

# Middle Level Honors Orchestra

Grades 7–9

February 17–18, 2012

The Middle Level Honors Orchestra is for students in grades 7–9. The most accomplished young string players from the state will join together for a rehearsal on February 17 at Northwestern College in Roseville and a performance on February 18, 2012 at the Minneapolis Convention Center as part of the MMEA convention. We are delighted that Dr. Ruth Lin, Director of Symphony Orchestra at Gustavus Adolphus College, will be our guest conductor. Prior to coming to Minnesota, Dr. Lin served as the Director of Orchestral Activities at Iowa State University from 2007 to 2009 where she conducted the Iowa State Symphony Orchestra and taught beginning and advanced instrumental conducting as well as other music classes.



The goal is to produce the best possible ensemble with the widest possible representation of schools.

## These policies apply:

1. All students must be string players in grades 7 through 9 during the 2011-2012 school year.
2. A student participating in the Middle level Honors Orchestra must be enrolled in their school orchestra, if one exists. They must be enrolled in and a member in good standing from the time of the audition through the following February rehearsals and performance in order to be eligible for participation in the ensemble.
3. The Middle Level Honors Orchestra is sponsored by MNSOTA and MMEA as a service to its members and their students. Participation is limited to those students whose sponsoring teacher is a current member in good standing of both MNSOTA/ASTA and MMEA/MENC at the time of the student's audition and continues to be a member of both MNSOTA and MMEA through the February rehearsal and performance period. The sponsoring teacher must be currently teaching the student at the time of the student's audition, and must continue as a teacher for that student through the February rehearsal and performance period. Examples of sponsoring teachers are school ensemble directors, studio teachers/instructors for private lessons, and individuals conducting a community youth ensemble. To join MNSOTA/ASTA, apply on-line at [www.astaweb.com](http://www.astaweb.com). To join MMEA, call 888-678-MMEA or email [info@mmea.org](mailto:info@mmea.org). Teachers' membership will be verified before their students'

applications are processed.

4. All students must upload their audition recordings into ArtsApp (see detailed instructions). A fee of \$15 and the signed Application Form must be given to the student's sponsoring teachers. The sponsoring teacher will submit the fees and forms for all their students directly to MNSOTA. Student members will be chosen by score with a limitation per school so as to involve as many schools as possible.
5. All chosen students must attend all scheduled rehearsals and activities February 17–18. A participation fee of \$75.00 per student will cover all expenses including the cost of two meals and a t-shirt.
6. Parents will be responsible for transportation, lodging and supervision when the students are not in rehearsal or performance.

## Audition Process

Students will apply using the ArtsApp online application process. Go to [www.artsapp.com/MNSOTA](http://www.artsapp.com/MNSOTA) between November 1 and November 18, to create a user profile and follow all online instructions to complete your application. The personal information entered into ArtsApp will be hidden from the judges to allow for anonymous judging. **The ArtsApp website will open for applications on Tuesday November 1 and close to applicants on Friday November 18.**

## Application Time Line

- Tuesday November 1 through Friday November 18 — [www.artsapp.com/MNSOTA](http://www.artsapp.com/MNSOTA) website will be open for students to upload their 4 audition audio files. See detailed instructions.
- By Tuesday November 15, sponsoring teachers must receive from each student: a \$15 check payable to MNSOTA and the Student Application Form signed by the parent/guardian, sponsoring teacher and school principal.
- **Sponsoring teachers must mail all checks, Student Application Forms, and Director's Ranking Form in one envelope, postmarked by Friday, November 18** to: Kristine Wiese - MNSOTA, 16831 Creek Ridge Trail, Minnetonka, MN 55345. **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.**
- Teachers will be informed of the results and receive music by mail, postmarked Tuesday, January 3.

*For more information about the Honors Orchestra event, contact Kevin Berdine, [kberd938@hotmail.com](mailto:kberd938@hotmail.com). For technical questions about ArtsApp, contact ArtsApp technical support as listed on the ArtsApp website.*

## Event Cancellation Policy

Since events cannot be rescheduled, MNSOTA is committed to holding all events as planned. MNSOTA will cancel an event only in cases of a safety emergency (e.g. road conditions/weather), based on state advisories. If an event is cancelled, at the discretion of the board, a partial refund to participants may be considered after expenses have been paid.

NEW

Online Audition Process

NEW

Students are responsible for following the audition instructions and uploading their audition recordings to [www.artsapp.com/mnsota](http://www.artsapp.com/mnsota) **no later than Friday, November 18, 2011**. The website will open in Tuesday November 1 and close for all submissions on Friday November 18. Incomplete or late entries will not be considered. It is suggested that students upload files *at least 3 days in advance* of the deadline in case there are any technical difficulties. If a student has any technical difficulties with the uploading process, it is the student's responsibility to contact ArtsApp technical support as listed on the ArtsApp website.

Private student information entered into ArtsApp will be hidden from the judges to allow for anonymous judging. Student members will be chosen by score with a limitation per school so as to involve as many schools as possible. Orchestra Directors / Sponsoring Teachers will be informed of the results and receive music by mail, postmarked by January 3, 2012.

## Online Audition Instructions

1. Students will apply using the ArtsApp online application process. Go to [www.artsapp.com/mnsota](http://www.artsapp.com/mnsota) to create a user profile and follow all online instructions to complete your application. The personal information entered into ArtsApp will be hidden from the judges to allow for anonymous judging. **The ArtsApp website will open for applications on Tuesday November 1 and close to applicants on Friday November 18.**
2. Each student must upload four separate audio files into his/her ArtsApp user profile by Friday, November 18 (incomplete or late applications will not be accepted). All scales are to be played two octaves ascending and descending at  $\text{♩} = 80$  (or faster) with the rhythm:



A metronome must *not* be used during recording. Audition scores will be docked points for incorrect rhythm or slow tempo of scales.

