USM Youth Ensembles
2021-2022

Administrative Staff
Alan Kaschub, director, Osher School of Music, and coordinator of ensembles
Binney Brackett, administrative liaison
Marty Lawson, music operations director/concert manager

Artistic Staff
Robert Lehmann, director, PYSO & artistic coordinator
William Kinne, director, PYWE
Hanna Flewelling, director, PYPSC
Ferdinand Liva, director, PYJO

Contacting us:
phone: 780-5003 or 1-800-800-4876, ext. 5003
e-mail: brackett@maine.edu
Please put your group name, in the subject line:
PYWE, PYSO, PYJO or PYPSC
mail: 37 College Ave., Gorham, ME 04038
storm line: 1-800-800-4876 or 780-4800
Web Page: https://usm.maine.edu/music/welcome-usm-youth-ensembles
Facebook: “USM Youth Ensembles”
Both include postings and notices about Youth Ensembles events, changes to the schedule, and pictures of musicians in rehearsal and in concert.

Membership dues: $300 per year. Family rates: $425 for 2 members, $530 for 3 members, $600 for 4 or more members, per year (September through April). Dues must be paid in full prior to the second rehearsal. All membership fees are nonrefundable.

In an emergency during rehearsal call 911
and the University Police 780-5211
RULES AND REGULATIONS
All members of the USM Youth Ensembles are required to abide by the following conditions of membership:

1. Attendance will be taken at all youth ensemble events. Attendance at dress rehearsals, immersion days, and concerts is mandatory. Absences other than emergency or illness must be approved in advance by the ensemble conductor. While our attendance policy may appear strict, it is in support of our mission of excellence in our youth ensemble programs. Absences deemed excessive, unexcused, or unreported in a timely manner by the conductor will warrant membership review by the staff and faculty. Please remember to allow extra time for rush hour traffic in Gorham.

2. In case of illness, send an e-mail to brackett@maine.edu or call 780-5003 no later than 4:00 p.m. on the rehearsal day. Please use the word “Absent” in the subject line and indicate your name, instrument, and group assignment, e.g. “Member Name - Flute - PYWE” in the body of the message.

3. Each member must bring their music to all rehearsals and concerts and a pencil to all rehearsals. Markings made on original music parts must be erased before music is turned in after concerts. Music that is torn, tattered or stained must be replaced and you will receive a bill if we must replace the part.

4. Members are required to remain in attendance for the entire length of the concerts. The directors make every attempt to end weeknight concerts by 9:00 p.m.. It is important that members support each other by listening attentively to each group's performance.

Dress for Concerts

PYWE & PYSO
Men Tuxedo or black suit, white shirt, black bow-tie, black socks, and black dress shoes.
Women All black. 3/4 length or longer skirt, dress or formal slacks (no black jeans), black long-sleeved blouse, dark hose, black dress shoes (no sneakers or flip-flops).

PYJO & PYPSC
Men Black pants (no jeans), black long-sleeved shirt with long black tie, or black turtleneck, black socks, black shoes (no sneakers).
Women Black long skirt or slacks (no jeans), black blouse or sweater, black socks, nylon stockings or black tights, black shoes (no sneakers or flip-flops).
Winter Storm Policy

The youth ensembles do not rehearse when the University is closed. Closure information is available by calling the USM Storm Line 780-4800 or 1-800-800-4876. Announcements for cancellation of evening classes and events are posted at 4 PM. You may sign up to receive USM text and email alerts: usm.bbcportal.com

In rare circumstances, we may decide to cancel the Youth Ensembles rehearsals without waiting for USM to act. If you have a question, first check your email, then call. However, the final decision rests with parents. If you are not comfortable driving or allowing your child to drive, please stay home.

Rehearsal Facilities

Please treat the facilities and all instruments with respect. It is important for members to remain within the designated rehearsal spaces. USM School of Music activities are going on concurrently with Youth Ensemble rehearsals. Rehearsal space must be straightened and re-set following rehearsal. Members are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriately mature and professional manner. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from rehearsal and/or possible expulsion from the ensembles.

Parking

Parking is available in lots across from Corthell Hall. When you park on the campus, please park in a legal space in one of the lots across the street, G3 and G4. The University Police are aware of our Wednesday evening rehearsals and are very lenient with us, but there are infractions that will not be overlooked. Do not park along the street or on a lawn, this is a safety issue for emergency vehicles. Parking tickets received for infractions at meters, handicap spaces, and out of lot parking cannot be appealed.

Suggested Activities for Drivers

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, non-members are not admitted to rehearsals. Provided they are wearing face masks and are vaccinated, parents can take advantage of university resources to help make the time pass more pleasantly. The USM library, across the street in Bailey Hall, has a comfortable reading area in Periodicals. There are snack bars in Bailey Hall and the Brooks Student Center. Off campus dining options include Amato’s, Gorham House of Pizza, Blue Pig, Burger King, Aroma Joe’s, Jan Mee II, and Subway. All are located on Route 25, or 114 and are just a block or two away.

Parents Committee

Parents and guardians are automatically members of the parents' committee and are welcome to volunteer for activities sponsored by the committee. Contact Binney Brackett for information about the parents’ group.