

ELEMENTAL MUSIC

celebrating music-making and building
community in Santa Monica for over a decade



PARENT HANDBOOK 2021-2022

We make great music together.

ATTENDANCE:

- Rehearsals take place weekly as noted on the calendar.
- Check in begins 15 min before rehearsal, please arrive early to ensure a timely start of rehearsal.
- Excessive and/or frequent tardiness will not be tolerated. Students need to be at rehearsals for the entirety of the time.

ABSENCES:

- In order to get the most out of the ensemble experience, students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. However, if your child is sick or is in quarantine, please do not attend rehearsal.
- Multiple absences will be considered on a case by case basis. Students with excessive absences may not be able to participate in performances.
- Please carefully check the calendar (also available online) for dates, times, and locations of all rehearsals and performances. If your child is sick or has to unexpectedly miss a rehearsal, please contact your Program Director as soon as possible.
- If students are required to quarantine due to COVID exposure we will do our best to provide Zoom access to rehearsal. Please give your Program Director 24 hrs notice if possible if students need to miss rehearsal.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP POLICY

- Please be sure to complete the online health screening the day of rehearsal. Students that have not submitted a health screening will not be allowed to attend rehearsal.
- Please note that supervision by Elemental Music Staff is only available 15 minutes before the beginning of rehearsal.
- Parents will not be allowed into school sites or rehearsals with the exception of approved volunteers. Students will be escorted to and from rehearsal spaces by Elemental Music staff or mentors.
- Please be sure to pick up students promptly at the end of rehearsal.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

- Keep all notices in your black binders. Parents, please check the binder for important handouts each week (which will also be emailed).
- Bring your music, music binder, and 2 sharpened pencils with eraser, to every rehearsal. Mark your own parts!
- Be sure to bring appropriate masks or PPE for rehearsals. Wind students are required to wear instrument specific PPE and will not be allowed to play their instrument at rehearsals without this PPE.

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STUDENT EXPECTATIONS (*continued*):

- Snack time is a beloved time in our rehearsals, however due to Covid safety protocols we ask that students bring their own snacks and water for snack time.
- Be on time! Early is on time; on time is late.
- Come prepared! Please learn your part at home, and if you have a private teacher, bring it in to them for help. If you do not have a private teacher, and are interested in recommendations, please let us know. Check with your Director for a suggested amount of practice time at home.
- Be respectful and courteous to the teachers, mentors, parents, and ensemble members. We are guests at our host schools for rehearsals and concerts and should behave as such. No food or drink (except bottled water) is allowed in the classrooms. Please do not chew gum on campus.

CONCERT ATTIRE:

Shop early for your concert clothes! Students grow quickly, and often outgrow clothes and shoes during the year. Please check that everything still fits before each concert.

TOPS

- Solid white, long-sleeve dress shirts (no t-shirts, no spaghetti straps) for EB, EC, EG, ES & Prelude.
- Academy Philharmonic students will need solid black long-sleeve shirts.
- Sweaters are ok, but please do not have any patterns, embroidery or colored design on your tops.
- Tops with shirt tails must be tucked in.

BOTTOMS

- Long black skirt (must fall gracefully past the knees when seated)
- Black dress pants (no jeans or leggings)
- If a belt is worn, it must be solid black.

FOOTWEAR

- Black dress shoes (no sandals or sneakers)
- Black hosiery optional.
- All socks should be black.

HAIR

- Please be sure to pull your hair off your face. We want to be sure we can see your face!

White means solid white, and black means solid black. Please, no embroidery, patterns, polka dots, etc.

***Chamber Music Institute** students are required to wear concert-appropriate attire but may determine colors and styles within their groups and under guidance from their coach.*

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

As we welcome you to the new season, we want to stress that the safety of our students and staff is our priority! We have worked hard to minimize the risk of Covid-exposure for everyone. Protocols have been established in accordance with the CDC, local health agencies, and the SMMUSD. Updates will be made accordingly.

STAFF

- Our staff is fully vaccinated and COVID Safety trained. Staff will be required to update with booster shots as per public health guidelines. Our program directors also have CPR and First Aid training.

FACILITIES

- Rehearsals will take place at SMMUSD Schools and their COVID protocols for facilities can be found here: <https://www.smmusd.org/coronavirus> - Go to the right side of the page under SMMUSD Safety Plan and click "Facilities" for more details. Then click on any/all of the sections for info.
- Ensembles and sectionals will rehearse outdoors and indoors based on instrument type as follows:

Outdoor:

Ensembles with winds & voice
Sectionals with winds & voice

Indoor:

String- and guitar-only ensembles
Sectionals with strings, guitar, & percussion

DROP-OFF/PICK-UP

- Parents will not be allowed into rehearsals or onto campus. Students will be escorted by staff from drop-off and to pick-up at school entrances.
- Parent volunteers for any EM event must be fully vaccinated and complete a health screening the day of the rehearsal/event.
- Temperature checks and Health Screenings completed online the day of the rehearsal are required to enter rehearsal. Students will check in before entering the rehearsal space and any students or staff showing any kind of COVID symptoms will not be allowed into rehearsals.

