsal preparation, grades will be earned by the degree of mastering the above listed skills. This may be tested through solo performances for the conductor and in public performances. There will be no written exams. There are no grades given for participating high school students except for UA Early College participants (strings only).

**Attendance Policy:** Two unexcused absences will result in a lowered term grade. Every unexcused absence after is a lowered letter grade. If you will be absent, you MUST provide a substitute player. An unexcused absence from a concert will result in a failing grade for the semester. Excused absences are given for illnesses with doctor’s excuse, death in the family, or other such life situations. Attendance will be taken by the assigned Orchestra Assistant. If you have concerns with being tardy, please speak with the assigned Orchestra Assistant. Every second tardy will count as an absence.

If enrolling for NON-credit (ie through CMS), the following fees apply and must be paid by the first rehearsal each semester:

FALL
- **Strings:** $125/semester (14 rehearsals/concert) August 28 – November 26.
- **Wind/Brass/Perc:** $75/semester (7 rehearsals/concert) October 23-November 26.

CMS scholarship assistance may be available upon request – contact Dr. Weigel.

**Concerto Competition:** An audition date for TYO Concerto Competition will be during the first TYO rehearsal in February. Any student enrolled in TYO who would like to audition must get approval of their selected work from Dr. Richardson in advance of the audition. Works must be available on IMSLP.org or in the UA School of Music library. One TYO member and one CMS piano student will be selected to perform a movement with the orchestra on the spring concert. Interested students must sign up for a time no later than 2 weeks prior to the audition date. Email Dr. Weigel for an assigned time. Students must play their audition work with an accompanist. If you need contact info. for area accompanists, email us. Memorization of your work is optional but strongly advised.

**Conducting Assistants:** The conductor may allow TYO as a lab experience for SOM graduate conducting students. These students may conduct part of a rehearsal and/or on the concert. School of Music faculty may use TYO as a mentor experience for select SOM music majors. Conducting Assistant contact information will be made available at the first meeting of the session.

**Weekly rehearsal updates** are posted on Facebook. Like “Tuscaloosa Youth Orchestra”. Be sure to confirm the concert schedule before enrolling.

CMS office = 348 – 6741. Dr. Weigel’s email = jweigel@music.ua.edu