

# Tacoma Young Artists Assignments

As we plan and prepare for a **Reunion Finale Concert** that will include each orchestra, Dr. Paul-Elliott Cobbs will be sending weekly messages & assignments until we get back together again.

**[CLICK HERE](#)** for this week's message.

5/6/2020

Hello Young Artists!

As I'm sure you have been made aware, the "stay home stay safe" order has been extended through May. Initially, our concert was planned for May 9<sup>th</sup>, which would have been this weekend. When we rescheduled it, we were hoping for the opportunity to start rehearsals this month and put together a shortened program. Obviously, this can't happen now. I am very sorry, for all of us, about that. I've had a truly enjoyable and rewarding time working with you this season, and I'm very sad that we didn't get to end the year together, continuing the momentum of what we began at EMF. You may not realize it, but we teachers often feel like we take away just as much from you students as we hope you take away from our lessons/rehearsals. Even though the year was shortened, I am still a better conductor/educator because of working with you than I was before EMF. Thank you for that!

There is a small chance that after May, we might be able to get together for a one-day, end-of-year event that would be shared between us and the Youth Symphony (not sure about Junior Symphony). If that is possible, we will sight-read through the overture, and potentially the final movement of the Borodin. I ask that if you think you would be interested in still participating in such an event, you keep working on the overture so that it could hopefully come together in a short amount of rehearsal time. If this event is possible, you'll be notified about it asap.

For those of you who are participating in the Digital Laboratory here is a link to this week's lecture/project:

[Project 3 Tutorial](#)

As mentioned previously, if any of you would like to connect to talk about the repertoire that was programmed, or if you want any general feedback on anything you're working on, I'd be happy to make time for that! A few of you reached out with either videos of your playing, or explanations of issues you were having on the parts, and I was enthusiastic about offering feedback. I love the initiative you took in contacting me for help!

Thank you, again, for your focus, energy, and artistry through the season. I have truly enjoyed working with each of you. Please continue to be safe as things slowly go back to normal. You will all get to make music together again, and hopefully soon.

All my very best,

JL

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Jeffery N. Lund

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4/27/2020

Hello Young Artists!

I hope you're all continuing to adjust to this new style of learning! I, for one, feel like every time I get my head above water with my own course work, I realize there's a whole other set of demands that need to get accomplished to shift to a virtual learning experience. There is definitely a learning curve.

I also hope you're all able to keep yourself focused on your music for Young Artists! I know that after this much time away, it's hard to anticipate joining together again for an end-of-the-year concert experience. Still, the artistic staff is hoping that this is possible, and I'd like you do keep planning/working towards that. It certainly won't hurt your playing to keep working on this repertoire.

Aligned with that, I'd like to offer you the opportunity to get some feedback from me on your parts/playing. If you'd like to record a video of yourself, you can email me it to me at the Digital Laboratory email I set up for our Soundtrap group. That email is:

[TYAODM@gmail.com](mailto:TYAODM@gmail.com)

When I see your video, I'll provide written comments, or potentially send you a video back with some feedback. There is no expectation for you to have to participate in this, but it is a chance to engage with one another some. I am also holding online office hours each day for my college classes, and if you'd like to check in with me via Zoom, we can set up a time to do that. Again, just email the address above and I'll send you all my information so you can join me on Zoom. I'm available Monday-Friday from 10:30-12:00, and am also available at some later times on Tuesday and Thursday.

For those of you who have started a Soundtrap account and are participating in the Digital Music lecture experience, here is the link to our Project 2 tutorial:

[Project 2](#)

Please be thoughtful and kind to your loved ones, and to yourself, as we continue with this social distancing. I know that in our household, we both can tell that our kids are a little sick of only seeing us, and not experiencing any other adults – or any of their friends from school, for that matter. It's easy to get overwhelmed with change that's this significant. Take care of yourself, take care of each other, and keep being the great people you all are.

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Jeffery N. Lund

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4/20/2020

Hello Young Artists!

I hope you're all doing well and are enjoying the lovely change in weather we've been having. That said, I also hope you're still practicing safe social distancing, and resisting the temptation of getting together with a large group of friends. It feels like it should be summer!!! But.... it's not.

If I were you, I would be going a bit stir crazy with all the responsibility thrust upon me so suddenly, especially without my regular outlets. When I was in college, I developed tendinitis in my wrist, and I had to take an entire quarter off of performing to wrest. It was very difficult to not have that release of practice/performance. However, during that time, I found out about DAW's (Digital Audio Workspaces). Fast forward 15 years, and I'm teaching college courses in Digital Music Composition – it's funny how life works out.

I thought that this week, along with continuing your practice, those of you who are interested can join me in our very own Digital Music classroom. I have set-up an account with the online DAW platform [soundtrap.com](https://www.soundtrap.com). If you are interested, you can create your own free account. Here's a tutorial video on how to do that:

[Setting up a Soundtrap.com account](#)

Once you've registered your account, make sure to use this invite code to join our group:

6Z66Z7W

Here are some links to lectures, and I'll be sending more out each week through the remainder of the season.

