

New England Conservatory
at Walnut Hill

Student/Parent Handbook
2005/2006

Mission:

To educate highly accomplished and dedicated high-school age musicians as leaders in the world of music by providing a challenging and nurturing environment rich in opportunities for artistic and personal growth utilizing the physical, financial, and educational resources of New England Conservatory and Walnut Hill.

Overview:

The music curriculum for the joint program is shared by NEC's Preparatory School and Walnut Hill. In general NEC provides lessons, large ensembles (Youth Symphony, Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble), Piano Seminar and, for voice majors, Youth Chorale and Youth Camerata. WH provides Chorus, Music Theory, Music History and Chamber Music. Occasionally joint program students also participate in chamber music ensembles at NEC. Lessons for voice majors and composition students are provided by Walnut Hill.

Other courses given by the NEC Preparatory School are also open to members of the Joint Program with permission of the Director of the Music Department and the course instructor.

Schedule

YS/YPO rehearsals and Piano Seminar take place on Saturdays afternoons at NEC. MYWE rehearsals take place on Friday afternoons at NEC. Youth Chorale and Youth Camerata rehearsals take place on Saturday afternoons at NEC. Lessons occur on Saturdays at NEC and throughout the week at various locations, including WH, depending on the scheduling needs of the faculty and student. The WH portion of the joint program is given at WH during the regular school week.

Personnel

Administrative:

The Artistic Director of the NEC at Walnut Hill program is Benjamin Zander who is also the conductor of the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. The Program Director is Frank Corliss who also serves as the Director of Music at Walnut Hill. The Program and Artistic Directors work under the supervision of Mark Churchill, Dean of Preparatory and Continuing Education at NEC, and Roger Shoemaker, Dean for the Arts at WH. Additional administrative support is provided by the staffs of NEC and WH including, most importantly the director of the NEC Preparatory School, Elisabeth Christensen and the NEC department chairs.

Faculty:

Studio teaching faculty are drawn primarily from the NEC College and Preparatory School faculties. These faculty are drawn from all over the greater Boston area and the world. They often are also members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra as well members of other musical institutions such as Boston University, Boston Conservatory, and the Longy School of Music. When appropriate other instructors are engaged by NEC from the greater Boston area.

Billing

Walnut Hill charges a general tuition fee and an additional music program fee. The music program fee covers the costs each student's weekly private lessons and enrollment in large ensemble. For pianists, in addition to weekly lessons, it covers the cost of enrollment in the NEC Piano Seminar. Students may also take chamber music at NEC with the permission of the Program Director of the joint program at no additional charge. All other additional courses taken at NEC will be charged home at the discount rate listed in the NEC course catalog.

Please also note that a surcharge may apply for lessons with certain private studio teachers.

Transportation

Transportation is coordinated by the WH Director of Transportation, Paula Savage, and provided by outside contractors hired by WH. There is no charge for travel to and from commitments at NEC and for travel to one lesson per week. The transportation to any

additional lessons will be charged home at a rate set by the WH Director of Transportation in coordination with the contracted transportation providers. Travel for instrument repair and for non-required concert attendance is not covered and will be charged home at a similar rate.

All transportation requests are due to the Director of Transportation by 12:00 noon the day before requested travel. (Requests are due by 12:00 Friday for all weekend and Monday travel.) Every effort will be made to accommodate all requests but travel is not guaranteed.

In the event of an emergency or a mix up in transportation all students receive a card listing the following numbers. All students should carry this card with them whenever leaving campus:

JFK Transportation 508-653-4500
Colonial Livery 508-653-5600
Dorm parent on duty
Administrator on call 774-270-0693
Dean of Students Melissa Cassel home number 508-655-3898

Boarding students whose NEC at Walnut Hill commitments require them to return to campus after curfew must receive permission (a “blue form”) from the Program Director prior to leaving campus.

Registration

Registration for all NEC and WH courses, lessons, and ensembles takes place at WH through the Program Director. This is true even for students who have already studied at NEC prior to their enrollment at Walnut Hill.

