



## Are You Unsure About Continuing Your Music At Lewis & Clark High School?

### LC Music FAQ's

#### **Why should I stay in music in high school?**

Music at LC is fun and is also really good for you whether you plan on being a musician or not. We offer many performance opportunities in various music ensembles and many GREAT experiences. Music at LC is a big family of friends working toward the common goal of creating great music together. You will make life-long friends and lasting memories with our ensembles. Being in music is good for you- LC music students average 9.5 semesters of music in high school in addition to averaging 5 AP classes each, a 3.324 GPA, 1963 SAT score, and 26 on the ACT (Statistics based on the graduating class of 2011). Also, being in music at LC makes you an integral part of our school culture- bringing spirit at sporting events and cons, representing ourselves in the parade, and much more!!!

#### **I am an athlete and an AP student...I don't think I have time for music too!**

Being involved in high school requires excellent time management skills. Many of the music students are AP student athletes that have figured out how to balance their hectic lives. In fact, so far this year the band is proud to boasts over 40 student athletes, 20 from orchestra, and the choir also has 30 student athletes across almost all sports (they pretty much ALL take AP or honors classes). They communicate well with their music teachers and their coaches to work out any potential conflicts early. If they can do it, you can too!

#### **How do I fit music in my schedule- there's just too much to take!!!**

Follow our **music study graduation plan**. Make sure you don't sign up for any classes you don't want or classes that operate as simply "filler" space in your schedule...you'll need that space in other years. Pass your classes. There are a few tricks of the trade that the music teachers and counselors know about to ease the scheduling burden so do not be afraid to ask for help and guidance in your scheduling needs (for example, athletes can do a special SVL fitness requirement). You can fit 1 four-year program into your schedule but you can't do it all so be ready to prioritize and make the best decision for you.

#### **What opportunities await me and what are their requirements?**

We currently have 3 concert bands, 2 jazz bands, 3 orchestras, 5 choirs, a percussion class, and pep band (football season and/or basketball season). Other opportunities include



Solo/Ensemble festival, All-State/All-Northwest, Festival of the Arts, the Lilac Parade, and performance in our school musicals in the orchestra pit or the musical theater program.

- 1) **Symphonic Winds**- Our premier concert band. Admission to this group is by audition or middle school director recommendation only. It performs for 2-3 festivals per year in addition to 3-4 concerts and graduation. Music for this ensemble ranges from classical orchestra transcriptions to concert marches and to modern band literature.
- 2) **Concert Bands (Intermediate Band & Symphonic Band)** - Our main concert bands where we do all the work necessary to be great musicians. These groups also perform for 2-3 festivals per year in addition to 3-4 concerts. Select students are added from these groups for graduation. Music for these ensembles ranges from classical orchestra transcriptions to concert marches and modern band literature.
- 3) **Chamber Orchestra**- A select ensemble composed of students from all grades who are at an advanced playing level and display strong student leadership skills. This class is for experienced string students who would like to develop a thorough understanding of proper string techniques and string chamber music. The Chamber Orchestra presents a program of traditional string literature as well as contemporary and experimental string compositions. This self-directed group is comprised of 16-24 school musicians of exceptional talent. The Chamber Orchestra maintains an active performance schedule that includes school concerts, festivals, contests, and special community events. Admittance to this ensemble requires an audition and/or recommendation of one's previous orchestra teacher, private lessons, and a strong commitment to a high standard of excellence.
- 4) **Concert Orchestra**- The Concert Orchestra members consists of freshmen. The group's focus is on development of technique, tone, blend, leadership and musicality. Performance opportunities include festivals, contests, special events and regularly scheduled concerts. The group plays traditional string literature, pop music and some jazz of medium-easy to medium levels. Private lessons are not required to be a member of this group but are highly recommended.
- 5) **Symphonic Orchestra**- The Symphonic Orchestra is composed of students primarily in grades 10-12. The group's focus is on further development of Concert Orchestra skills. Performance opportunities include festivals, contests, special events and regularly scheduled concerts. The group plays traditional string literature, pop music and some jazz of medium to medium-difficult levels. This group will also be working on symphonic literature with members of the LC Concert Band in a full orchestra setting. Private lessons are not required to be a member of this group but are highly recommended.
- 6) **Jazz Ensemble 1 & 2**- Admission to these groups requires current enrollment in any level of concert band, percussion, orchestra or choir and jazz 1 also requires a successful audition. They perform for 2-3 festivals per year in addition to 3-4 concerts. Emphasis in improvised soloing occurs in these ensembles. Music covered in these ensembles is swing, shuffle, bebop, cool jazz, big band jazz, combo jazz, Latin, funk, new age and even some rock.
- 7) **Percussion Class**- Our percussion training program covers as many elements of percussion playing and drumming as possible. Musicians in this ensemble learn marching percussion, percussion ensembles, and prepare all of the percussion needs for the bands, orchestra, and choirs at Lewis & Clark. These musicians