[Rhythm/Meter Basics](#)  
[Pitch and Melody](#)  
[Harmony and Dynamics](#)  
[Texture](#)  
[Project 1](#)

There are some references to the "requirements" for these assignments, but you don't need to worry about those. Just take in the concepts and apply them to your own projects.

I hope you are doing well, and I hope to hear your own music via soundtrap.com. Fingers crossed that we'll get to play together sooner rather than later!

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4/13/2020

Hello Young Artists!

Welcome back to school! I hope you were able to find some time to enjoy your week off, and you were able to get outside some to shake off your fleas (my grandma used to say that to me)!

Last week, I asked you to try and share your art with your immediate family/community. I would love to hear back on any efforts that were made! I hope you were able to give a garage concert, or practice outside so your neighbors could hear it. Maybe a skype concert with family, or something similar. This week, I want to extend that idea, and ask those of you who are willing/interested, so share something with the TYSA office so that they can post it to our social media page. Our very own tubist, Cassidy recorded all four parts to a quartet, and sent in the video. What a great use of all this time at home!

If any of you are interested, please consider sharing some of your hard work and artistry with the TYSA office, and maybe we can make the Facebook page blow-up with TYAO faces!

Outside of that, lets talk about what to work on this week:

You should all be making continual progress on our concert music, and I hope you're able to hold yourselves accountable for that. It can be difficult when the situation is so new and unfamiliar. However, I believe in your integrity and work ethic. Through the whole year, you have risen to great heights, and have played very difficult concert programs. This cycle is no exception, so please do work just as hard on this music as you did through the first part of the season.

As you continue your practice, please start to take specific note of the exaggerated dynamics and articulations in the Borodin. He goes through many different "types" of sound within one musical passage, and you want to familiarize yourself with these markings, and exaggerate them. If you see a series of staccato notes, and those are followed by tenuto markings, really work on bringing out the contrast between those sounds. Start to really familiarize yourself with these little nuances and specifics on the page. Though we can't be practicing together, we can still learn this piece together by making sure we're all going through these exercises and actively engaging in each weeks' assignment. So, for this week, please pay close attention to the details: articulations, dynamics, and style.

Lastly, please check in with one another. If you haven't heard from your section mates, reach out. It's important that we're still interacting with people during this isolation. Whether it's by section, or just someone you like seeing each week, try to check in. Talk about how you're filling your time, and also talk about our concert program! What parts of the pieces do you particularly enjoy? What parts are challenging for you? Etc...

I miss you all, and I hope we can get back to our work, soon!

Be well!

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4/6/2020

Hello Young Artists!

I hope you are all doing well and staying engaged in your online learning experiences. For many of you, this week is Spring Break for your school districts. I'm sure it doesn't feel "much" different than how things have been the past couple of weeks, since you're staying home regardless. However, given that it's meant to be a "week off", I wanted to respect that, and change things up this week.

Rather than give you specific rehearsal goals, I want to ask that you keep progressing in your music. Ideally, you're working through any/all difficult passages, and playing the more-manageable sections around 70-80% tempo. Please keep up this good work. Also, those playing in the concertos: it would be appropriate to start trying to seek out additional recordings to hear what different soloists do with the timing/pacing of their solos. Trying to develop a familiarity with the pieces, especially regarding varying interpretations, will only help us support our soloists. I really appreciate your continual commitment and energies on this cycle's music, despite not being able to rehearse together this month.

So, for this week's assignment, I want you to come up with some way to put your art out into the world, given the restrictions you're facing. Whether it's a live-streamed performance to your family and friends, an outdoor practice session to add some cultural atmosphere to your neighborhood, or something entirely different, find a way to get your live music-making to connect with peoples in your circle who may be feeling the strain of solitude and isolation. Music is a beautiful, uplifting, and celebratory practice. You're in a unique position to share something significant and different within your communities. While you should respect all the suggestions of social distancing and sheltering in place, my assignment for you is that you share your art with the world.

I sincerely hope you're all making the best of a unique situation, and you're finding ways to be successful through the sudden changes in expectations and daily practices. You're all being asked to adjust to a completely new system in so many ways, and any adaptations you are able to manage is admirable and appreciated. We have to keep moving forward, even independently. Thank you, again, for your continual effort towards our last cycle of this year.

And again, keep washing your hands!

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3/30/2020

Hello Young Artists!

I hope you're settling into the virtual learning platform. For those of you who have never had online coursework before, I highly encourage you to make your day as regimented and regular as possible. Even if that is somewhat open-ended. If you don't want to commit to getting started on your assignments at 9:00 every morning, make sure to set a window of time to work on them. For example, you could set the expectation for yourself that you'll focus on math, history, and science from 9-12. Then, after lunch, you'll get some physical activity and practice, and complete that before 4 pm. Schedules are an excellent way to hold ourselves accountable through change.

