



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a New Horizons Orchestra? The New Horizons Orchestra at Lawrence Academy of Music is a string orchestra program just for adults. You can learn to play music as part of an orchestra—even if you have no musical experience! The group meets weekly throughout the year for three 10-week sessions. There is time off during holidays and for most of the summer.

What instruments can we play? You may start your orchestra career on any of four string instruments: violin, viola, cello or string bass.

Which instrument should I play? A lot depends on which instrument you like or appeals to you. You might have played an instrument in school and want to pick up where you left off. Maybe your children left a violin or cello in the attic and you want to dust it off and use it. If you want advice, talk to the orchestra director and find out which instruments are needed to help the group's overall sound.

How do I get an instrument? Music stores have rental programs to try out an instrument, with options to switch instruments if you change your mind. Usually these rental programs have options to buy. If you already own an instrument, you will want to take it to a repair shop to be brought back to playing condition, especially if the instrument has not been played in a long time. It's very frustrating to try to learn to play on a non-functioning instrument!

What else will I need? A folding music stand, which you can purchase at your local music store, and a lesson book. Check with the director to see which book is appropriate for you.

What do I have to do besides come to rehearsals? Well, you do have to spend some time practicing on your own – that's part of the music learning process. As an adult, you have a lot of advantages that kids don't have: you are motivated to learn, you understand the benefits of learning music, and you appreciate the fun of playing an instrument in the orchestra! There are other things we will do besides play the instruments during rehearsals – music is a big subject and there are all kinds of activities planned to help you understand it. We may also schedule some performances outside of rehearsal time.

Performances? I get stage fright and my feet get cold! The New Horizons Orchestra is not like other community orchestras that have set performances, schedules, and concert deadlines. We perform for the fun of it, to demonstrate the enjoyment of making music. We do not have high-pressure, nerve-wracking performances or rehearsals.

Where and when are rehearsals held? Our meeting location is at Trinity Lutheran Church, 209 S. Allen St., Appleton, Wis., on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Enter from the west parking lot and look for a sign directing you to the Fellowship Hall.

What is the cost? \$125 per 10-week session or \$325.00 for the full year when all three sessions are paid in advance.

How do I register? Contact the New Horizons Orchestra, Lawrence Academy of Music, P.O. Box 599, Appleton, WI 54912-0599 or call (920) 832-6632 for a registration form and more information.