



Member Guidelines and Policies

Welcome to the 2024-25 season of 9th Street Chamber Music! We are thrilled that you are joining us, and we look forward to getting to know you and guiding you through the amazing world of chamber music! Included in this document are our Guidelines and Policies to help create the best musical experience for you and your group members.

Rehearsals and Attendance

The greatest thing about string quartet playing is the fact that each quartet member's individual voice is of equal importance, while contributing to the unified sound of the group. Because of this unique relationship, attendance at all rehearsals is of the utmost importance. Successful rehearsal is dependent upon all members being present for the entire duration of the rehearsal so that each member's part can be heard. Members are expected to arrive at least 5-10 minutes before the start of every rehearsal to allow for plenty of time to unpack, tune, and warm up before rehearsals begin.

Attendance at all rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and concerts is mandatory. *Readmission into the program for the next season is not guaranteed. Members' attendance records will strongly be taken into consideration for admission decisions.

All regular rehearsals will be held on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm at St. George's Episcopal Church, located at 915 N. Oakland St. Arlington, VA 22203.

In the event that a student cannot attend rehearsal due to an urgent reason such as illness or an emergency, 9SCM staff must be notified **no later than 5:00pm** on the date of the rehearsal, explaining the reason for their absence.

All other excused absences must be requested before the day of the rehearsal, and the student may be required to schedule an additional rehearsal with their group and a coach outside of regular rehearsal time.

Members will have access to a Google Calendar that will be updated with the most current rehearsal and concert information.

Multiple absences from rehearsals can be grounds for dismissal from the program.

Members are not permitted to leave any rehearsal or performance location during SQI hours without express written permission from a parent or guardian.

Rehearsal Preparation

Since each member is the only person playing and preparing their part, it is imperative that music be learned outside of regular rehearsal time. Members will be given access to PDF copies of their parts before the first rehearsal on each program, and it is expected that members will arrive at the first rehearsal with measures numbered and notes learned to a point that allows for fluent rehearsal.

It is the member's responsibility to print and bring a copy of their music, along with a pencil, and a music stand, to every rehearsal. Back-up copies will not be kept on hand in the event that a member fails to bring their part.

Members often find it to be very helpful to seek assistance from their private teacher in preparing their 9SCM music.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Since so much of the joy of chamber music comes from the individual musicians and their personalities, at 9SCM, we strive to create an environment in which our members are able to interact and grow as responsible, mature musicians. With that in mind, here are a few expectations for good rehearsal behavior:

- Members must always respect each other and their coaches. Chamber music is about open collaboration, and it is imperative for successful performance that all musicians feel that their voices and opinions are heard and respected. **9SCM has a zero tolerance policy for any kind of bullying or misbehavior that takes place during or around rehearsals and concerts.**
- Cell phones are only to be used for a metronome, for recording a rehearsal, or for listening to professional recordings during rehearsals. Otherwise, each member's full attention should be given to the rehearsal. **In the event of an emergency, members must immediately notify a coach or adult volunteer.**
- Members should never touch other musician's instruments without their express permission, and should always make sure that their own instrument is either in their hands or stored safely during rehearsals. Please don't leave instruments sitting open on chairs, tables, or the floor when not in use. **9SCM is not responsible for any damage done to instruments during 9SCM events.**
- Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco use and possession is prohibited on all grounds where 9SCM holds rehearsals and concerts.

- Due to the possibility of food allergies, members must not bring food into rehearsal spaces. Any snacks should be eaten in the large common areas where breaks take place.
- **There is a zero tolerance policy for any kind of property destruction at 9SCM events.** Rooms should be returned to the way they were found before rehearsals.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, 9SCM will notify families about the status of rehearsals via email. If there is inclement weather on a performance date, members and their families will be notified of cancellation no less than 2 hours before musician's scheduled arrival time. Every attempt will be made to reschedule concerts that are cancelled due to inclement weather.

Professional Concert Attendance

All members are required to attend at least two professional string quartet concerts per season. This introduces students to amazing music, and supports local classical music, as well as helps to clarify expectations for performance practice, and stage etiquette. Proof of concert attendance is required and can be submitted in the Members section of the website. There are many amazing ensembles and venues in the area, many of which students can attend at extreme discounts, or for free. **All members get free admission to regular season 9th Street Quartet Concerts.**

Private Instruction Transparency Policy

One of the things that makes 9SCM unique and special is the personal relationship our coaches build with each of our participants. Unlike other programs, we have the luxury of working directly with our members, giving them substantial exposure to our teaching styles and beliefs about music making.

Out of professional courtesy to our colleagues, we have instituted a transparency policy. If a 9SCM family approaches one of our coaches about private instruction, we will respectfully ask that you discuss your interest in switching studios with your current teacher. After a three week grace period, we will follow up directly with your private teacher, letting them know about the conversation we had with their student. Should a switch ultimately make sense for the member and our coach, we respectfully agree to begin teaching 9SCM families only after their current private teaching relationship has concluded.

Email and Communication

Our primary method of communication will be via email, so it is imperative that members and their families read all emails thoroughly. All communication will be clearly marked as 9SCM related, and will always come from the address: 9thstreetchambermusic@gmail.com.

Parent Volunteers and Involvement

There will be a Parent Meeting during the pre-season clinic on 9/28. At this meeting, in addition to offering a program overview, we will discuss opportunities for parental involvement.