- File 1 – The specified major scale for their instrument, recorded *without* metronome. Violin: D Major; Viola: G Major; Cello: G Major; Bass: G Major
  - File 2 – The specified minor scale for their instrument, recorded *without* metronome. Violin: E Melodic Minor; Viola: A Melodic Minor; Cello: A Melodic Minor; Bass: E Melodic Minor
  - File 3 – The specified excerpt for their instrument, recorded *without* accompaniment.
  - Violin: 3rd movement of *Concerto in A Minor* by Vivaldi (Suzuki, Vol. 4), beginning to beat 1 of measure 50
  - Viola: 1st movement of *Concerto No. 5* by F. Seitz (Suzuki, Vol. 4), first 45 measures, not counting piano intro
  - Cello: *La Cinquantaine* (Suzuki, Vol. 3), measures 17–40
  - Bass: *Introduction and Dance* by L. Scarmolin (Ludwig), measures 9–51
  - File 4 – A short piece, excerpt or etude of their own choosing not to exceed 2 minutes in length. This selection must be recorded without accompaniment, and must be of equivalent or greater difficulty to the required piece.
3. Each student should name each file with the numbers corresponding above. For example, “File 1.mp3” will be the name for the major scale. In the “Media Description” area, add the detail about what it is—Major Scale, Minor Scale, Excerpt, and then the name of your short piece, excerpt, or etude.
  4. ArtsApp supports .mp3 and .mp4 audio files. Only audio files should be uploaded—*not* video files. It is the student's responsibility to contact ArtsApp with any questions about the compatibility of files being used.
  5. Each student should record and upload *only* the two scales, excerpt and short piece. *No* additional files should be included. There should be *no* talking on the recording and there must be *no* electronic editing (no reverb, etc).
  6. It is highly recommended that each student upload files at least 3 days before the due date in case there are any technical difficulties. If a student has any technical difficulties with the uploading process, it is the student's responsibility to contact ArtsApp technical support as listed on the ArtsApp website.

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Northwestern College, Roseville

Convention Center, Minneapolis



## Student Application Form

PLEASE PRINT

Student Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ M/F \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_ Audition Choice Piece \_\_\_\_\_

Orchestra Director's / Sponsoring Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

This student has demonstrated outstanding conduct and musical ability, and I recommend him/her for membership in the 2012 MNSOTA Middle Level Honors Orchestra.

\*Orchestra Director's / Sponsoring Teacher's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*Principal's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that if my child is accepted as a member of the Honors Orchestra, I will be responsible for \$75 fees, plus transportation, lodging and supervision at all non-rehearsal or non-performance times during the Honors Orchestra weekend, February 17–18, 2012.

\*Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Students must return the following to their director **no later than Tuesday, November 15, 2011:**

- \_\_\_\_ Completed Application Form
  - \_\_\_\_ Check for \$15.00 made payable to MNSOTA
- A \$15 NSF fee will be charged for any returned check.*

### Audition process:

Students are responsible for following the audition instructions and uploading their audition recordings to [www.artsapp.com/mnsota](http://www.artsapp.com/mnsota) **no later than Friday, November 18, 2011**. The website will open in Tuesday November 1 and close for all submissions on Friday November 18. Incomplete or late entries will not be considered. It is suggested that students upload files **at least 3 days in advance** of the deadline in case there are any technical difficulties. If a student has any technical difficulties with the uploading process, it is the student's responsibility to contact ArtsApp technical support as listed on the ArtsApp website.

Private student information entered into ArtsApp will be hidden from the judges to allow for anonymous judging. Student members will be chosen by score with a limitation per school so as to involve as many schools as possible. Orchestra Directors / Sponsoring Teachers will be informed of the results and receive music by mail, plstmarked by January 3, 2012.

\*Signed Application form, check, uploaded audition files and director's up-to-date membership in both MMEA and MNSOTA are all required. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.



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Northwestern College, Roseville  
Convention Center, Minneapolis

## Director's Ranking Form

Director's / Sponsoring Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Directors / sponsoring teachers must be members in good standing of *both* ASTA/MNSOTA and MENC/MMEA for their student applications to be processed. Membership will be verified.

ASTA/MNSOTA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

My ASTA/MNSOTA membership is not current, but I have contacted [www.astaweb.com](http://www.astaweb.com) to renew/become a new member and have sent verification of membership to MNSOTA Member Coordinator Kathryn Buccola [kathryn.buccola@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.buccola@gmail.com)

MENC/MMEA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

My MENC/MMEA membership is not current, but I have contacted MMEA to renew/become a new member and have sent verification of membership to MNSOTA Member Coordinator Kathryn Buccola [kathryn.buccola@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.buccola@gmail.com)

Teachers will be informed of the results and receive music by mail postmarked January 3, 2012.

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form, signed student forms and student audition fees (\$15 each) in one envelope to: Kristine Wiese - MNSOTA, 16831 Creek Ridge Trail, Minnetonka, MN 55345

Complete applications include this Director's Ranking Form, all student fees and forms, and current MMEA and MNSOTA membership status of the director. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

**This form, student forms and payment must be postmarked by Friday, November 18, 2011.**

List all students in order from strongest to weakest regardless of instrument. Please consider overall musicianship, technique and maturity. This ranking will serve as a resource for the judges.

Student's Name (last name, first name)	Instrument	Grade	Audition Form	Audition Check	Audition Uploaded
1. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Use more paper as necessary