

TACOMA JUNIOR YOUTH SYMPHONY ASSIGNMENT

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.

5/4/2020

Hello Everyone,

I hope all is well. We are still hopeful that we can have a final concert once the Governor gives permission. In the mean time we have the opportunity to do something very positive. We are going to create a virtual performance and dedicate it to the Healthcare Workers, Essential Workers and First Responders who are risking their lives each day to help us through this pandemic. **Below are the "Hoe Down" recording instructions.** It will not need to be perfect but just your best effort will make me happy. Make sure that everyone is receiving these emails because all of you need to participate, so call your TJYS friends to make sure they know.

Be safe and sign up for EMF and next season auditions. Applications are available at www.tysamusic.org

Stay Well,
Dr. Cobbs

HOE DOWN RECORDING INSTRUCTIONS HERE:

Dear TJYS,

I hope everyone is well. These are very difficult times, but you will come through it with greater resilience and resolve. Through **adversity** comes **opportunity, however**. The most inspirational tool to fight the anxieties that we all feel during these troubling times is the power of music. We as musicians have the ability to lift the spirits of others and by doing so, lift our own.

This virtual orchestra performance is a way to not only create a lasting memory of your time together, but also to share **hope** and **joy** with all the other people in your lives. The recording will be dedicated to the Health Workers, Essential Workers and First Responders! It need not be perfect just do your best and I will be happy.

~~Dr. Cobbs

Everyone is required to participate. Please read the following instructions carefully:

- 1) Find a quiet space with no ambient noise. Turn off ringers, notifications, pets etc.
- 2) Let your family know that you are video recording so they will not interrupt.
- 3) You will need 2 devices; one to play along with your earphones and one to video record yourself.
- 4) Put on your earphones and play along with this **You Tube (Hoe Down TJYS)** recording of me conducting Aaron Copland's Hoe Down as you make your video recording. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmwvyY59Wog&feature=share>

Co-Principals should both play solos. Use one of the following recording methods:

- MPEG-m4v, mp4 (preferred)
- Quick Time Movie-mov (preferred)
- MPEG-2, MPEG 1
- 3GPP, 3GPP2
- AVCHD
- AVI
- DV

- 5) Upload your video to our Google classroom. (TJYS Virtual Orchestra) **No later than May 11th!**

Google classroom is the safest and most secure way for you to submit videos to us without losing video/sound quality. You will need a classroom code to enter the TJYS Virtual Orchestra Google classroom. Your **classroom code** will be sent to you in your weekly email.

How to submit your video to Google Classroom:

- Go to Google Classroom
 - Click on the + sign in the upper right hand corner to **join class**.
 - Enter your **classroom code (find this in your weekly assignment email)** in the field provided to get to the TJYS Virtual orchestra classroom.
 - Go to **classwork** tab up at top of TJYS Virtual Orchestra classroom page.
 - Click on **upload your video**
 - **Title your video** with: Instrument, Full Name (ie Violin II, Johnny Appleseed)
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4/27/2020

MUSICAL ASSIGNMENT

Howdy Buckaroos,

Buckle up! You will need to find a cowboy hat and bandana this week. By now you should be well prepared to play the concert. However, there is always more to improve upon. Being able to play the notes, rhythms and nuances is the beginning, now it's time to delve into the composer's intent. Your musical focus this week is "Hoedown." You should by now be able to play it up to tempo with No Mistakes! You will receive more information later this week.

Stay well and sign up for EMF!
Dr. Cobbs

PS: Why did Bach need to work so many jobs? Because, feeding 21 children will make you a "Baroque" Composer!!!

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

1.) Kalinnikov Symphony No.1, Finale: Composer's Messages:

In this Symphony, Kalinnikov presents a wide range of emotions. In fact, the Finale revisits each emotion of the first 3 movements. In an essay identify where the music presents a sense of "joy," "sadness," "struggle," "hope" and "victory." Use the rehearsal letters.

Also, describe how the experience of living through this pandemic presents some, or all, of the same emotions?

