

# Greater Richmond Youth Wind Ensemble

## Member Information

### **Introduction**

Welcome to the Greater Richmond Youth Wind Ensemble. It is a pleasure to have each and every one of you with us for our exciting eighth season. As a member of GRYWE you will have numerous opportunities to develop your talents in an atmosphere of musical excellence. We hope you will find it to be a most rewarding and enjoyable experience musically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually. GRYWE rehearses weekly during the second semester of the school year, plus dress rehearsals for the performance. The commitment is a major one, but the benefits can be enormous. We are sure that you will find the investment of your time and talent worthwhile.

### **General Information**

The Greater Richmond Youth Wind Ensemble was founded in 1995 to provide an advanced performance outlet for the most talented wind and percussion students in the Richmond metropolitan area. Throughout the year there are various short-term opportunities for more advanced students to play in "select" bands. These include Virginia Band and Orchestra Director's Association sponsored events such as District Bands, and the All-State Band, and more local events such as All-County Bands. These events are similar in that they pull students together from a large area and rehearse for an average of two and one-half days under the leadership of an invited guest conductor. While these types of experiences are valuable for what they offer, they cannot provide a long-term rehearsal situation in which they players and the conductor really get to know each other and significant musical growth can occur. Educationally the value of rehearsing over a longer period of time simply offers more growth potential.

Instructional staff for the Greater Richmond Youth Wind Ensemble is drawn from the faculty and students of Virginia Commonwealth University, and from area band directors. A board of directors composed of area music supervisors and teachers guide all aspects of the program. Support staff comes from undergraduate students of Virginia Commonwealth University.

This ensemble provides a high-quality musical experience for a select number of area students, which supplements their school experiences, and focuses positive community attention on a youth musical activity in Richmond.

### **Attendance**

Attendance at all rehearsals and concerts is required. Mark your calendars immediately to minimize conflicts with other events. Please be ready to play at least 5 minutes before rehearsals begin. This means being warmed up and in tune. It is important to be ready to play when the conductor takes the podium; it wastes everyone's time if you are not ready.

Frequent absences reflect a lack of commitment to GRYWE and are detrimental to your personal musical development and to the progress of the rest of the group. Excessive absences may result in a student's not being allowed to play a particular concert. Please play your part in this group endeavor by attending regularly.

Absences related to illness, school band conflicts, religious worship and family emergencies are to be reported before rehearsals by calling the director's office at 828-1660 or by e-mailing.

Note: Generally, schoolwork related excuses are not considered acceptable: please plan ahead.

Dates of school music activities are usually made known at the beginning of the semester of school year. Discuss any conflicts well in advance with Dr. Austin or with Elizabeth Thompson. Our policy is that your school music events take priority over GRYWE events.

Legitimate weather related absences would be excused. Please refer to the section of this handbook regarding weather-related absences and cancellations.

In the event that a student needs to miss a block of rehearsals or a dress rehearsal, details must be worked out well in advance with the director. Whether the student plays the concert will be at the discretion of the director, regardless of the reason for the absence.

### **Music**

Each GRYWE member is assigned a folder at the beginning of the season. Every player is responsible for his or her own folder and the music issued. Students who have been absent can pick up individual parts from one of the GRYWE staff. It may not be possible for each student to have every piece of music. Some sharing of parts may be necessary.

Please remember to bring a pencil to each rehearsal.

### **Fees**

Fees for the 2009 season are \$175. If payment is a problem, please bring it to the attention of the director. A limited amount of scholarship money is available. No fees will be refunded to members who have been dismissed for poor attendance or who voluntarily leave.

### **Weather Cancellation Policy**

In the event that classes are canceled at Virginia Commonwealth University, no rehearsal will be held. Regardless of what determination is made by GRYWE, every family must make their own personal decision based on their local road conditions and the safety issues involved. GRYWE students travel to rehearsals from many different areas. There may be hazardous conditions in one area and no problem at all in another.

### **Concert Attire**

Ladies: Long-sleeved white blouse and black skirts, black shoes, and black nylons.

Gentlemen: Long-sleeved white shirt, long tie, black pants, black socks, and black shoes

### **Calendar**

Our regular rehearsals are Monday 4:30-6:30 in the Sonia Vlahcevic Concert in the Singleton Center for the Performing Arts at 922 Park Avenue.

January 26: First rehearsal

February 23: Concerto Competition

April 6: No Rehearsal – Spring Break

April 20: Deadline for submitting ads for the concert program

May 8: Dress Rehearsal 4:30-6:30 MANDATORY

May 9: 8:30-10:30 AM Dress Rehearsal

May 9: 3:00 pm Concert

Note: Please do everything possible to attend the extra rehearsals in May in preparation for the concert.

### **Contact Information**

Dr. Terry Austin

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