- perform with all of the other LC ensembles and could have many festivals and concerts in a year.
- 8) Pep Band- Our pep band performs at home and playoff football and basketball games. It is entirely composed of volunteer musicians and also performs for school cons. The pep band music experience is a great one with classic pop, rock, metal, Latin, funk, disco, jazz, and modern popular music all in its repertoire.
  - 9) Treble Choir- Composed primarily of treble-voiced freshmen, this unauditioned choir is half of the foundation of the choral program at LC. Singers learn the music theory, aural skills, and musicality needed to progress through the program. Singers are introduced to solo singing, proper technique, and working as a team.
  - 10) Frontiersmen- This unauditioned choir is the starting point for changed tenor and bass voices (the other half of the foundation). Singers learn the music theory, aural skills, and musicality needed to progress through the program. Singers are introduced to solo singing, proper technique, and working as a team. As it is offered during 0 Hour Tuesdays and Thursdays, we encourage all who are Frontiersmen to be a part of Concert Chorale (see below) as well.
  - 11) Cantabile- This is our auditioned treble-voice choir, comprised mostly of around 16 upper-classmen. Many singers here continue to work on music theory, aural skills, musicality, and working as a tight-knit choral group. Cantabile has opportunities to perform around the community throughout the year, as well as festivals.
  - 12) Concert Chorale- Our large auditioned, mixed voiced performing group where students can hone their choral skills and get a good understanding of what it is to sing in a large advanced group. We perform at several festivals per year, as well as periodically representing the choral program at our cons. This group sings repertoire from the 16<sup>th</sup> century all the way to the present, both accompanied and a capella.
  - 13) 4<sup>th</sup> & Stevens (Jazz Choir)- Our 0 Hour jazz choir (Monday-Wednesday-Friday) is our highly auditioned choir of 16 singers. In this choir, students will sing jazz standards, blues repertoire, and other genres. A good foundation of music theory, aural skills, and prior choral experience is needed to be in this ensemble. 4<sup>th</sup> & Stevens is one of the few jazz choirs in the region that boasts its very own combo section that rehearses with the choir during the week. In order to be in jazz choir, a student also needs to be in another performing group at LC, such as band, choir, or orchestra.
  - 14) Orchestra Pit- Our best musicians prepare music for LC's phenomenal musicals (instrumentation depends on the show). Musicians in this ensemble get to experience Broadway music and usually require many of the skills they have developed in all of the other LC ensembles combined. The pit orchestra rehearsal schedule is twice a week for 8 weeks prior to the performance, plus dress rehearsals and performances.

### **Are there travel opportunities in music at LC?**

Yes, we try to have every ensemble travel regionally every year. We also attempt to take at least one large exotic trip within every 2 years. Your next opportunity for large travel will likely be in the Spring of 2020. Also, the pep band has been fortunate enough to benefit from great basketball teams and has gotten an all-expenses paid trip to Seattle each March. Travel is always an optional activity for students due to cost but everyone benefits when more people travel. In addition to large group travel smaller ensembles and soloists

compete locally and often get to attend state level competition or All-State/All-Northwest Honor groups.

**What does it cost?**

Cost depends on the group you are in and the activities for the year. When you sign up, you will receive a summer mailing that details all the expenses. However, you can plan on an overall startup cost of \$160-\$210 (depending on which ensembles you enroll in) to pay for your individual expenses and the program expenses each year. Travel costs may be in addition to other costs and change year to year. Some instrumental students will also have new equipment needs in order to create high school music.

**I don't think I can afford music at LC, does that mean I have to quit?**

NO!!! The school has a few systems in place to help students in need and the LCIMPA (Lewis & Clark Instrumental Music Parents Association) plans to help students with expenses every year. Please contact an LC music teacher as soon as possible if you need assistance and we'll see what we can do to help you out.

**What do you think? Can we count on you next fall?**

**Want to know more?**

Visit [www.LCTIGERS.com](http://www.LCTIGERS.com), click on the Staff Sites link, and then Nord, Dan- Instrumental Music or Boen, Jeffrey- Choral Music or Kellogg, Mari- Orchestra

**Come hear a concert! Our next performance at LC is:**

**Choir March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

**Orchestra March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

**Band March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM**