Artistic and Administrative Staff

Alan Kaschub, director, School of Music and coordinator of ensembles
Binney Brackett, administrative liaison
Lori Arsenault, Music Operations Director / Concert Manager
Eileen Oberholtzer, Music Development Officer
Robert Lehmann, director, PYSO, and artistic coordinator
Peter Martin, director, PYWE
Ferdinand Liva, director, PYPSC
Deborah Dabczynski, director, PYPSC
Paul McGovern, director, SMCC

Contacting us:
When sending e-mail, please put your group name, PYWE, PYSO, PYJO or PYPSC, in the subject line. Send a test email to this address and include your name and address so we can be sure we have your email address attributed to the right member or parent.

E-mail: brackett@usm.maine.edu
Phone: 780-5003 or 1-800-800-4876, ext. 5003
Mail: 37 College Ave., Gorham, ME 04038
Storm line: 1-800-800-4876 or 780-4800
Web Page: usm.maine.edu/music/usm-youth-ensembles-0

Membership dues per year, September through April
Individual $300 per year.
Family rates: $425 for 2 members, $530 for 3 members, $600 for 4 or more members

Dues must be paid in full prior to the second rehearsal. All membership fees are nonrefundable.

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 each rehearsal and concert. Dress rehearsals and concerts are mandatory. No absences are allowed. Saturday immersion days are mandatory. Two rehearsal absences are allowed per semester (September-November, January-April). In case of illness, send an e-mail to brackett@usm.maine.edu or call 780-5003 no later than 4:00 p.m. on the rehearsal day. Please use the subject line “Absent” and your group assignment, e.g. “PYWE”. Missed rehearsals due to other conflicts must be reported to the director in writing or via e-mail (brackett@usm.maine.edu) at least one week prior to the missed rehearsal. Religious holidays are excused absences. Our attendance rules are strict because we can only guarantee the quality of our program if our members are committed to the Ensembles. If you accumulate more than the allowed two absences during a semester, your membership will be reviewed by the directors. Two cases of tardiness will be considered one unexcused absence. Please allow extra time for rush hour traffic in Gorham.

2. Each Youth Ensemble member must bring his/her 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.

3. Members are required to remain in attendance for the entire length of the concerts. The directors make every attempt to end Rehearsals by 9:30 p.m.. It is important that members support each other by listening attentively to each group’s performance.
Concert Dress

PYWE & PYSO

Men Tuxedo, or black suit, white shirt, black bow-tie, black socks, and black dress shoes.
Ladies 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, and SMYC

Men Black pants (no jeans), black long-sleeved shirt with long black tie, or black turtleneck, black socks, black shoes (no sneakers).
Ladies 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).

SMCC

Ladies White on top, black on bottom (no jeans), black shoes.
Men White on top, black on bottom (no jeans), black shoes, black bow tie

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. Occasionally we decide to close 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 on College Ave. and 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. 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

Parents and guardians are automatically members of the parents' committee and are welcome to volunteer for activities sponsored by the committee or take advantage of university resources to help make the time pass more pleasantly. Contact Julia Bassett for information about the parents' group: julia.bassett@yahoo.com The USM library, across the street in Bailey Hall, has a comfortable periodicals reading area. There are snack bars in Bailey Hall and the Brooks Student Center. Off campus options include Amato's, Gorham House of Pizza, St. Joe's Coffee, Subway, and Thatcher's. All are located on Route 25, or 114 and are just a block or two away. You are welcome to make yourself comfortable in and around Corthell Hall public areas.