



Kishwaukee
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MUSICIANS' HANDBOOK

What Members of
the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra
Need to Know

The Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra (KSO) Website

The KSO website is at www.kishorchestra.org and contains much information about the orchestra, including its mission, history, music director, members, Board of Directors, concerts and other events, rehearsal schedule, avenues for financial support, volunteer support group (the Kishwaukee Symphony Associates), and young artists concerto competition.

KSO Contacts

Music Director: Linc Smelser: cellincoln64@gmail.com

General Manager: Amanda Nelson: contact@kishorchestra.org

Personnel Manager: Lynn Cook: KSOpersonnel@gmail.com 815-761-0687

Music Librarian and Publicist: Tammy Farrell: kishorchpr@gmail.com

Website Coordinator: Jerry Zar: jhzar@niu.edu

President: Ann Tucker: atucker54@frontier.com

February 2, 2015

The Mission of the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra (KSO)

Established in 1976, the KSO promotes its mission of ***Enriching and Educating the Community through Music*** by

- Offering enriching performances of orchestral music for the region's residents and visitors.
- Providing orchestral music education for children and youth in the region, especially those who have limited access to such experiences.
- Providing a means for professional and amateur musicians in the region to play interesting and challenging music in a full orchestral setting.
- Providing opportunities for soloists and guest conductors, from the region and beyond, to perform before appreciative local audiences.

How to Handle Your Music

- Be respectful of the music and the music folders. For example, please do not bend, fold, smoke near, or eat or drink near the music and the folders.
- If writing on the music, use only erasable pencil lead.
- The music and folders are to be returned in the same condition as when received. Please remove all other papers, pencils, and other items from the folders before returning them. Put the pages of each piece of music in their proper order and face all pieces of music in the same direction.
- The folder and all of its music are to be returned to the designated backstage location immediately following the concert. No exceptions. This policy is in effect even if you miss the performance.
- Fines will be charged for missing or damaged music.
- Questions about the folders and the music may be directed to the KSO Music Librarian, Tammy Farrell: kishorchpr@gmail.com.

Absence from Concerts or Rehearsals

While we hope that KSO musicians for which there are parts will play in all concerts during the season, it is understood that this is not always possible. Once you have checked out a folder, it is assumed that you will be playing for that concert. Notify the Personnel Manager, Lynn Cook (KSOpersonnel@gmail.com or 815-761-0687), *as soon as possible*, if you know that you will NOT be playing in a concert.

Every effort should be made to attend every rehearsal. If a rehearsal absence is necessary, please alert the Personnel Manager, Lynn Cook (KSOpersonnel@gmail.com or 815-761-0687). Musicians playing woodwind, brass, percussion, or principal string parts may be asked to find a substitute for that rehearsal and/or to have their music at the rehearsal.

Concert Dress and Personal Items

- For indoor concerts:

Men: black tuxedo, white shirt, black bow tie, and black shoes.

Women: all black, including black shoes. Pants, skirts, or dresses are acceptable. Outfits should be modest; no sleeveless tops. Knee-length skirts and dresses are allowed if worn with black hosiery.

- For outdoor concerts:

Men: black pants and shoes, white short-sleeved shirt, no tie.

Women: black on bottom, including shoes, and white on top.

- For all concerts:

Personal items (such as coats, handbags, and instrument cases) should not be onstage during the performance.

Obtaining New Orchestra Members

If you know of accomplished musicians who would like to consider becoming members of the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra, or who would like to be placed on a list of potential substitute players, you can advise them to contact the orchestra's Personnel Manager, Lynn Cook, at KSOpersonnel@gmail.com (or 815-761-0687) or the Conductor and Music Director, Linc Smelser, at cellincoln64@gmail.com (or 815-761-4685).

Website Information About the KSO Musicians

At the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra (KSO) website's home page (www.kishorchestra.org), clicking on the "ABOUT" tab at the upper left, and then on "Musicians", you get to this Web page: www.kishorchestra.org/about/musicians.html.

