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**Symphony Orchestra
Fall Season 2020
Eric Mahl
WCYO Music Director, Conductor**

Program Highlights

For the last 15 years the WCYO has hosted its rehearsals in the Ridgefield Public Schools. Due to the COVID-19 Health Crisis, however, we are temporarily unable to utilize any of its facilities or equipment. We are in discussions with other large venues in town to arrange alternative rehearsal space. However, they, like us, are unable to commit to indoor assembly at this time. Therefore, we are planning our Fall Season around virtual rehearsals with a goal of moving to a hybrid program over time.

Here is a sample of the virtual rehearsal schedule for the Symphony Orchestra:

Weekly Musical Topic Discussion (15 min),

Orchestral Explorations (30 min)

Full Rehearsal - Tchaikovsky (30 min)

Break (10 min)

Two or Three Sectionals a Week or Possible Breakout Rooms (20 min)

Every third week Eric will invite a special guest or offer a mini-workshop in place of the first or second session.

Total 1hr 45 minutes 6:00 - 7:45 PM

Depending on the rehearsal venue and the restrictions they apply and the state of the COVID-19 health crisis in our communities, we will attempt to have at least one in-person rehearsal night for each ensemble in both November and December and one in-person social event during the fall season. If schools go completely virtual, however, due to community mandates to control the pandemic, all in-person activities will be cancelled. We will update you as the situation unfolds.

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Season Finale

We will plan to end the fall season on December 17th with a virtual concert including ensemble and/or small group video performances. However, if our community is managing the COVID-19 crisis well, we will look to find a large facility for an in-person, one ensemble at a time, performance gathering that can potentially be streamed or recorded for parents.

Program Content

The conductors will bring their unique talents to the programming to provide enrichment, performance opportunities, and social connections to our ensembles.

Eric has set three connecting themes 1) Musical Roots 2) Facing Adversity and 3) Love. Each theme has associated music for listening, some for actual performance, and some for his orchestral explorations workshops (deep dive into masterpieces). Music for performance rehearsals includes works by Tchaikovsky and Florence Price.

Conductors' Hours

All conductors will offer office hours to provide their musicians one-on-one time for purposes of check-in on how they are doing with the musical selections and the format. These kind of check-ins normally happen weekly at in-person rehearsals; this is an attempt to provide a space for those personalized conversations. Eric encourages all musicians to sign-up for at least one 15 minute meeting per season. Conductors' hours will be scheduled outside of rehearsal time and hours will be posted on the Google calendar and in the weekly e-blast.