HEALTH SCREENING LINKS

We recommend bookmarking these links for easy weekly access:

- **Prelude:** bit.ly/preludescreening
- **Academy Philharmonic:** bit.ly/apscreening
- **Intro Guitar:** bit.ly/igscreening
- **Elemental Guitar:** bit.ly/egscreening
- **Elemental Band:** bit.ly/ebscreening
- **Elemental Strings:** bit.ly/esscreening
- **Elemental Choir:** bit.ly/choirscreening
- **Chamber Music Institute:** bit.ly/cmiscreening

REHEARSAL PROTOCOL

- Hand sanitizer and hand washing stations will be readily available for students at rehearsal sites. Students will be reminded to wash and/or sanitize their hands before rehearsal and before and after snack time.
- Masking will be required at all times. Wind and choir students will be required to use instrument specific PPE and students without this appropriate PPE will not be allowed to play their instruments or sing at rehearsals.
- Students must supply their own PPE. Wind and voice PPE can be purchased through Santa Monica Music Center.
- Students will not be allowed to share personal items like instruments and pencils and may need to bring their own folding music stand.
- In order to minimize potential exposure, students will be grouped into cohorts with their section during rehearsals and snack time. Sections will remain distanced from each other whether inside or outside.
- Snack time will be outdoors for all groups and is the only time students will be allowed to unmask for eating or drinking. Students will bring their own snacks and water bottles.

INSTRUMENT/VOCAL PPE

- For woodwind, brass, and choir students, Program Directors will provide information about what kind of specialized PPE is required in order to participate. We are working with **Santa Monica Music Center** (1901 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica 90404) to ensure that our students can purchase the proper PPE. Please see below for examples of what that may look like:



IN CASE OF EXPOSURE

- If students need to quarantine due to possible COVID exposure and cannot attend rehearsal, then they will be able to access the rehearsal via Zoom from home. In order to help students keep up with their ensemble, we are planning to have Zoom access to rehearsals for those that need to quarantine. Please notify your director at least 24 hours before rehearsal that you will be absent due to quarantine and they will provide more information on how to access the rehearsal via Zoom.
- If there is a positive COVID case confirmed in the ensemble all members of the ensemble will be notified. Members of the section that had close contact with the positive case will be notified that the positive case was in their section. The identity of the positive case will not be released. Students and staff will be asked to quarantine based on their exposure. A negative test will be required to return to rehearsals.

CALENDARS:

Every ensemble will receive their own personalized calendar and supply list. Google calendars are also available for each ensemble. If you ever misplace your rehearsal calendar, you can download it again from our website.

- **Prelude:** bit.ly/preludecal21
- **Academy Philharmonic:** bit.ly/academycal21
- **Intro Guitar:** bit.ly/egcal21
- **Elemental Guitar:** bit.ly/egcal21
- **Elemental Band:** bit.ly/ebcal21
- **Elemental Strings:** bit.ly/escal21
- **Elemental Choir:** bit.ly/eccal21
- **Chamber Music Institute:** bit.ly/cmical21

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Be sure to follow us across our social media channels for behind-the-scenes footage and photos from rehearsal and concerts, educational articles, volunteer opportunities, local event happenings, and more!

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/ElementalMusicSM>

Instagram: @elementalmusicsm

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/elementalmusm>

For more information about our programs, staff, or calendars, please visit our website:

www.elementalmusic.org



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LEADERSHIP TEAM

Visite espanol.elementalmusic.org para ver la lista de empleados y sus biografías.

Academy Philharmonic

Director: Peter Senchuk - peter@elementalmusic.org

Elemental Band

Director: Peter Senchuk - peter@elementalmusic.org

Elemental Choir

Directora: Jessi Spike Gravelle - jessi@elementalmusic.org

Elemental Guitar

Director: Mak Grgic - mak@elementalmusic.org

Co-Director: Bokyung Byun - bo@elementalmusic.org

Elemental Strings

Chamber Orchestra Director: Josephine Moerschel - josephine@elementalmusic.org

Sinfonia Director: Jason Aiello - jason@elementalmusic.org

Prelude

Director: Erin Little- erin@elementalmusic.org

Chamber Music Institute

Director: Emily Call - emily@elementalmusic.org

ADMINISTRATION:

- Josephine Moerschel – Executive and Artistic Director; Elemental Strings Co-Director
josephine@elementalmusic.org; 310-486-3857
- Emily Call – Marketing & Communications Director; Chamber Music Institute Director
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- Emily Senchuk – Operations & Programs Director
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