Email your essays to me.

I look forward to reading them!

I miss you!

drscobbs@tysamusic.org

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 All,

Now, it's time to play through the entire concert with the recordings. Try your best to keep up. Although I will take tempos a little slower with you than I would a professional orchestra, some of you have been known to "take off" and go faster than we ever have gone before. You Know who you are...So, we need to be prepared. Low brass need not practice the Beethoven.

"Through adversity comes opportunity." Please think about the statement this week, because on the 27th I will give you a second essay assignment. No, this is not an English Class, however music touches all disciplines. Be good to your parents and siblings. Stay healthy and lets look forward to the next "face to face" rehearsal. Don't forget EMF; we will have a lot of "catching up" to do.

Dr. Cobbs

2. Practicing in concert order:

Put your music in concert order and practice by playing without stopping. Afterwards find the spots that need work and spend time with those parts you hate. Here is the program order.

- Beethoven-Coriolanus Overture
- Mozart-Violin Concerto No. 3, First Movement (Strings, Oboes and Horns only)
- Grieg-Wedding Day at Trolldhaugen
- Kalinnikov-Symphony No. 1, Finale
- Copland-Hoe Down
- Stand up and bow (Smile and look intelligent)
- have some ice cream

4/13/2020

Hello Everyone.

I hope all is well. This week I would like you to continue to work with other members of the orchestra. Play for each other. Principals should be contacting members of their section and have them play through sections and then give constructive feedback.

3. Exaggerating Every Nuance: prepare for 4/20/2020

This week I would like you to play through all of your music slowly while exaggerating the nuances; crescendo, staccato, legato, dynamics etc. As you play each work this week try to do it without any mistakes. Slowly work out any passages that are giving you grief. Contact your Principal with any bowing, articulation or fingering questions.

4/6/2020

Hello Everyone.

I made a video of me conducting the Kalinnikov. It was very difficult to not say anything but I think if you watch carefully you will understand what I am trying to communicate. Make sure you watch it. The tempo of the recording is much faster that I would take it so don't panic. What I would like you to do is play along with the music and watch for cues and tempo changes.

4. Ensemble: prepare for 4/13, 2020

I would like you to record excerpts from each of the pieces we are playing for the concert and send the recordings to another orchestra member. They will have the opportunity to play along with the recording you made and then send you excerpts for you to work with. Be adventurous! Flutes can send to Oboes, Trombones can send to Trumpets, Violins can send to Cellos and Bass, etc. This will help your ensemble and expose any counting problems you need to work on. The exercise will help you tremendously. Once we are back together again there will not be much time to rehearse before the performance, so keep practicing!

Be Well, (and don't forget to sign up for EMF!)
Dr. Cobbs

3/30/2020

I miss you...even the violins tuning their "E" strings or co-concertmasters going "cluck, cluck." Next week I will send you a video of me conducting and you can use it to work on tempos, dynamics and entrances. I know you miss my yelling so I will add a few just for the fun of it. Principals please contact members of your section and make sure they visit the TYSA website daily and search for information and instructions. Please sign up for EMF. I have lots of new jokes in addition to the wonderful music that you will play.

5. Development Sections, Bridge Sections and Transitions: prepare for 4/4/2020

Most likely, when an orchestra falls apart during a performance it will usually be in a development, bridge or transition section. Therefore, I would like you to spend most of your

practice time on securing these areas. By the way, the development section starts at the double bar after the first themes are played. Bridge and transition sections connect themes and oftentimes take you into a different key.

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 Junior Youth Symphony Lesson 1 Video](#)

Dr. Cobbs

Next week: 5. Pitch Accuracy: prepare for 4/6

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

3/20/2020

Dr. Cobbs has sent the following message:

"Please ask TJYS to listen to the entire symphony. (Youtube link below) Next week I will send a video lecture on the symphony. In preparation they should identify from which of the first 3 movements each theme of the finale was created."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EdnO6vEaHk&feature=share>

Take care and stay healthy!

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: prepare for 3/30