



SMART ORCHESTRA MEMBERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

The following items are requirements of membership in the SMART Orchestra:

1. **Attend rehearsals regularly.** For the continued development and efficiency of the orchestra and to ensure the quality of performances members are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals. Members may be excused from performances if they are not able to perform their part adequately or have not attended enough rehearsals to know what the music demands or what the Artistic Director expects from the orchestra. Musicians with only one person on a part must ensure a substitute is able to attend in their place when they are absent. To ensure all parts are covered, any absences must be reported to the Artistic Director within 48 hours before a scheduled rehearsal begins.
2. **Be ready to start on time.** The first down-beat of the rehearsal begins promptly at 2:00 PM, so members must give themselves ample time to travel to rehearsal, unpack, complete any preliminary tuning and/or adjustments to their instrument, review any notes from the previous rehearsal, make any necessary corrections to the repertoire, arrange the repertoire for rehearsal order, and warm up. If members arrive late, it decreases the overall productivity of the orchestra and may disrupt specific sections and/or the conductor. Members that know they will arrive late to a rehearsal must notify the Artistic Director as soon as possible (preferably within 48 hours before the scheduled rehearsal begins) and must be seated and ready to perform with as minimal a disturbance to the orchestra as possible.
3. **Be prepared to learn.** Members must attend rehearsals with an open and eager attitude, ready to remain attentive and curious about the selected repertoire. Members may have different interpretations, bowings, fingerings, or suggestions regarding the music, so it is to the benefit of the entire orchestra that each member understand why and how the section leaders, interns, or Artistic Director requests and expects the music to be performed. Members with comments regarding rehearsal or performance decisions should schedule an appointment through the proper chain of command starting with the section leader and finally with the Artistic Director.
4. **Stay engaged.** Members have the intensive responsibility to perform their best at all times for the benefit of the orchestra. Members must stay focused on the goals of the rehearsal and prepare themselves and/or their sections to the high degree of quality that the Artistic Director requires. Should a portion of rehearsal not focus on a specific member or their section, that member may take advantage of that time and quietly prepare themselves for their parts (e.g., shadow bow, finger difficult passages, etc.), all while staying attentive to the directions other sections are receiving.

5. **Be professional, polite, and helpful.** An orchestra is made up of individuals who come together to generate a common experience for its audience through music. The individual opinions and differences of the orchestra's members are important to SMART, but these values must never interfere with the orchestra's progress, performances, and/or the development of SMART's musicians. While members must be prepared to take constructive criticism, when appropriate, they must also be engaged with their colleagues and actively promote a positive sense of morale while providing a strong foundation for musical growth. Commenting negatively on an individual's personal beliefs or background is strictly prohibited and may result in termination of membership without refund of any membership dues submitted.
6. **Be mindful of your environment and materials.** It is the responsibility of each member to keep their instruments in optimal playing condition and to make repairs or adjustments to their equipment as needed. Additionally, all members must respect any printed materials provided to them for the purpose of performing with SMART and ensure their safe return at the appointed time. Musicians must keep their sections tidy and strike all chairs and stands after rehearsals or as instructed by the Artistic Director.
7. **Be dressed appropriately.** Members must attend performances in the required outfits and come to rehearsals in comfortable, yet productive attire. For men, black slacks, a black long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt, black shoes, and black socks are required. For women, long black skirts, dresses, or pants, a black long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt, black shoes, and black socks or hose are required. Headwear is not allowed at any performance unless otherwise indicated by the Artistic Director.
8. **Stay updated and maintain your membership.** While SMART's Board of Directors will assist in keeping all members updated with the latest information on the organization, it is the responsibility of each member to stay updated with any rehearsal/performance changes or requirements as they relate to creating a productive event with the orchestra. Members should utilize the SMART website (www.smartorchestra.org), printed materials, emails, and/or verbal announcements to receive any applicable news or changes with the organization. Members must also ensure their membership application and latest information is on file with the Executive Director at the beginning of each season. Additionally, all members must ensure they have met the requirements for complete membership activation through submission of all forms and membership dues.

For questions or comments, please contact us at:

Christopher T. F. Hanson

Artistic Director

artisticdirector@smartorchestra.org

832-866-8355

Amy Lou Cox

Executive Director

executivedirector@smartorchestra.org

254-424-5987