

# Sooke Strings

## Welcome to the Sooke String Orchestra!

Welcome, or welcome back, to another fantastic year in the Sooke String Orchestra. I am very excited to start our second year and look forward to the challenges, fun and music making in the year ahead.

In this newsletter are a few items that you'll need for our orchestra courses. Both students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) should go over everything. Most of the newsletter can be kept at home but the back 2 pages must be returned as soon as possible. These include:

- Email list sign-up
- Website information
- Practicing and Practice records
- Instrument Rentals
- Course expectations
- Performances and Trips
- Ensembles
- Media Release Form



If you have any questions or concerns about the Sooke String Orchestra program, please feel free to contact us at (250) 642-5881 or [sookestrings@gmail.com](mailto:sookestrings@gmail.com).

Thank you very much,  
Lorna Bjorklund and Nathan Jacklin

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*Please return this bottom half to Mr. Jacklin*

### **Email List Sign-Up**

One of the important parts of participating in an online course is our ability to contact you. Students should **not** feel obligated to provide their own personal email, though they may do so if they choose. Please provide a parent/guardian email as the main contact for the course. Please note that this will be the means of contact for future assignments, events, course reminders, etc.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return to Mr. Jacklin by Tuesday, September 20*

## Your Website

As part of the Sooke Strings curriculum, students are required to participate in an online component. To meet this end we have created a website specifically built for our program.

This website will be updated frequently during the school year. Both students and parents/guardians should check the website often.

Information on the following will be found on the website:

- Assignments
- Report Card information
- Trip and Concert information
- Teacher Bios
- Contact information

<http://sookestrings.wixsite.com/music>

## Practicing and Practice Records

Students are expected to practice their instrument outside of the regular class time. Often, students will be assigned specific techniques, scales, or pieces for the week. The expectation is to see improvement from week to week in each student. While I cannot enforce practicing at home, parents/guardians can be invaluable in reminding and helping to monitor student practice at home.

Some students find it valuable to keep a practice journal from week to week, setting practice goals and recording what they've practiced to help them in the future. While this is not a requirement, I highly recommend keeping a practice journal.

Students are expected to fill in a practice record from week to week. This will be done on a shared Google document, which students will be given access to once classes have begun. Students are to mark on a weekly basis, a score from 1 to 4, based on the quantity and quality of practice that they have done. This time does **not** include class time. To reach top marks, students will need to practice 20 each day.

Students can mark themselves using the following chart:

- 1 - Does not meet expectations - Less than 59 minutes per week
- 2 - Minimally meets expectations - 60-99 minutes a week
- 3 - Meets Expectations - 100-139 minutes a week
- 4 - Exceeds Expectations - More than 140 minutes a week

It is important to note that it is not the number of minutes that matters when practicing but the quality of work done.



## Instrument Rental

For your convenience, we have set up an instrument rental night with \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_date\_\_\_ at Journey Middle School.



If you are not able to be present at this event, there are other reputable music stores to rent from:

Long & McQuade  
(250) 384-3622  
[www.long-mcquade.com](http://www.long-mcquade.com)

Larsen Music  
(250) 389-1988  
[www.larsenmusic.ca](http://www.larsenmusic.ca)

Tom Lee Music  
(250) 383-5222  
[www.tomleemusic.ca](http://www.tomleemusic.ca)

Prices will range from store to store, so we recommend doing your research prior to renting.

## What Students Need in Class and at Home

What do you need in class?

- **Instrument** - must be in excellent playing condition
- **Pencil**
- **Folder** - provided for you
- **Music** - once students have been given a piece of music, they are responsible for it and must bring it to every class. Students who repeatedly lose music may have to pay for it's replacement (25 cents a page)

What do you need at home?

- Music stand
- Quiet and private place to practice
- Regular time in your schedule to practice
- Tuner (optional)
- Access to internet for assignments
  - Internet access alternatives can be provided if needed

## Classroom Procedures

- If you are late or absent, please bring an explanatory note or email Mr. Jacklin beforehand.
- Please be respectful to other students, teachers, as well as property (that includes your own instrument)
- Ensure that your name is visible on your case and music folder

Reporting and evaluation breakdown can be found on the *For Students* section of the website

## Performances

Music is a performing art; it is essential for our ensembles to have public performances. It is also a part of the BC curriculum for music. Since we only have 3 major concerts a year and work hard to keep the concert length short, we ask for you to stay for the whole concert. The students work exceptionally hard and want to show off their work to friends and family.

Everyone is an important member of the team. **Students are expected to be at all end of term performances** unless excused by your parent/guardian. It is mandatory that students participate in end of term concerts. If there is any reason a student is unable to make it to any performance, the student must submit an explanatory note or email from a parent/guardian to Mr. Jacklin or Ms. Bjorklund at least **1 week before** the concert date.

Performance dates are TBD and will be sent out as soon as possible.



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## Music Trips and Festivals

We believe that our students should have as many authentic experiences as possible. On our music excursions, students learn not only about music but life lessons in organizations, teamwork, discipline and music more.

These trips however, are not a right but a privilege. A student must be achieving a grade of at least a B during the second term of reporting. The student must also be doing well in his/her other classes depending on the discretion of the other teachers and administration. Students are not excused from homework missed while on trips and it is their responsibility to either plan well ahead, make it up in his/her own time, or both.

We are planning a trip to Nationals in Niagara Falls this spring. Stay tuned for further information!

## Ensembles

We have several ensembles for students, dependent on playing level and experience. These include:

- **String Orchestra** - our large ensemble, all students participate in this group
- **Beginning Strings** - for students who are new (or within 1-2 years playing experience)
- **Advanced String Ensemble** - a smaller ensemble who participate in both the string orchestra and the advanced ensemble

# Student Media Release Consent Form

## Sooke String Orchestra

*Please ensure one box is checked for Part 1 and one box is checked for Part 2 of this form.*

### Part 1 - Events

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby agree and give my permission for the Sooke String Orchestra (SSO) program and/or partners to record, film, photograph, audiotape or videotape my/ my child's name, image, student work, and performance (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Works") and to display, publish or distribute these Works for the purpose of publishing, posting on the SSO website, posting in schools, posting on social media sites and/or for broadcasting on television or radio as determined by the SSO.

I hereby waive any right to approve the use of these Works now or in the future, whether the use is known to me or unknown, and I waive any rights to any royalties related to the use of these Works.

I understand that the Works may appear in electronic form on the internet or in other publications outside of the SSO's control. I agree that I will not hold the SSO responsible for any harm that may arise from such unauthorized reproduction.

- Please mark this box if you **AGREE** that your child may participate in recorded SSO/school events and SSO hosted events as described above.
- Please mark this box if you **DO NOT WISH** your child to participate in recorded SSO/school events and SSO hosted events.

### Part 2 - Media Specific

I also understand that external media organizations may attend school events. I give permission for my/ my child's name, image, student work, and performance to be photographed, filmed, audio-taped or videotaped for the purpose of being published and/or broadcast on-line, on television or radio.

- Please mark this box if you **AGREE** that your child may participate in media events that may be published or broadcast by organizations external to the Sooke String Orchestra program.
- Please mark this box if you **DO NOT WISH** your child to be photographed, filmed, audio-taped or videotaped at media events.

I have read this Student Media Release Consent Form and I fully understand the contents and meaning of this release. I understand that I am free to contact the SSO with any questions regarding this release.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature (If 18 years of age or older): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's Signature (if student is a minor - under the age of 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_