

HAMILTON COLLEGE ORCHESTRA – FALL 2025

Professor Heather Buchman, director

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Cell phone: (315) 796-1412

Office hours by appointment

REPERTOIRE

Brahms Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73 (2222 4231 pk)
additional rep TBA

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE is sent by email at the beginning of each week.

Please keep Tuesday & Thursday 7-9p free each week, until the schedule for the week is sent.

DRESS & RESCHEDULED REHEARSALS, CHECKUP APPOINTMENTS, CONCERTS

Friday, October 24	1-5p	Music checkups
Thursday, October 30	7-9p	Dress rehearsal
Saturday, November 1	7:30p	Family Weekend Concert (with Choir & Jazz Ensemble)
Tuesday, December 9	7-9:30	Dress rehearsal 1
Thursday, December 11	7-9:30	Dress rehearsal 2
Friday, December 12	7:30p	Fall Concert

CONCERT DRESS

All genders: Concert/dress black: black dress pants, long sleeve black dress shirt (light shirt, dark jacket optional). Black dress shoes & socks. Black skirt or dress also optional.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

Participation in Orchestra emphasizes the College's Educational Goals of

Analytic Discernment – the ability to analyze sound in terms of intonation, balance, blend, rhythm, and other musical variables, and use that information in practice and rehearsal

Aesthetic Discernment – developing an 'ear' for the distinct styles and affects in of each of the works we are performing; becoming familiar with the sound world of each composer

Disciplinary Practice – understanding and applying the focused, sustained, methodical effort over time necessary to develop a high level of skill in playing your instrument, of playing in an ensemble

Communication and Expression – the ability to convey affect and character through musical means.

GRADES

are based on (1) Attendance, (2) Consistency of music preparation, (3) Development of ensemble skills (watching, listening, counting, rhythm, intonation), (4) General conscientiousness and professionalism.

ATTENDANCE

The rehearsal schedule is sent by email at the beginning of each week; orchestra members are on call for regular rehearsal times until that week's schedule is announced.

Rehearsals will start promptly at the announced time. Allow enough time to get everything you need and be ready to play.

Academic and extracurricular activities outside normal class hours (lectures, exams, class presentations, review sessions) are not automatically excused. Your prior commitment is to the regularly scheduled rehearsal time and any additional times listed in the syllabus.

How to handle this? **Let your professor know of the conflict with another class, and request that other arrangements be made for you to take the exam.**

Notify me as early as possible if you are unable to come to rehearsal, including if you are not feeling well – at least ½ hour before start of rehearsal. Special circumstances considered at the director's discretion.

Attendance is one of the main factors for your grade:

- After one rehearsal missed, each additional rehearsal missed is a reduction of 1/3 letter grade.
- Lateness or leaving early may count as a partial absence.
- A single missed *dress rehearsal* will result in a deduction of a full letter grade.
- A missed *concert* will result in a deduction of two letter grades.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

Everyone in the ensemble is called on to help create a respectful and productive working atmosphere in rehearsal. Common sense and general thoughtfulness apply. In particular:

- Be considerate of the rehearsal – no talking or extraneous playing, particularly during tuning notes.
- No food, drinks, or cell phones are allowed in rehearsal.
- Pick up whatever you bring with you onstage.
- Cello and bass players: make sure to use a rock stop, rubber tip guard, or strap to secure your end pin. Bare end pins cause significant damage to the stage floor.
- If you have a long rest or a tacet movement, stay nearby. No walking out, except to deal with a problem with your instrument, or if it's a true emergency.

GENERAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

It is important to protect everyone's health by following best practices:

- If you have respiratory symptoms, let the director know promptly, and don't come to rehearsal.
- You can resume normal activities once your symptoms are improving and you've been fever-free (without fever-reducing meds) for at least 24 hours.
- For five days after resuming normal activities, take extra precautions, including wearing a well-fitting mask and maintaining distance from others, etc.
- If symptoms or fever return, start back at square one: stay home and away from others until you've been improving and fever-free for at least 24 hours.
- Brass players – use paper towels or a cloth towel for condensation at all times when playing. Do not empty spit valves on the floor.

ORCHESTRA MUSIC

Music is to be marked in pencil only, and to be kept in good condition in the orchestra folders provided. Have a sharpened pencil with eraser at all rehearsals.

Orchestra music is to be kept in the HCO music folders, and folders are kept in the orchestra music cabinet. Make sure your folder is returned to the cabinet after every rehearsal.

Take good care of your orchestra music – don't subject it to excess wear and tear, water damage, or fold or mark it with ink. Any damaged or lost parts must be paid for at replacement cost.

LESSONS AND PRACTICE

All Orchestra members are encouraged to take private lessons. Lesson scholarships are available on request to Orchestra members who need financial assistance.

Orchestra members are expected to learn your orchestra music through consistent practice outside of rehearsal over the semester, and to keep track of which passages you need to work on. This is checked at the music checkups before performances.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

HCO members are expected to attend three concerts per semester, normally in Wellin Hall and sponsored by the Performing Arts at Hamilton. Be sure to have your attendance recorded by student workers **inside Wellin Hall**. Students taking private lessons will not be required to attend additional concerts above the requirement for lessons. Some recommended performances this semester:

Friday, September 5	7:30p	Faculty Concert
Friday, September 12	7:30p	Art Under Pressure: Music of Shostakovich & Weinberg
Friday, September 19	7:30p	HC Performing Arts series: The Sebastians (early music ensemble)
Friday, November 14	7:30p	HC Performing Arts series: Jupiter String Quartet
Wednesday, December 10	7:30p	Chamber Ensembles Concert