

TACOMA YOUTH SYMPHONY 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.

5/3/2020

Hello TYS, Thank you for your work in putting our virtual performance together. I realize your time is occupied with school and work, but this endeavor is well worth it. The recordings are being mixed and engineered. We will be sharing the final product with our entire Puget Sound Community very soon.

We are still hoping to have a final concert for this great season! As soon as our Governor gives permission we will meet. EMF and next season auditions are still on. They will probably need to be modified for safety, but we are looking forward to both with great anticipation. Make time to practice and sign up for EMF.

Be safe,
Dr.Cobbs

4/27/2020

Hello Everyone, I hope that all recordings have been turned in. This is such an important endeavor. We are not only dedicating the virtual orchestra performance to the "first responders" and "essential workers," but it is also a gift to your family and friends, If you have not completed your recording we will contact you to see how we can help you get it done.

Be well and sign up for EMF!
Dr. Cobbs

1.) Work on the Academic Festival Overture and 1st Movement of Mendelssohn 5

Your focus this week should be on the Brahms and the first movement of the Mendelssohn. For the Juniors, there will be additional work; a one page practice college admission essay. You will choose one of the 35 essay prompts and write the essay. Time to think of your senior year.

VIDEO VIEWING ASSIGNMENT

Lastly, here is a link to a video when Dr. Jensen and I were interviewed by the Bethel HS teachers. I think you will like it!

Dr. Cobbs and Dr. Jensen Interview

4/20/2020

Hello Everyone, it's "Go Time." This is the week that each of you makes a virtual orchestra recording. We all are expected to participate in this exciting endeavor, so I will monitor the recordings as they come in. I would like all Principals to contact the members of their section to make sure everyone has been receiving the assignments and letter of instruction. Looking forward to our next in person rehearsal, but in the meanwhile practice, record and sign up for EMF.

Stay healthy and be kind to each other...
Dr. Cobbs

2. Recording the Finale to Mendelssohn's Symphony 5 (where the Flute Solo Begins) Due Friday April 24, 2020 by 5:00 PM

The main focus this week is turning in a good recording. You are welcome to do a practice recording as many times as you would like, but only submit one by April 24th. No start and stopping, play straight through. Read the instructions carefully. Good luck!

4/13/2020

I am very excited to say that plans for the virtual orchestra performance are coming together. You will be the first Tacoma Youth Symphony to create such an endeavor. For the seniors in the orchestra my heart is saddened by the fact that your final high school year has been so disappointing. However, being able to have the first virtual orchestra video in the history of the Youth Symphony will be something to look back on with pride.

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

3. Exaggerating Every Nuance

The main focus this week should be perfecting the "Finale" of Mendelssohn's "Reformation" Symphony. When you begin recording you can make as many takes as you desire, but you will only turn in one. You will need to play it straight through without stopping and starting. For the recording make sure you exaggerate all nuances. Principals should contact members of their section to make sure everyone is prepared to begin recording next week. You will receive exact instructions the week of April 20th.

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.

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 aspersions 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