

Department: Performing Arts

Course Name: Upper School Strings

Course Description:

This semester course is intended for the medium intermediate through the advanced player. Depending on the skill levels of the students enrolled, this class may possibly be divided into an intermediate and an advanced group. The class continues to develop and refine the experienced students' technical and expressive skills and self-guided independent chamber work, while increasing their understanding of the dynamic relationships and need for flexibility between parts within the ensemble. As chamber music is vital to the strings experience, intrinsic motivation and self learning and leadership is essential. This string class will exhibit teamwork and adaptability performing two major concerts during the year as an ensemble, as well as other school and community events.

Content:

Critique – Peer Review; Self Analysis

Creative Integrity – Produce Original Work; Emulate Style/Technique

Content Vocabulary

Composition

Meter – Duple; Triple; Compound Duple; Compound Triple; Mixed

Utilities – Transposition

Staff/Clefs – Treble; Percussion; Bass; Alto

Key Signature – Sharps; Flats

Measure Attributes – Bar Lines; Double Bar; Finale Bar

Tuplets – 3 quarters over 2 quarters; 3 8th's over 1 quarter

Articulations – Slur; Tiel 8va/8ba; Glissando; Staccato; Accent; Accent w/Staccato; Stress; Fermata;

Trill; Flat Trill; Sharp Trill; Mordent; Double Mordent; Turn; Breath; Grace Note; Up Bow; Down Bow; Cut

Posture – Body; Instrument

Breathing

Musicality – Phrasing; Taper; Balance; Blend

Technique – 8va; 8ba; Con Sord; Mute; Open; Sanza Sord; Choke; Div.; Unison; Divisi; Arco;

Pizzacatto

Repeat – Forward Repeat; Back Repeat; Back Ending; 1st & 2nd endings; DS al Fine; DS al Coda; DS del Segno; Coda; Back to S (segno)

Scales – Major, Chromatic; Melodic Minor

Intervals – Major; Minor; Perfect; Augmented; Diminished; Half Step; Whole Step

Chords – Major; Minor; Triad; Augmented; Diminished; Seventh

Notation (Notes/Rests) – Double Whole; Whole; Dotted Half; Half; Dotted Quarter; Quarter; Dotted 8th; 8th; Dotted 16th; 16th; Dotted 32nd; 32nd

Accidentals – Sharp; Flat; Natural

Dynamics – ffff; fff; ff; f; mf; mp; p; pp; ppp; pppp; fp; fz; sf; sfz; sffz; subito p; subito f

Expressive Text – Dolce; Agitato; Con Brio; Cantabile; Crescendo; Diminuendo; Espresso; Legato; Leggerio; Marcato; Memo Mosso; Ped.

Tempo – Adagio; Moderato; Allegro; Grave; Largo; Lento; Maestoso; Presto; Spirito; Vivace; Swing; Andante

Tempo Alterations – Accellerando; Ritardando; A Tempo; Rubato

Form – AB; ABA; Minuet & Trio; Fugue; Sonata Allegro; Rondo

Skills:

Play 2- and 3-octave scales and arpeggios, depending on skill level. (E)

Play with advancing bowing techniques. (E)

Play in advancing positions. (E)

Improve sight-reading (E)

Play with expression (E)

Increase understanding of one's contribution to the ensemble, and the interactions of all parts with one another. (E)

Increase self-discipline in terms of practice time. (E)

Demonstrate proper performance etiquette. (M)

Audition for Senior Regional Orchestra, ALL-VA Orchestra

Text and Materials:

Hal Leonard, Essential Technique for Strings, Intermediate Technical Studies

Hal Leonard, Advanced Technique for Strings

Additional exercises, pieces, and concert works provided in class.

Methods of Instruction:

Teacher directed lessons

Student demonstrations

Sectional rehearsals

Listening to performance pieces

Concert attendance outside of school

Methods of Evaluations

Required Materials

Weekly practice logs

Playing evaluations

Class participation and attitude

Attendance at extra rehearsals

Attendance at performances

Auditioning/participating in Regional Orchestra and ALL VA Orchestra