



Grace Chapel Orchestra Expectations and Explanations Guide

Who can join orchestra?

Anyone with at least high school level proficiency on their instrument may join orchestra. If you are not a member of Grace Chapel we encourage you to become one. Pastor Joel will gladly answer any questions about what that means.

What is the time commitment?

Limited Rehearsal Schedule

Thursday nights, 7:00-8:30p in Room A.

The semesters run November-December and March-April. The orchestra is called together for rehearsal in the run up to Night of Joy and Easter weekend. We use the term *Downbeat* for the official start to a music event. Please be in place and ready to rock by downbeat. *Call Time* is the suggested time to show up before downbeat.

Personal Practice

Practice time at home is vital. We are committed to *musical excellence*, which we define as “*continually becoming better than I once was.*” Each musician is provided with a folder of the sheet music that you may take and study at home. Think of it this way: *you learn your part at home and learn everyone else’s parts at rehearsal; practice is personal and rehearsal is relational.*

Seasonal Events

We enjoy performing in the annual *Night of Joy* Christmas program each December and special services at Easter time. You are expected to serve at all of the services on these weekends for consistency within the ensemble; *we truly rely on each other!* If you have a conflict with this commitment, please talk with Pastor Joel. All of these events are planned well in advance so that times and details are communicated clearly at the beginning of the season.

Do I have to audition?

Pastor Joel meets with each prospective musician to determine musical background, strengths, and current playing ability, and to decide where an individual will make their strongest contribution (for example, Violin I or Violin II, etc.). Ensemble members are placed in standard sections: strings, woodwinds, brass, or percussion.

How do you organize all this?

Planning Center Online is the system we use to organize our people, music, rehearsals, and services. It works through your email and allows you access to our library of recordings to help you succeed at learning the music. Scheduling through Planning Center will help you stay on top of where you need to be, and when. There is a free app available for iOS and Android. We send you weekly update emails on what we’re focusing on for the next rehearsal and reminders on times for orchestra weekends.

What does the ensemble wear?

For rehearsals, come as you are. For services and events, wear all black.

Here is a detailed rundown of what we're looking for:

Gentlemen

Solid Black Dress Shirt

Long sleeve, button down, collared dress shirt tucked in. No logos, prints, or patterns, please.

Black Slacks

Dockers style pants are acceptable. Black belt. No navy blue, gray, denim, or cargos, please.

Shoes

Black shoes with black socks. Shoes should be in good repair, able to hold a shine.

Ladies

Blouse/Top/Sweater

No T-shirts, spaghetti strap tank tops, or hooded shirts. No logos, prints, or patterns, please.

Skirt/Pants

Black; no navy blue, no gray, no denim. No shorts or cut-offs. Please remember that the congregation is looking up at the stage; therefore skirts or dresses must cover the knees when seated.

Shoes

Black, with black or natural stockings. Sandals are acceptable but require a heel strap.