

The White Station High School Honors Orchestras

Projects – Portfolios – Presentations

Choose ONE of the activities I-X on pages 1-2, and use XI on page 3 for the writing requirements.

Perform

I. Live Chamber Music Performance

Perform in a Chamber Music Ensemble for an audience and/or a judge. You should be a featured performer of a program in a concert hall or performance venue. (not in your living room for your parents). If I am not present for the performance, please provide a written summary of your experience.

II. Live Solo Recital Performance

Perform a Solo Recital for an audience and/or a judge. You should be a featured performer of a program in a concert hall or performance venue. (not in your living room for your parents). If I am not present for the performance, please provide a written summary of your experience.

III. Audition/Competiton

Perform at an audition or competition. These events must be pre-approved by the teacher. Events such as the All-West audition, the MYSP Concerto Competition, and the Germantown Symphony Concerto Competition are good examples of this activity. Scoresheets, results, and a written summary of the event will be submitted.

Create

IV. Composition

Compose an original work for your instrument. The composition should be complete (not a “work in progress.”). You may add additional instruments as you wish. You (or anyone else) should be able to perform your own work; in other words, it is legible and playable. Transcriptions of pre-existing works are not compositions. Transcriptions may be approved under choice IX.

The composition should come with a paragraph decription of the work, and may include background inspiration, dedications, and other relevant information about the composition.

V. Multi-part Video Performance

Create a multi-part video performance with you playing all of the parts. Duets, trios, quartets, etc., are all acceptable. You may perform all the parts on your instrument, or you may incorporate other instruments you play, such as piano, guitar, another string instrument, etc. The primary part (the melody) must be performed on your main instrument. Your submission will include the video, the actual sheet music, and a paragraph description of the acivity.

VI. Student Developed Project/Portofolio/Presentation

Student-developed Project/Portofolio/Presentation. Take this opportunity to create your own – with teacher approval. There must be a written component (like a summary), but the rest is up to you - again, with teacher approval along the way. What do you want to do that I haven’t thought of? I’m open to your creativity.

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Respond

VII. Comparison of Three Recordings

Listen to three different and distinct recordings of one selection from our current orchestral repertoire. Compare and contrast the three recordings to each other, as well as with your own orchestra. The summaries will demonstrate your comprehension of the topic, not simple regurgitation. They will be written in your own words. The Comparison will be at least one complete page, and include a summary paragraph. It will also distinctly identify the recordings you used. Copy and Share the URLs from each performance. Your report will include a summary paragraph of all you have learned. (See XI for further writing instructions)

VIII. Concert Report

Watch and review a formal music concert.

To receive full credit, the student must document their efforts by providing complete information from the in-person or online performance and a written critique. Please document the performing ensemble, the conductor, the soloist, and the location of the performance. Copy and Share the full URL from the site. The written critique will be at least one complete page, and include a summary paragraph.

Acceptable concerts include orchestral, solo, chamber, ballet, and opera performances at the professional, collegiate, or high school level (in other words, your age group or older). Live musicians – not pre-recorded music – must be performing. You cannot critique a concert in which you are performing. If you have a question about acceptability of a performance, ask me about it before you go. Since you are providing a printed program, do not copy the program in your essay. Use it as a reference.

Your critique should include: The name(s) of the groups or performer(s), conductors, soloists, etc; Where and when was the concert; The name/description of the selections performed; The purpose of the event (if there was one); The impact on the audience and yourself. Did you enjoy the concert? Will you go hear them again? Were you surprised by anything you saw or heard? Anything else you would like to add? (See XI for further writing instructions)

Connect

IX. Orchestra Concert Program Note

Write a Program Note for our current concert. Your program note will deliver information you have learned – through research – about the music you are performing. The notes will be researched, documented, and in your own words. Your program note (or excerpts from it) may be included in our concert program. The note should be at least one complete page, and include a summary paragraph that can be used in the Concert Program here at White Station High School. (See XI for further writing instructions)

X. Summary of Three Music Journal Articles

Summarize three or more Music Journal Articles. These may be found in the library, borrowed from Dr. Palmer or another music teacher, on the internet, or from a local store. Our website has a resource link, too. Journal articles can be about musicians, instruments, performances, working conditions, etc. They should NOT be reviews of concerts, recordings, the latest amplifier, etc. The summaries will demonstrate your comprehension of the topic, not simple regurgitation. They will be written in your own words. Each summary will be at least one-half page in length. Your report will include a summary paragraph of all you have learned. (See XI for further writing instructions)

Contact Dr. Palmer at: 901-416-8880
Palmerae@scsk12.org

FAX 901-416-8910
www.whitestationorchestra.weebly.com

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XI. Writing Requirements (for Activities VII - X)

A. For the body of your text, use 12 point font (this size), double spaced, and be concise. Your titles, name, headers, etc. should not be double spaced.

B. Scoring.

1. Spelling counts. (10)
2. Grammar counts. (10)
3. Clarity counts. (10)
4. Content. (50)
 - a. While a summary of this length cannot be exhaustively comprehensive, it should demonstrate knowledge of the composer / topic.
 - b. The information will be **in your own writing** (not cut and paste).
 - c. If you are doing research, you should find some information that is new to you, i.e. "I didn't know that Mozart's father was also a composer," or, "The plural of concerto is concerti!" Make sure you tell the reader what YOU learned in your research.
 - d. Demonstrate your comprehension of the material. Do not simply compile a group of facts. Connect the dots.
 - e. Closing Paragraph. Summarize your Project / Portfolio / Presentation.
5. Documentation (20)
 - a. You must cite your sources. I should be able to locate your source material from your documentation.
 - 1) Program Notes: at least two sources
 - 2) Concert Report: the Program
 - 3) Music Journals: at least three articles
 - b. If you use a direct quote from a source (copied it word for word), please use "quotation marks" and make a direct citation (source & page number) at that time. Give the full source information at the end of each report.