

09-17-09 Rehearsal Notes

GENERAL NOTES

ICHE PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITY

For almost as long as the WSHSB has existed, our director has greatly desired to have the band perform at the annual ICHE Conference. Their attendance is around 2,500 homeschooling parents, which would give the band tremendous exposure and recruiting opportunities. While requests were made in the past the director's hope has not yet been realized. However, this year may be the year. The ICHE conference will be held at Calvary Church in Naperville on June 3 – 5. We are in the early stages of talking through the details of performing there. As things become finalized we will pass them on.

ARRIVAL TIMES

Parents, we very much appreciate your attention to having your students arrive at band on time every week. Cadet band starts at 5:15 while the three concert bands each start on the hour at 6, 7 and 8. **Everyone should arrive 15 minutes prior to their band's start time.** This is especially important for all percussionists in **all four bands** including Cadets. Percussionists need to assist with ALL the instrument set-up necessary for their band, BEFORE practice time begins.

An exception to the arrival times for Junior, Senior and Symphonic would exist for anyone whose instrument group has an assigned sectional. Those students need to arrive 30 minutes prior to their band time so they can be ready for their sectional at quarter to the hour.

SECTIONALS

Sectionals are opportunities to have specific instrument groups meet in the Cornelius Hall kitchen for practice apart from the whole band. Sectionals afford us some extra time to hone in on problem passages or other areas needing attention. Cadet sectionals are held in the kitchen for approximately 15 minutes at the beginning of their rehearsal time. Junior, Senior and Symphonic sectionals are held for 15 minutes PRIOR to their normal band time. Watch the weekly notes to know which group of instruments may be assigned. Come prepared having practiced with special emphasis on the specified exercises/passages/measures.

NAME TAGS AND TAKING ATTENDANCE

For the next three weeks or so, **we are asking that everyone have their first and last names clearly and boldly** printed on a 3x5 index card, safety pinned to their shirt. Even though Mrs. Borow or Mrs. Wiesner-Pardee may know your name, fellow students as well as parents taking attendance, or helping in other ways, may not.

CADET BAND "COACHES"

Many thanks to all those assisting in Cadet Band. Your help will be needed for the first month or two of the fall trimester. Please watch for things like correct hand position, fingering and posture. Bring your instrument to demonstrate. **The director has said she could still use a coach for flutes.** Please let her know if you are able to help.

PRACTICE REPORTS ARE IMPORTANT

All band members, wind and percussion, are to use this form for reporting each week's practice, throughout the year. The form requires both the student's name and a parent's signature. Be sure to include first and last names. See **Forms/Documents** for the WSHSB PRACTICE REPORT. Suggested practice times are in the Handbook on page 9.

Practice reports serve a variety of purposes. An important one applies to auditions. Close points can make it difficult when determining chair positions. The directors will refer to the practice reports in their decision-making process. It is in your best interest to turn in a weekly practice report.

REPORTING ABSENCES - MODIFICATION

While the handbook asks you to report an absence indicating state what band(s) the student plays in. Mrs. Herbst has said they would also like to know which instrument is played since the attendance sheets are by instrument sections within each band.

REVIEW THE HANDBOOK

In an effort to keep the weekly Rehearsal Notes from being so lengthy, we refer to the Handbook frequently for details which will not be duplicated in the notes. We need every band family to read the newly updated **2009-2010 Handbook** and print the **2009-2010 Handbook Agreement**. Both documents are available under General Information on the **Forms/Documents** webpage. If you read slightly over two pages a night you'll be through it in a week. Once you have read through the Handbook **every family should return the signed agreement by October 1.**

Following is a summary of Handbook highlights, changes and additions:

- New information under RENTALS page 6.
- Concert Junior and Senior should use their Essential Elements Book 2, daily, see page 7.
- Fee to be charged for returning unrepaired bow ties after concerts, see page 7.
- Expectations of Parents has been updated, page 8.
- New item, "Respecting WSHSB Equipment" including paying for damaged band equipment, see page 11
- Details added to "Returning Concert Music" including Library service hours for music turned in after the collection date, see page 13
- Information for graduating high school seniors, plus new details for student and adult helpers, see pages 15 and 16.