Please keep up your work on the Borodin, focusing on accuracy, tempo, and dynamic control. In addition, this week I'd like you to spend a serious amount of time on the Overture:

Brass: you need a regal, majestic sound in the opening choral. Work on beautiful tone and plenty of breath support. Also, make sure you're paying attention to note length. Specifically, if you have a measure with an 8<sup>th</sup> note on beat one, and nothing else in that measure, make sure you're really policing yourself as to the length of those notes.

Winds: Your rhythms are pretty intricate, especially those who switch actively between duple and triple subdivisions. Please make sure you can count/clap your rhythms accurately, and then work on applying the right notes at the right times. Also, any solo/soli/duet in the winds needs to be especially consistent (rhythmically) and lyrical.

Strings: Notes, notes, notes. Through much of this, you are supporting the soloist voices around the orchestra (including cello!), and you should make sure your accuracy through all these fast notes will only support your peers. If intonation through the string sections is dicey on the supportive spots, the solo wind voices will never sound quite right.

Percussion: Connect with each other and make sure you know who's playing which part, and then become rock-solid in the rhythms of your specific part. Through much of this piece, your role is to punctuate the winds/brass in the most exciting moments. We want these attacks to be energetic and tight.

Keep up your work on all other pieces, and I'll send out some specifics for the concertos, and more information about the symphony, in the following weeks.

And again, wash those hands!

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Jeffery N. Lund

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3/23/2020

Hello Young Artists!

This week, you should start to get a realistic sense of where we're going to try to go with this in terms of tempo for the symphony.

1st mvmt: We're in 2, and the half-note should be around 92 bpm in the opening, and then 116 bpm at measure 11. This pattern repeats and then settles into 116 bpm at the mixed-meter section (5 before rehearsal D, or measure 93). Use these tempi as references for different sections within the movement that share a name (i.e. animal assai).

4th mvmt: This one is more steady/regular with its tempo (quarter=126), but there is a section in the middle that is very exaggerated. Find rehearsal E (measure 96) and notice the pattern: Lento (63 bpm) - Allegro (120ish bpm) - rallentando, repeat. You should practice counting those tempo changes so it will feel less chaotic when we read this for the first time. Similarly, get comfortable with counting the mixed meter in both of these movements.

An excellent goal this week would be to play through all the parts of the Symphony around 2/3 tempo. Some sections will be easy, some will require special attention. Be analytical, and be thoughtful with how you choose to spend your practice time.

Of course, please continue to learn your parts on the other pieces, and continue spending time listening to the recordings I sent.

I hope you and those closest to you are all healthy, and are finding ways to support one another through these interesting days/weeks. You're all wonderful people.

Wash your hands!

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Jeffery N. Lund

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3/16/2020

Hello Young Artists!

Boy, this is an exciting time... While "breaks" from school/rehearsal like this can sometimes be a welcomed surprise, we want to make sure we're still working - as best we can - towards our final concert of the year. We have 2 concerto winners on our final concert, and we'll be playing von Suppe's Poet and Peasant overture, and at least one movement from Borodin's 2nd Symphony.

I'm going to be sending some thoughts for your practice time each week, and hopefully we'll be able to all come together in the beginning of May, and put together a wonderful concert for your families and friends. For this first week, please listen to the pieces and get a sense of how your section fits into each piece, as well as getting a start on learning notes.

Here are some links to the pieces we'll be playing:

Poet and Peasant: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3\\_aM\\_s0R1U&t=458s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3_aM_s0R1U&t=458s)

Mozart Violin Concerto no. 3, 1st movement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=To5fg-69Vwl>

Rosauro Marimba Concerto no. 1, 2nd movement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzE4n9riqP8&t=587s> (2nd movement starts at 3:40)

Borodin Symphony no. 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmUsL6biVro&t=1296s> (1st movement - beginning, 2nd movement - 7:00 mins in, 3rd movement - 12:15 mins in, 4th movement - about 21:50 mins in)

We will likely play the 1st and 4th movement of the Borodin, though I would love for us to play the 3rd movement - it's gorgeous.

Your folders will be available for pick-up this week (Thursday from 9-12, and Friday from 10-2), but you can also access most of the music online on [imslp.org](https://www.imslp.org). To get your specific part, click on the link below. It will open up the main imslp page for each piece. Scroll down slightly until you see the section labeled "Sheet Music", and click on the "parts" tab. You will find a window with all of the wind/brass/perc/string parts listed. If you click on that link, you can download your individual part:

[Poet and Peasant](#)

[Violin Concerto](#)

[Symphony no. 2](#)

The parts for the Rosauero will be in your folders (it's just strings).

Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones during the next couple weeks. Enjoy the change in your routine, but still find ways to be productive. Most importantly, WASH YOUR HANDS!!! :-)

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

All best,

Mr. Lund