

(LINDA'S INFO EMAIL OF MARCH 6)

Hi, March Music Madness Participants!

Thank you for signing up to join us for a wonderful day of music-making on March 30th!! This email will give you more information and more details on the day. You can also find this information, as well as sound files for the music, on our webpage at svnhm.org/mmm

Morning Small Group Ensembles

The morning ensembles will be small chamber groups, organized by instrument combinations and playing levels. Most, but not all, of them, will have only one person on each part. We are beginning to organize the small groups today in order to have music prepared for each small group. Because of this, each person in a group is essential; so if for some reason, you find that you are unable to come after all, please don't send a message with someone else or just not come — please let us know right away so that we can try to rearrange the groups. (Obviously, we hope that this doesn't happen for anyone, but we do know that illness or family emergencies can happen. Just please let us know immediately if it turns out that you are not able to come.)

The small groups will include a variety of different types of instrumentation and different types of music, and each group will be able to work with a coach during part of the small group time period. The goal is for people to have fun playing a couple different pieces with each other and to learn more about the music and about playing in a small ensemble. The coaches will include the conductors listed below, as well as Phil Crotto from the Monadnock NH Band, Mary Divers from the NH Musical Organization of the Lakes Region, Whitney Tandon from the Sudbury Valley NH string ensemble, and John McLellen and Linda Murdock from the Sudbury Valley NH Band.

Afternoon Large Group Ensembles

Because of the wonderful number of participants in this event, there will now be four afternoon ensembles, rather than three — three bands and a string ensemble with several wind players added. Here is the plan for the ensembles, with planned music and conductors:

Beginner/Novice Band:

Diane Muffitt (Sudbury Valley NH Music, Wayland, MA): Elizabethan Dance, Mark Williams

Novice/Intermediate Band:

Donna Morse (Monadnock NH Band, Keene, NH): Darklands March by Randall Standridge
Jackie Smith (Pioneer Valley NH Band, Northampton, MA) Gently Touch the Sky, Robert Sheldon

Intermediate/Advanced Band:

Nina Andersen (NH Band of Greater Portland, Portland, ME): Mvt 4 of Frank Ticheli's Four Shaker Songs (Simple Gifts)
Alex Pendleton (Cape Cod NH Band, Yarmouth, MA): Cumberland Cross by Carl Strommen

String Ensemble:

Debbi Gibson (NH Musical Organization of the Lakes Region, Laconia, NH):
Earl Lord (Harold J Crosby Community Band, Dexter, ME):

The string ensemble music is still in the process of being organized/arranged. We had to wait for registration to close in order to know what instrumentation we would have for that group, but the music, along with the band music, will be sent out next week.

The music for the bands will be sent out by next week by instrument so you will get all the parts for all five pieces. When you receive the music, please look at the parts, decide which band you want to play in, and email me your choice of band.

There will be a few slots for wind players who wish to play in the string ensemble. Because the instruments needed are different for different pieces, the wind players who play with the string group will play one piece with the string group and one with one of the bands. Playing with a string group is a different experience than playing in a band — in an orchestra, the wind parts are often used for musical emphasis and are somewhat like seasoning. The wind parts will not necessarily be difficult, although they will be in sharp keys (rather than the usual band flat keys), and they will be exposed and require independence and confidence in your playing — there's no one else to lean on or follow. More information on this will be sent out next week along with the music.

Schedule for the Day

9:00 – 10:00 — Arrival, registration, coffee, etc. – front lobby & cafeteria

10:00 – 10:30 — Welcome, introductions, small ensemble info, warm-up time — cafeteria

10:45 – 12:15 — Small ensemble session — assigned rooms

12:15 – 1:15 — Lunch — cafeteria

1:15 – 2:45 — Large ensemble rehearsals — cafeteria, auditorium, music rooms

2:45 – 3:15 — Break — snacks, water, bathroom, etc. — cafeteria

3:15 – 4:00 — Large ensembles play for each other — auditorium

4:00 — Wrap-up — auditorium

Miscellaneous Logistics/FAQs

Music Stands — Please do bring a portable music stand. You will be using it for the morning small group ensembles.

Dress — Dress is casual — wear whatever is comfortable for you. Although the large ensembles will be playing for each other at the end of the day, it is not a formal concert so whatever is comfortable is fine. Do dress in layers — it's March, after all! The building will be heated, but we don't know if it will be on the warm or cool side. (Band or instrument shirts, of course, are very welcome!)

Water — We will of course have water available, and bringing a water bottle that you can fill and take with you to the small ensemble rooms is very useful.

Food — We are still planning food, but it will most likely be coffee, tea, bagels and pastries, etc., in the morning, sandwiches, chips & desserts for lunch, and anything leftover for afternoon snacks. There will be vegetarian options included in the lunch.

Accessibility — The school was renovated a few years ago to be accessible, and there is access via ramp to the auditorium stage and via small elevator to the cafeteria stage. It is all on one floor, so some of the rooms are a bit distant — if you need to be in a room for your small group that is closer to the main areas, please let us know.

Non-Playing Spouses/Friends — Coming with a non-playing spouse or friend is fine — just please let us know and have him/her bring \$10.00 for breakfast and lunch.

Directions — If you need them, directions to Wayland Middle School (201 Main Street, Wayland, MA) are on our website

Summary

What to bring — your instrument (!), your music, a portable music stand, instrument equipment/supplies (e.g., valve oil, slide grease, extra reeds, cork grease, instrument stand if you use one), water bottle, sweater/vest in case it's cold.

Get back to me about — (1) which band you are going to play in, (2) if you find you can't come, (3) any accessibility needs, (4) if you are a wind player who would particularly like to play with the string group, or (5) any other questions you have.

Have I missed anything? Do you have other questions? Please feel free to call or email —

I look forward to seeing all of you on March 30th!

Meanwhile, happy practicing!

Linda

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