LABEL ALL YOUR BELONGINGS, WIND AND PERCUSSION

We don't want to collect things in Lost and Found. Be sure to label your music folder, all parts to your music stand including the carry case, all your own books, and refillable water bottles, to name a few. These are some of the items left after practice most frequently.

AUDITION RECORDINGS

We still have audition recordings that have not been picked-up. If you haven't gotten yours please do so.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE SIGN-UP

While fall is just beginning, we must already plan for the WSHSB Christmas Season Performance. In the Handbook, page 16, read about The Wheaton Light a Holiday Parade which will be Friday, November 27. Look for the sign-up sheet at the front tables. You need not have marched before to participate in the Wheaton parade and Cadets may march as part of the Patriot Auxiliary. For a variety of reasons we will not be performing at Yorktown this year and will appreciate your respect and acceptance of our decision.

MUSIC NOTES

Cadets

Nice work, to all the new Cadets. We also very much appreciate everyone's set-up help too.

FOR HOMEWORK - Please review and study pages 2 and 3, "The Basics." Work on pages 4 and 5, odd exercises, playing with the DVD using the Smart Music software with the adjustable tempo. Listen and try to match the pitch and tone. Use proper tonguing. Practice every day for no less than 20 minutes. You may split the time between multiple sessions. At every practice session, everyone should check their: posture and instrument hold, breathing/airstream, and mouth position (embouchure).

BRASS: Focus on the trial & error of moving your lips (tightening/loosening). It will take regular practice to reach the notes.

Notes to Junior, Senior, and Symphonic bands –

All members should sit according to ROSTER ORDER within their band. Refer to the lists and seating charts posted on the poles at band.

Be sure to check your folders for new music, before you take your seat. New music may be used for sight-reading that same night. It's possible you may not yet have received music for every song listed below. **If you were missing music that was played at practice, email Mrs. Wiesner-Pardee before next week with the details.** IMPORTANT Do not play last year's music, as part assignments change. If you made a working copy, file it away in your home. Please use the music you are assigned this year.

All members must bring their music and stand with them to band every week. With the exception of helpers, there should be no instances of multiple people trying to share the same stand/music. This is uncharitable and unfair to those who diligently bring their own music and stand.

All Concert Juniors and Seniors should be bringing their "Red" Essential Elements 2000 book every week to band. We will generally do a few exercises and rhythms.

Tune your instrument before your band time begins. Tuners are available at the front table. It is **imperative** that Senior clarinets and flutes play in tune for Appomattox and A Lincoln Celebration.

Junior (see notes above)

Juniors, check the fingering charts in the back of Essential Elements and confirm the correct fingering. Please make a special effort to study the key signatures, and play the songs in the correct key.

SECTIONAL 5:45-6pm - Percussionists meet with Mrs. Pfauth on Old Man River. *Be sure to read above in the General Notes about earlier arrival times for sectionals.*

Red EE book - work on Ex #3, 4, and 5 and Rhythm lines 5 and 9

Cahokia

Old Man River

Paso Flamenco

No trumpet solos - all play keeping reasonable volume

Wave the Flag (For Old Chicago)

Discovery Overture

Nearer My God to Thee

Senior (see notes above)

Red EE book - work on Ex #3, 4, and 5 and Rhythm lines 5 and 9

Seven Springs

Wheaton Overture

Chicago (That Toddlin' Town)

Legend of Starved Rock

Lincoln Celebration, A

Flutes and clarinets - be sure you are in tune

Flutes, oboe, clarinets and bells - practice chromatic scale at 20

Appomattox

Flutes and clarinets - be sure you are in tune

Symphonic (see notes above)

Quad City Stomp

Reminder to Mr. Ascenzo to bring trash can lid

Moorside March

Recorded by Sinatra

Hernando's Hideaway

Flight of the Piasa

Flutes and clarinets have 3-4 lines where no rests exist. Your breaths should not be noticeable. You need to plan when you will breathe and lightly mark those spots in your music. Alternatively, each section plans on who will breathe when, staggering the breaths.

Abduction from the Seraglio, The

Flutes and clarinets must match the style on triplets to that of the recording.

Flute and clarinets

Mansions of the Lord, The

River Valley Legacy – *First movement ONLY*