

Mission

The Prelude String Orchestras are dedicated to providing young musicians in Southern California the opportunity to develop orchestral and musical skills under the guidance of professional educators. Prelude's attention to the fundamentals of musicianship and its practice of playing music from a wide variety of periods prepares our young musicians for membership in higher-level orchestras after they leave Prelude Strings.

Guidelines

Learn ensemble skills via orchestra rehearsals and performance.

Students may or may not have been in an orchestra in the past.

String Players age 8-13 or 3rd grade-8th grade will be considered for both Prelude String Orchestra and Prelude Chamber Strings.

Teach cooperation, not competition.

Students will share leadership roles via rotational seating.

Teach students to excel beyond the basics to present a high quality performance that includes phrasing, dynamics, articulation, and style specific to string instruments.

Include all qualified students in Southern California.

Our History

The Prelude String Orchestra began its first season in fall of 1994 with advice and financial support from the Tustin Area Council for Fine Arts. Annette Brower who was serving as Secretary to the Council at that time volunteered to manage the project. She has continued to manage the Orchestra since the founding year. Annette chose Helen Weed as the conductor because of her enthusiastic pledge of commitment to this orchestra which did not yet exist. Ms. Weed chose the name of the orchestra, "Prelude," to indicate the first orchestral experience for many children.

All students in the orchestra study with private teachers and have been accepted based on an audition. We have about 25 rehearsals on Saturday mornings between September and April and five performances.

Due to overwhelming interest, the Orchestra has grown from a group of 8 violins and 2 cellos in its first season to about 80 musicians divided into two string ensembles. The Prelude String Orchestra is designed to meet the needs of intermediate level students and the Prelude Chamber Strings is for more advanced students. Orchestra members are in elementary and junior high school. These musicians come from Orange, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties.

For the past 15 years we have enjoyed performing throughout Orange County at various community churches, as well as the Crystal Cathedral, Santa Ana Zoo, Laguna Hills and Brea Malls, South Coast Plaza, Tustin Historical Society home tour, Laguna Woods, Knott's Berry Farm, Disneyland, the Orange County Performing Arts Center, and the inaugural reception for the mayor of Tustin, Tracy Worlley.

PSO/PCS wants to thank the many parents and community patrons whose overwhelming interest and support has helped make the Orchestras a success. Thanks are due also to our sponsor Suzuki Music Association of California, Los Angeles Branch-Orange County Chapter. With their assistance we not only have brought fine music to the citizens of Orange County, but have enriched the lives of hundreds of young musicians.

Orchestra Policies

Attendance Policy

For the success and growth of the Orchestra, it is expected that you make every effort to attend all rehearsals. An absence affects your own learning AND the ability of other orchestra members to be fully prepared for a performance.

It is our general policy that a member accumulates no more than four absences throughout the season.

There are no excused absences from concerts, dress rehearsals, or sectionals.

If you are ill, you must contact the Executive Director.

If you have a conflict with a concert, dress rehearsal, or sectional because of a school music concert, outdoor education, or a school sponsored trip to Washington DC, you must inform the Executive Director by September 26, 2009.

Any unexcused absence from a concert, dress rehearsal, or sectional may result in loss of membership and orchestra fees will not be refunded.

Conduct

Orchestra members are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times. Courteous attention, punctuality, and good manners will lead to a productive rehearsal for all involved. It is expected that these same courtesies will be extended to fellow musicians and volunteers. Inappropriate behavior may result in loss of membership.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held on Saturday mornings at Calvary Church of Santa Ana from late September through April. The schedule is subject to change with appropriate notice to orchestra members. Students need to arrive 15 minutes early in order to be tuned and ready to rehearse on time. Please take traffic issues into consideration as late arrivals are disruptive to a rehearsal.

Parents who do not stay for rehearsal need to return on time. Students will not be left alone to wait for a ride. Please do not leave us stranded in the parking lot waiting for you. Parents and guests are always welcome to stay and listen to rehearsals.

No food, soft drinks, or gum.

Music

Orchestra members are expected to have their music folder and pencil at each rehearsal and concert. Lost music folders will be replaced at the cost of \$10. Please replace your binder if it has received less than ideal treatment and is in poor condition at the end of the season.

Seating

Our orchestras use rotational seating at rehearsals. We do this to encourage cooperation and not competition.

School Music Program

Orchestra members are expected to participate in their school music program to the satisfaction of their school music teacher, if there is a program for string instruments. We understand that there can be significant differences between school music programs and many times Prelude members are the most advanced musicians in their schools. If you are in this position, we encourage you to take a leadership role in your school program and set an example for your classmates who will often be inspired to reach the level of musicianship you have achieved.

Concert Dress

Girls:

- black skirt that is at least 4 inches below the knee in a sitting position
- short or long sleeved black blouse (not sleeveless)
- black nylons or tights
- black dress shoes

Boys:

- black dress pants
- black dress shirt
- black socks
- black dress shoes
- black dress belt

Contact Information

Annette Brower

Executive Director, Prelude String Orchestra and Prelude Chamber Strings

Home Office: (714)973-0906

Office Email: director@preludestrings.org (for the quickest response)

Website: www.preludestrings.org

Mailing Address:

Prelude String Orchestra

1831 E. 19th Street

Santa Ana, CA 92705

Rehearsal Location

Calvary Church of Santa Ana

Choir Room

1010 N. Tustin Ave.

Santa Ana, CA 92705

Concert Locations

Calvary Church of Santa Ana

Samsvick Chapel

1010 N. Tustin Ave.

Santa Ana, CA 92705

Concordia University, CU Center

1530 Concordia West

Irvine, CA 9271

Rossmoor Towers, Lortcher Hall

24055 Paseo del Lago West

Laguna Woods