Greetings from the Otterbein University Orchestral Department:

I hope your summer has been both restful and productive. As we approach the beginning of the Fall Semester I wanted to take a moment to welcome you back. If you are receiving this letter it is because you are have expressed interest in or are expected to participate in Otterbein’s String Orchestra this year. If you have not registered for String Orchestra, you should do so. All string majors and those receiving string participation awards are required to participate in String Orchestra (MUSC 4108-02 - .5 credits) which meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 until 5:20. NOTE: MUSC 4107-01 – 1 credit is intended for BM degree track students. If you are not in the BM degree and are registered for 1 credit hour of string orchestra, please take a moment to go through the drop add process. A detailed schedule for the semester, and much of the entire year, will be provided at the first rehearsal. I am looking forward to a year of great music, with programs of challenging repertoire being planned. The repertoire for the fall program centers on the double bass with works by Eric Ewazen and Henry Purcell, a world premiere written by Christian Berg, our jazz bass teacher and a tango work for solo bass, strings and percussion. Ms. Jena Huebner, asst. principal bass of the CSO will be soloist with the string orchestra for the fall program. Since I will be on Sabbatical during the spring term, the February and May programs are being programmed by Mr. Steven Wedell who will lead the orchestra in the spring.

Your audition materials have been posted online at and may be downloaded as PDFs at http://www.otterbein.edu/public/Academics/Departments/Music/Ensembles/Orchestras.aspx. Auditions are mandatory for everyone playing in String Orchestra and will be held on Sunday August 25th between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm. You should be prepared to play all the excerpts as indicated. In addition, the committee will select a scale to be performed in two or three octaves. Major scales will be selected from the keys of C, G, D, A, E, F, Bb. Eb and Ab. The excerpts are taken from Purcell’s Chaconne in g minor and Duende al Rojo by Sidney King. This audition will serve for placement in the string orchestra, as well as your chamber music assignments and Westerville Symphony. I would suggest listening to a recording as you prepare for the audition. Participation in chamber music depends on your declared major and talent award and is not required of everyone in String Orchestra, and non majors generally do not play in Westerville Symphony.

Audition Procedure
Auditions will be held in the Battelle Fine Arts Center room 107 (Dr. Bates’ office). You will be assigned a specific hour which will be posted in the Battelle lobby in late August. You should check that posting when you arrive on campus and then sign up for a specific time slot during that hour. On the morning of the audition you should plan on showing up a few minutes before the hour. The signup sheets will be posted on the lobby bulletin board. You will also need to provide me an accurate copy of your fall schedule at the time of your audition as well as current contact information. Be prepared to hand over the completed schedule/info sheet before you play the audition.

Again, I am very excited about the upcoming academic year and I look forward to working with you in the year ahead. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone or email.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Most Sincerely,

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