



Welcome to National Homeschool Music Ensemble!

In 2000, a group of homeschool parents came together to create an opportunity for their children to learn to play an instrument and enjoy the thrill of playing in a skilled ensemble. Since then over 400 students have gone through the program. They have had the opportunity to learn one, or more, instruments as well as learning how to read music, participate in a choir, and play with civic and college bands all over the state. We hope your family finds a musical home here.

Our philosophy is summed up by our motto: "Excellence is a habit, not an act." (Socrates). We encourage each student to strive for personal excellence. We do not have chair tests for the ensembles: a student cannot learn to play 1st and 2nd chair music unless she has the opportunity to experience both. All students will play a mix of high and low parts for their instrument so that they can become well-rounded musicians. To be successful, a student will need to practice the music at home, but we do not expect students to keep practice logs. We trust students to identify where they can improve and to do so on their own. As our former director once said, we are here to help you find your ability as a musician, not to impose music upon you from above. We offer a fine staff of experienced directors who can teach and inspire you, but the final results depends on you.

Our experience at NHME shows that our students typically play 3 to 5 years ahead of the curve. We are committed to teaching the foundations of music theory, counting and reading while we pursue musical excellence at all levels. After the third year of rigorous, focused, and dedicated study, many of our parents comment on the increased ability of their students to concentrate, think abstractly and solve problems. We believe that music instruction is a core subject! We invite you to give your children the finest, the gift of music.

This booklet is intended to give you an outline of our program, including our rehearsal schedule, costs, expectations and summer opportunities. NHME is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and a charter member of the Michigan Homeschool Music Network. If you have any questions that are not answered by this, please feel free visit our website at: www.nhme.org or contact Dave Rennie at: dthrenn@hughes.net or 734-255-3663 or 11210 Stewart Rd, Dundee, Mi 48131.

How to Start

Most of our new members join us first in beginner band or strings. That being the case, your first question may be, "What do we need to have to get started?" You will need:

- a musical instrument in good working order, with all of its accessories
- an instrument stand to use during class. This prevents damage / being knocked over when students visit the bathroom or get up for some reason.
- a portable/foldable music stand to use at home while practicing.
- Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 for your specific instrument.

Please visit our website (www.nhme.org) for a longer discussion on finding a good instrument, how to tell if it is in good working order, what accessories your particular instrument needs, and where to find the instruction books we use.

Cost

Classes:

- Currently the cost is \$45/month per class for students and \$15/month for parents/adults who wish to participate in the band or orchestra.

Tuition is due at the beginning of the month, or may be paid in a lump sum at the beginning of the term. Classes run in two terms: September–December, and January–May.

- Please make checks out to: National Homeschool Music Ensemble.
- Checks should be
 - delivered to Dave Rennie at rehearsal or
 - mailed to: NHME, 11210 Stewart Rd, Dundee, Mi 48131.
 - payment may also be made electronically. See the website for additional details.

Summer camps:

- \$150 for the week, including lunch.

Schedule

Rehearsals

Our band has two rehearsal locations and two rehearsal days. You are free to attend rehearsals at either location, as best fits your needs.

* Tecumseh on Tuesdays---

909 Burt Street – This is the old Grange building in Tecumseh, now owned by NHME.

9:00 – 11:00 Advanced Concert Band

11:00 – 1:00 Advanced Strings

* Ann Arbor on Wednesdays---

3337 Ann Arbor – Saline Road – This is the Pittsfield Grange building.

9:00 – 11:00 Advanced Concert Band

11:00 – 1:00 Advanced Strings

Regular attendance at rehearsals is very important to the development of the band and orchestra. A band works together – everyone is needed. If your student is unable to come to a specific rehearsal, please let us know at: dthreenn@hughes.net or 734-255-3663. (Either calls or text messages will work.)

In case of truly inclement weather, we always follow the public school closings and delays for Tecumseh and Ann Arbor public schools. We will also send out a group email message about class cancellations to the email addresses submitted on the enrollment forms and we will also post information on the Facebook page.

Currently, we do not have a beginner band at either location, but we do have a list of people interested in beginning band. If your student (or you) would like to learn a new instrument, please let Dave Rennie know and he'll add you to the list. Once we have 7 students at one location, we will start a beginner band.

Many of our students have participated in both the advanced ensemble for one instrument, while learning a second instrument in the beginning group. Once they have learned both instruments, they are free to alternate instruments in the advanced ensemble.

We do reserve the right to place students in the ensemble that we judge is most fitting for their skill level. Playing in a group that is too far advanced or too far behind a student can be discouraging. We want our students to be challenged, not overwhelmed.

Schedule

Performances. Exact dates – TBD

- * Winter Concert – Usually the 2nd week of December at Milan Middle School.
- * Spring Concert – 3rd Tuesday of May at the Tecumseh Center for the Arts.

Please watch the website, listen to announcements in class, and check the Facebook page for performance updates, including performance times, final rehearsals, and performance attire. Relevant information about upcoming events will also be distributed via email.

