



Beginning Orchestra Syllabus - 2026-2027

Instructor: Ms. Liz Massad, massadliz1323@gmail.com

Rehearsal Schedule and Location: See calendar posted at www.tlucma.org

Course Description:

Instruction in Orchestral musicianship skills and continued instruction in instrumental technique.

Preparation and performance of selections from the standard student orchestral repertoire.

Members are admitted to the Beginning Orchestra by graduation from Level 2 of a CMA Lindenbaum Outreach Program String Class, or at least one year of private lessons, or by audition.

Text: Music will be assigned and provided for ensemble performances. All music must be returned in a timely manner following a final performance, or a fee may be assessed. If damaged or lost, you will be responsible for the cost of replacement music.

Required Materials: Instruments, folders for music, and a pencil.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To provide students with a depth of knowledge in a single discipline sufficient to understand its methods, language, content, history, and value. Within the context of this class, this will be covered in the form of String Ensemble literature, history, performance, and rehearsal technique. (TLU IGG-Knowing)
- 2) To provide students with tools for analyzing music and performances critically and reflectively, and for communicating amongst the group and to an audience. (TLU IGG-Doing)
- 3) To encourage students to recognize ways in which music can be offered as a service to the community, to enrich their lives, and to motivate them to use music to cultivate personal well-being and continued growth. (TLU IGG-Becoming)
- 4) To encourage the continuing music education of school-age string students through the School of Music at Texas Lutheran University upon graduation from High School.

The course objectives will lead to the following student goals:

- Maintenance of playing skills learned in Outreach Classes (to include but not limited to:) balanced and relaxed posture/instrument hold, desirable tone, awareness and adjustment of pitch accuracy, articulations and bow distribution
- Reading notes in first position for all strings, A, D, G, and C major
- Reading rhythms to include but not limited to: whole notes, half notes, dotted half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, dotted quarter note patterns
- Hooked and slurred bowings
- Knowledge and performance of dynamics
- Ensemble playing with 2 or more parts differing in notes and/or rhythm
- Watching and responding to conducting
- Beginning understanding of music history as it relates to the literature studied

Attendance Policy:

- Students are expected to arrive at each rehearsal approximately 10 minutes early in order to be ready to play at the beginning of class.

- All members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Any conflicts with scheduled rehearsals, concerts and dress rehearsals must be brought to the instructor's attention immediately. Students missing more than 3 rehearsals may be requested not to participate in the final performance.

Required Performance Dates:

December 8, 2026 - Lindenbaum Outreach Program and Youth Orchestra Recital

TLU Jackson Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

May 4, 2027 - Lindenbaum Outreach Program and Youth Orchestra Recital

TLU Jackson Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.