

Round Rock  
Orff Ensemble

Student / Parent  
Handbook

2016-2017

## **WELCOME**

As the director of the Round Rock Orff Ensemble (RROE), I welcome you to the 2016-2017 Season! Orff Ensemble is a unique experience in the Round Rock area and we hope it will be one that you will cherish all your life.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Round Rock Orff Ensemble (RROE) provides an opportunity for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to make music together via singing, speaking, moving, and playing instruments, all in an integrated improvisational setting in which everyone plays a vital role. We are basically a choir that accompanies itself.

## **GOALS**

- Make music together through singing, speaking, moving, and playing instruments.
- Attain the highest levels of excellence in public and recorded performances.
- To deeply understanding of the art of music through developing skills in performing, creating, and listening.
- Develop a sense of self-worth, self-esteem, confidence, leadership, and pride in all students.

## **CURRICULUM**

- The students in the RROE perform a variety of age-appropriate, authentic music from a variety of cultures and historical eras.
- The students in the RROE all learn to improvise and compose in all four Orff media, i.e., singing, speech, movement, and instrument playing.
- The students in the RROE all learn to discern many the key elements of a wide variety of music through active listening.
- Appropriate rehearsal skills and performance etiquette are included as an integral part of the learning process.

## **TUITION AND FEES**

- EFFECTIVE SEPT. 3, 2015: RROE is tuition free. Fees for expenses still apply, with assistance available (see next section).
- Fees are to cover cost of the uniform polo shirt and one recorder.
- It does cost money to run RROE; donations are accepted and tax deductible.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships are available for families in need of assistance on a case by case basis. Contact the director if you cannot afford either any of the fees but still want to be a member of the Orff Ensemble.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **I. Rehearsal and Scheduled Performance Attendance Policies**

- Membership in the RROE is a commitment to consistent and punctual attendance. An Orff Ensemble is not like a choir in that we divide our forces into several parts for

singers and instrument players, all of which are important, and many of which take several rehearsals with other students to learn. Parts often must be reassigned when an absence occurs, especially an un-excused or un-announced absence.

- Except for absences due to illness, real emergency, or a school function that affects a student's grade or academic standing, attendance is required at all rehearsals and concerts. In the event of an absence, please contact your child's director via phone, text, or email as soon as possible to inform them of the nature of your child's absence.
- Rehearsals are from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, on Tuesdays, at Grace Presbyterian church, portable building 5A. The rroe.org website has a calendar of all rehearsals.
- To be on time is to be late; to be early is to be on time!
- In the possible case of a student being absent from multiple rehearsals, the director will contact the parent to discuss the child's readiness to perform on the upcoming concert. The director reserves the right to exclude students who are not adequately prepared from performing in the next scheduled concert.
- Attendance at dress rehearsals and concerts is mandatory.

## **II. Inclement Weather Policy**

Please be aware that RROE does not necessarily cancel rehearsals according to area school closings. If rehearsals are cancelled due to weather, you will be notified via email and phone text. Cancellations will be sent no later than 3:30 p.m. on the day of the rehearsal.

## **III. Non-scheduled Performances**

Occasionally, the RROE will receive a request to perform at an event not previously scheduled on our calendar. Parents will be contacted as soon as possible to ascertain availability. We will accept those performances only if we have enough performers committed for a viable performance, the venue is appropriate, and the concert has some benefit to the overall organization.

## **IV. Student Behavior**

Students are expected to be on their best behavior whether on stage, in rehearsal, or at an RROE event. As a representative of the RROE, it is expected that every child's behavior will be a positive reflection of our organization.

## **V. Removal and Reinstatement**

It is a privilege, not a right, to participate in the RROE. We recognize that the RROE may not be a good fit for every student. Students must be able to demonstrate good behavior, self-control, and maintain regular attendance. If there are attendance or behavior problems the following will occur:

1. The Director will communicate with the child's parents (face-to-face, phone call, and/or email) regarding any concerns.
2. If the problem continues, the Director will notify the parents and schedule a meeting with the student and their parent(s). The student will be considered on probationary status.
3. If the concern continues, then student will be removed from RROE. At that time any music or supplies must be returned to the RROE.

Students who have been removed from the RROE program may re-apply the next season following a meeting with the Director and parents to determine any further steps needed for re-admittance and/or if the RROE is indeed a good fit for the child.

## **VI. Uniforms**

Once uniforms are obtained, students must wear their uniform for all performances.

### **1. Clothing**

- RROE polo shirt
- Khaki pants

2. Hair should be neatly groomed and longer hair pulled back out of the face.

3. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum. No necklaces on the outside of the shirt.

4. Make-up is optional, and up to the discretion of the parents. Please no theatre-type make-up. Keep it natural and neutral.

## **VII. Commitment to School Music Programs**

The success of the RROE is dependent on the support of music teachers throughout the Round Rock area. RROE members should be leaders in their school music ensembles. Every student is strongly encouraged to be an active participant in his or her school music program.

## **VIII. Fundraising**

The RROE may organize fundraising activities to offset the cost of new music, performance expenses, and scholarships. Individual participation in these fundraisers is a vital component in our organization's success. It is expected that all students will participate in the fundraiser.

## **IX. Parental Understanding**

By enrolling your child in the RROE it is assumed that there is parental understanding and acceptance of the policies and procedures as outlined in this handbook. Any questions should be referred to the director of the program.

## **CONCLUSION**

We welcome everyone to the RROE! Our earnest desire is that your experiences in this group will leave you with many fond memories and a deeper understanding of the art and world of music.

## **Round Rock Orff Ensemble Contract for the 2016-2017 Season**

I hereby attest that I have read and will abide by the terms of the Student Parent Handbook for the 2016-2017 season.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### **Round Rock Orff Ensemble Financial Assistance Application**

To the director and board members of RROE,

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am applying for scholarship / financial assistance for  
\_\_\_\_\_, who desires to be a member of the Round Rock Orff  
Ensemble. I need assistance for fees for a uniform and recorder.

All scholarship / financial assistance information is confidential.

Signed, \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_