We have in the past played with the Central Michigan State band and the Wayne State Band, during the school year. Typically, we arrange to join them for one of their rehearsals at their campus. This is an excellent opportunity for students to see what the future may hold for them as musicians, but also to work with a different director and to meet other musicians. Parents will need to transport their musicians to the rehearsal. Information about any of these opportunities will also be distributed via email and on Facebook.

Summer Opportunities. Exact dates – TBD

- * Summer Strings camp – Usually the 3rd week of June
- * Summer Band camp – Usually the 3rd week of July

We have in the past performed with the Adrian City Band, the Straights Area Band, and other groups during the summer. For these performances, we learn the music at band camp and then join them for a rehearsal and performance at their usual outdoor performance venue. These are also wonderful opportunities to play with other directors and musicians. Information about any of these opportunities will also be distributed via email and on Facebook.

Our Directors

Band: Reuven AnafShalom

Reuven has been teaching music in the schools and privately for 30 years. He has also been involved in directing community musical theater and regularly calls (and plays) for English Country and Contra Dances. He received his BA in French Horn and Orchestral Conducting at the Rubin Academy of Music in Tel-Aviv, Israel. He then earned his masters degrees in orchestral conducting at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. He received his teaching certifications for math and music at North Carolina Central University.



Strings: Janet Cannon

Janet has been teaching double bass, cello and viola de gamba to all ages for many years. She began playing double bass at the age of 10 in a school music program in Utah. She participated in a youth symphony tour to Mexico as a double bass soloist and, after earning her Bachelors of Music at Manhattan School of Music, returned to Mexico, to play with various orchestras, including the Sinfonica National de Bellas Artes. After six year, the spirit of adventure and a desire to continue developing as a musician took her to France where she had the privilege of studying with the extraordinary bassist, Francois Rabbath. She earned a teaching diploma from the Institut Francois Rabbath.



After working in a chamber orchestra, Janet began teaching and free-lancing. Her love of early music lead her to complete a diploma in historical performance practice at the Conservatoire National de Toulouse, and to play the viola de gamba or bass viol. She completed a Master's degree at the University of Michigan, studying under Dr. Diana Gannett. She has also trained in the Suzuki method, so she is well able to work with young students.

Janet is passionate about the importance of finding a comfortable, body friendly approach to instrumental music. She is also experienced at gently introducing reading and theory skills for those who find them difficult.

Financial Support

As with most 501(c)3 organizations, we are always in need of additional funds. Although we are investigating grants to support our program, we also have ways our members can painlessly support us.

MyWay

If you are a member of Busch's MyWay, you can select "National Homeschool Music Ensemble" in the cash for education area and we will receive a small percentage of your spending at Busch's.

AmazonSmile

You can also support us through AmazonSmile.

Word of mouth

Another way to help the organization is to talk about it to other homeschool families. The more students who join, the more money we have to pay our bills. Please encourage friends to give us a try if they are considering music for their homeschooled student. Although we don't currently have a beginning group, we have a wait list. All it needs is enough students to make a class.

Parental Support

We have many ways our parents can be involved.

- First and foremost, encourage your student in his playing. Learning an instrument can be challenging, so love and support are necessary. Sit and listen while he practices and look for successes to compliment him on.
- Second, consider playing in the band or strings ensemble yourself. We have a number of parents who have joined us. This gives us a larger ensemble, which is always fun, but also shows your student that you think music is so important that you are willing to do it yourself. If you played music in the past, or want to start something new, join us.
- Transport your students to all rehearsals and performances so that they can be a strong part of the group.
- Help set-up or take down chairs and music stands at the Ann Arbor rehearsal hall.
- Volunteer to help organize summer lunches or trips.
- Help us find more ways to raise money for the program.

Behavior Expectations

NHME is a family music program. As members of NHME it is our goal to nurture the character of our students through a strong musical education program. It is our expectation that our students will be a credit to our institution. As such, those who participate in NHME activities are expected to:

- Act with respect towards others at all times. Speak with courtesy to others and respect the property of others as well as one's personal space. As we have a variety of ages involved in our program, please avoid vulgar language.
- Dress appropriately for all rehearsals and performances. The buildings can be cold in winter, or overly warm, so students should come prepared to add or subtract layers as needed. Concert apparel is white tops and black bottoms with dark shoes. Please remember you'll be on a stage: short skirts and shorts are not appropriate at concerts.
- Abstain from alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs and controlled substances while at all NHME activities.

Each member is responsible for their own behavior. They will be respectful of other's time, property, and personal space. Should this fail to happen, the instructor will point out disruptive behavior, with discretion, to the student first. If the problem behavior continues, an instructor/student/parent conference will be requested to address the problem and seek solutions to the behavior. If the student's behavior continues to be a problem, we reserve the right to dismiss, remove or ask disruptive influences to depart. The student will be expected to inform their parents of their own actions and the consequences.

NHME is deeply concerned with the safety and well being of all participants. We will make every reasonable attempt to keep safety issues in mind, however, the final responsibility remains firmly on individual families for the safety, supervision, and control of their children.