

MHSS Summer Ensembles '22!!

I am SO excited to be offering these group sessions again this summer! One of my teacher-goals providing authentic learning experiences for my musicians in the “real world”. Ensemble playing is a critical skill for musicians, as much of our playing is with others. Please consider joining in the EXTRA fun and challenge of ensemble playing this summer!

Some basics for the Summer Ensemble sessions:

~Ensembles will meet for 10 weekly 45-minute sessions/rehearsals throughout the summer term. Tuition is \$250, and includes the weekly rehearsal, music, and rehearsal/performance space rental.

~Dual-Instrument musicians are welcome to participate in both string and piano ensemble.

~Summer schedules are crazy! I would love to have a full studio for each ensemble, but for the purposes of playing successfully together, it is important to have all members of the group present for as many of the rehearsals as possible. When considering enrolling for summer ensembles, aim to have your vacation/camp/sport schedules resulting in no more than 3 ensemble absences throughout the summer. Thank you!

~There is a minimum enrollment of 3 musicians per ensemble. Sign up with your friends! :) These ensembles are open for any musician, so if you have non-MHSS friends that play...go ahead and invite them to play with you this summer! Also, you DO NOT have to be taking summer private lessons to participate in the ensembles, but you (and any friends) should be active in school-year lessons either at MHSS, another private teacher or in school. Musicians in Strings 2, Strings 3 and Piano must be confident note/music-readers.

~**One last detail!** These ensembles will be preparing for outreach service performances at local nursing homes/elderly care facilities. If any students are working to build volunteer hours, this is an ideal way to earn hours doing something you love...with friends!

If this sounds like something you/your musician(s) would like to be a part of this summer, please take some time to read through the following descriptions of each ensemble. Then, go to <https://forms.gle/8kkkVpukYDwdE5gA8> **to register for the group(s) that describes your skill level best.** *If you have any questions about the best fit for your musician, please just ask me!*

I am looking forward to oodles of music-making FUN together this summer!!

~Mrs. Hahn :)

String Ensemble 1 is open to all beginner-level string players. Students should have confidence with basics of playing posture and instrument technique. PIZZ is acceptable. For this ensemble, we will be playing music that involves the first notes on both D and A strings for violin, viola & cello (D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#, D) . Bases will be playing the first notes on D and G strings (D, E, F#, G, A & B), as well as III Position on G String (C# and D). Rhythm patterns will focus on whole, half, & quarters, and separate bows will be most common. If you are in the first year of playing your instrument, and/or the half of most “Book 1”s, Strings 1 is the group for you! **Strings 1 meets on Mondays from 6:30-7:15.**

String Ensemble 2 is open to all mid-level string players. Students should be confident playing all I Position notes on all four strings (and III Pos on D and G for bass). Music played in Strings 2 will involve playing in the first three key signatures of D, G and C Major, so musicians in this group need to be comfortable playing F and C Naturals (“low 2” on violin/viola, 2nd finger on cello/bass, etc). Rhythm patterns will step up to include eighths and basic dotted patterns; and bowings will also incorporate slurs, ties, hooked-bow and staccatos. If you have been playing your instrument for 1-2 years, and /or have completed most “Book 1”s, this is the group for you! **Strings 2 meets on Mondays from 7:30-8:15.**

String Ensemble 3 is open to all advanced-level string players. Students should be confident playing in various key signatures; major and minor. It is likely musicians will use common upper positions for their instrument, typically I-IV. Music played in Strings 3 will involve melodic, rhythmic and articulation (bowing) challenges. Musicians should expect to see technically interesting melodies, 16th notes, syncopation, spiccato, etc. If you have been playing your instrument for 3+ years, and are in/have completed most “Book 2/3”s, this is the group for you! *This is also the correct placement for musicians that are beyond the typical “Book 3” level. Music will be selected to ensure both enjoyment and challenge for even the most advanced musician! :) **Strings 3 meets on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:15.**

Piano Ensemble is open to all piano students that have completed at least their first year of lessons. Students should know the basics of playing piano, in a minimum of the first two hand positions (“Middle C” and “C Position”). As playing in a piano ensemble/group is most likely a first-ever experience, musicians should expect to see music that is personally less-challenging, but the real challenge will be playing (and staying together with!) three or more pianists at the same time. All music for piano ensemble will be selected to compliment those that enroll, and to ensure both enjoyment and challenge for beginners through advanced pianists! :) **Piano Ensemble meets on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:15.**