

TACOMA YOUTH SYMPHONY ASSIGNMENTS

4/6/2020

I hope everyone is well. I have made a video of me conducting the “Finale” of the Mendelssohn Reformation Symphony. The orchestra is the Frankfurt Radio Orchestra; the recording I sent to you last month. Now, try playing along while watching my gestures. This will give you practice keeping up, and help prepare you to make your “virtual orchestra” recording of the “Finale” in 2 weeks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1kb6nFvm4s>

Be Well (and sign up for EMF!)
Dr. Cobbs

4. Ensemble Exercise

Now that you have a firm grasp of the Brahms and Mendelssohn, try recording yourself playing excerpts from each and send it to someone. That person could play with your recording. Then, they could record themselves for you. For instance, Flute and Oboe, Bassoon and Cello, Bass and First Violin etc. Be adventurous! How about Tuba and Flute? This will give you great ensemble practice.

3/30/2020

I miss you! However, we can use our time wisely by preparing for the performances. Before we resume rehearsals we will have the opportunity to do a virtual concert featuring something from the “Reformation” Symphony by Mendelssohn in April. Next week I will send you a video of me conducting and you can use it as a guide for tempos, dynamics, and entrances. You will have 2 weeks to work with the video before you will need to make a recording and send it in. You can make as many recordings as you wish before sending in the final take, mistake free. More directions will be forthcoming as we draw nearer to the recording date.

5. Development Sections, Bridges and Transitions: prepare for 4/4

If an orchestra will fall apart during a performance, it will most likely be in the development sections, bridges or transitions. Therefore more time must be used to secure these areas. So, this week secure all development, bridge and transition sections.

Principals please contact members of your section to make sure that every if referring to the TYSA website daily. We need everyone staying on task in order to create an excellent video recording.

For those of you who have aspirations of being a conductor it might be prudent to keep a copy of this learning sequence and use it as a strategy to prepare your future groups.

Be well!
Dr. Cobbs

3/23/2020

Hello Everyone,

At the beginning of each week I will send you a “point of emphasis” for your daily practice. The “countdown” is designed to prepare you for our May 2nd rehearsal. There will also be a few video lectures as well.

6. Note Accuracy and Correct Articulation: prepare for 3/30

Slowly play through all music insuring that each note is correct. Pay particular attention to all accidentals in the development sections. Also, use the recordings to practice your precise articulations. Why are these second to master? Even if every note is played correctly in tune, if it is a half step off you have created a wrong chord.

Once each note is played correctly and played with the the right rhythm next there must be an agreement as to how long or short the note should be. Each musician must agree! I would suggest that you Skype someone in your section and play for them. Ask if you are playing the rhythm, pitch and articulations properly. Then, have the section member play it for you. Help each other. Be kind and constructive.

Here is the link to this week’s video lecture:

[Tacoma Youth Symphony Lesson 1 Video](#)

Dr. Cobbs

If you are not receiving the weekly assignments through your email, please add tys@tysamusic.org to your preferred list. You may also email us with your alternate email address at tys@tysamusic.org.

3/16/2020

Hello Everyone,

At the beginning of each week I will send you a “point of emphasis” for your daily practice. The “countdown” is designed to prepare you for our May 2nd rehearsal. There will also be a few video lectures as well.

7. Rhythm Accuracy/Precise Entrances: prepare for 3/23

Slowly play through all music with a metronome insuring that the rhythms are correct. Also, use the recordings to practice your precise entrances. Why are these first to master? Even if every note is played correctly, in tune, at the right dynamic with the proper articulations, if it doesn't come at the right time it is still incorrect.

It is often just as difficult to count rests properly as it is to play the notes. If you don't enter at the proper time, or at all, then you are completely wrong. You must enter with confidence! Work this week on exact rhythm and exact entrances.

Dr. Cobbs

Next week: 6. Note Accuracy And Correct Articulation: 3/23