Policies

Teacher Placement

Teacher placement is done by the Program Director of the NEC at Walnut Hill program in consultation with the student, his or her parents, the Artistic Director, and the NEC and WH staffs.

Change of Studio

All students wishing to change teachers must first receive permission from the Program Director. Permission to change studios will be given only in consultation with all involved parties and after the completion of the required form.

Large Ensemble Placement

Large ensemble, including orchestra, placement is done through auditions by the NEC and Walnut Hill faculties. Placement auditions occur the previous May for returning students and in September for new students. In addition, final placement auditions occur for all NEC at Walnut Hill students shortly after arrival on campus at the beginning of the academic year. Students arriving at mid-year will be auditioned by special arrangement.

Large ensemble auditions are generally 15 minutes in length. For all orchestra auditions students are asked to offer two contrasting pieces or movements (slow, fast) and a selection of orchestral excerpts determined by NEC.

Evaluation

Students in courses at both NEC and Walnut Hill will receive grades through the Walnut Hill grading system.

In addition, all NEC at Walnut Hill students will do an evaluation in May at NEC. The result of this evaluation will form part of a student's final grade for studio instruction.

Attendance

All unexcused absences for NEC commitments will be treated in the same way as unexcused absences for WH commitments. The disciplinary procedures will be those determined by the WH Dean of Students. In practice, this means that all students with unexcused absences for NEC commitments (orchestra, sectional rehearsals, lessons etc.) will be required to serve a Sunday morning detention at WH.

Requests for an excused absence to an NEC commitment must go through the Program Director.

Recitals

All seniors in the NEC at Walnut Hill Program are required to do a full solo recital at Walnut Hill. Underclasspersons are strongly encouraged to give recitals but are not required to do so. Seniors may be excused from the recital requirement only with permission of the Program Director.

For recitals in April and May, dates will be chosen by lottery with seniors receiving priority. For recitals at other times of the year dates can be negotiated directly with the Program Director.

Large Ensemble Tours

There are no tours in 2006 for Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and Youth Symphony but tours are tentatively planned for MYWE and Youth Chorale. The next tour will be in June/July of 2007 when the NEC Youth Symphony and Youth Philharmonic Orchestra will each undertake a concert tour abroad. Participation in the tours is required of all members of YPO and YS. Students in MYWE and Youth Chorale are strongly encouraged to participate but not required to do so. There is an additional charge for tours. This tour fee should be paid directly to NEC. Some additional scholarship aid is available through NEC and a number of tour fundraising opportunities are available to students throughout the academic year. Permission to be excused from the tour must be received from the ensemble conductor and the Program Director.

Contact Information

The first point of contact for Joint Program students and their parents is Frank Corliss, Program Director of the NEC at Walnut Hill Program. He may be reached at fcorliss@walnuthillarts.org or 508-650-5024.

Following is the contact information for other important administrators of NEC at WH

Benjamin Zander, Artistic Director, Conductor of YPO

zanderbpo@aol.com

Mark Churchill, Dean of Preparatory and Continuing Education, NEC

mchurchill@newenglandconservatory.edu, 617-585-1129

Elisabeth Christensen, Preparatory School Director, NEC

echristensen@newenglandconservatory.edu 617-585-1128

Steven Karidoyanes, Conductor of Youth Symphony, NEC

steven@orchestraconductor.com

John Page, Conductor of Youth Chorale, Camerata, NEC

pagej99@yahoo.com

Roger Shoemaker, Dean for the Arts, WH

rshoemaker@walnuthillarts.org, 508-650-5026

Matthew Derr, Dean of Admissions and College Placement, WH

mderr@walnuthillarts.org, 508-650-5022

Laura Thielke, Head of Chamber Music, Assistant Director of Music, WH

lthielke@walnuthillarts.org, 508-652-6006

Paula Savage, Transportation Coordinator, Music Department Assistant WH

psavage@walnuthillarts.org, 508-652-7801

Angela Gooch, Head of Vocal Studies, WH

agooch@walnuthillarts.org

Whit Brown, Head of Theory and Composition, WH

wbrown@walnuthillarts.org, 508-652-7827