

May 2024

To the musicians of the Class of 2028:

Warm greetings from Decorah and the Department of Music at Luther College! As director of orchestral activities, I am very pleased to welcome you to our community. Treasure the next four years—this can be the most exciting, the most challenging, the most fulfilling time of life.

Orchestras and Auditions

I take this opportunity to invite you to join one of our three orchestras. Orchestra auditions for string players will be held September 3-5 (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) in Jenson-Noble Hall of Music. If you would like to try out for orchestra this fall, please find the sign-up posted on the Orchestra Room door (in Jenson-Noble Hall of Music) when you get to campus (in August) and schedule your audition. Full rehearsals commence the week of Monday, September 9.

Below is a brief description of our orchestra program and its three ensembles:

Philharmonia. Conducted by Dr. Spencer Martin (professor of viola), this ensemble rehearses Tuesday 4:15-5:45 PM and Thursday 4:15 to 5:15 PM. Philharmonia is designed to serve the needs of students who enroll at Luther with less extensive musical training. **Audition requirements: a solo of your choice, 3-4 minutes in length.**

Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Dr. Daniel Baldwin, this ensemble rehearses Monday (4-5:30 PM), Tuesday and Thursday (4:15-5:45 PM). Symphony Orchestra tours each year, travels to Vienna every four years for a 26-day residency, plays during *Christmas at Luther* every December, and performs music from the standard orchestral repertoire. **Audition requirements: a brief solo (one minute in duration) and orchestral excerpts (attached to this email).**

Chamber Orchestra. Conducted by Dr. Daniel Baldwin, this ensemble rehearses Wednesday and Friday from 4 to 5:30 PM. Chamber Orchestra performs for *opera workshop* in alternating spring semesters, and performs music from the standard chamber orchestra repertoire. String players who join Chamber Orchestra must also be members of Symphony Orchestra. **Audition requirements: a brief solo (one minute in duration) and orchestral excerpts (attached to this email).**

If you intend to audition for Chamber Orchestra and/or Symphony Orchestra, I have attached to this email the orchestral excerpts you'll need to prepare for your audition. Your brief (one-minute) solo can be any piece that demonstrates your technique and musicality. **There is no requirement to play your solo or excerpts from memory.** I hope you will find some time for practice before you arrive on campus in August. In any case, I certainly hope you will decide to try out for orchestra.

First-year students/transfer students string player meeting

All first-year and transfer string players should plan to attend an important informational meeting during orientation days. This meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 2, 4:30-5 PM in the Jenson-Noble Orchestra Room. This meeting will be listed in the orientation brochure you will no doubt receive this summer, but I mention it now as a matter of importance to all new string players.

Again, please know how delighted I am that you will be here this fall. Luther College is a wonderful place. Please accept my warmest congratulations for all of your academic and musical achievements. I am confident that your presence here will make Luther even finer. All best wishes for a *perfect* summer.

Cordially,

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