At that page, many of the musicians' names have been highlighted, and clicking on a highlighted name gets you to information about that person. The information for a musician typically consists of a color photograph and a biographical statement (although in a few cases there has been a photo or a bio, but not both).

Orchestra members who have a photo and/or bio at the website are invited to update it, and those who do not have one there are invited to submit one for inclusion. We are interested in high-quality photos, in color and in concert dress; and most of the photos are of folks holding their instrument. Clicking on a few musicians' names will give you an idea of the kinds of biographical statements commonly posted, typically including most of the following information: how long they have been playing their instrument, with whom they have studied, how long they have been playing with the KSO, earned degrees or other formal study (in music or otherwise), and positions/jobs held (in music or otherwise). And comments may be included about the musician's family, favorite music, or non-musical activities. If you have a personal website, especially if it is music-related, you may wish to have a link to it in your KSO biographical statement. (That personal website could, of course, contain your e-mail address and/or further Web links.) If you want a link to your website, provide the URL along with your biographical statement. (And, it would be appropriate if KSO folks with personal websites dealing with music had a link there to the KSO site: www.kishorchestra.org.)

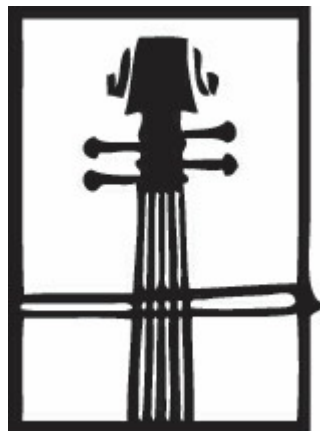
Photos and biographical statements should be sent, as e-mail attachments, to Jerry Zar at jhzar@niu.edu.

Members of the NIU Campus String Orchestra (CSO)

Northern Illinois University students who are members of the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra may receive academic credit by enrolling in NIU course MUSE 365/665: Campus String Orchestra. The KSO's Music Director, Linc Smelser, is the CSO's conductor and is the NIU instructor of record for that course.

A syllabus for this course is on the following page. Those enrolled are expected to be prepared for rehearsals and performances to the best of their ability, to be supportive of their fellow musicians and the conductor toward the goal of excellence in music performance, and to faithfully participate in rehearsals and performances.

As seen on the course syllabus, attendance is a major determinant of the grades assigned to students enrolled for course credit. Therefore, those students are required to sign in and out of each rehearsal and concert.



Syllabus

MUSE 365/665 - Campus String Orchestra (in cooperation with the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra)

Description of the Ensemble

The Northern Illinois University Campus String Orchestra is a cooperative effort with the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra (KSO). Students enrolled in MUSE 365/665 perform as members of the KSO.

Course Objectives

The KSO performs concerts for DeKalb and the northern Illinois region and strives to provide the highest quality musical performance possible. Therefore, the students enrolled in MUSE 365/665 serve the mission of Northern Illinois University and its School of Music by providing cultural enrichment for the region.

Course Grading

Students are expected to be prepared for rehearsals and performances to the best of their ability and to be supportive of their fellow musicians and the conductor toward the goal of excellence in music performance. Attendance at performances is required, unless excused in advance by the conductor. The rehearsal and performance schedule for the semester will be provided during the first fourth of the semester.

Students missing 1-2 rehearsals may still receive a grade of "A".

Students missing 3 rehearsals will receive a grade no higher than "B+".

Students missing 4 rehearsals will receive a grade no higher than "B".

Students missing 5 rehearsals will receive a grade no higher than "C+".

Students missing 6 rehearsals will receive a grade no higher than "C".

Students missing 7-8 rehearsals will receive a grade no higher than "D".

Students missing 9 or more rehearsals will receive a grade of "F".

Students missing a performance (without being excused in advance) will receive a grade of "F".

Linc Smelser, Music Director
Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra
January 2015