

Seycove Concert Band 8 to 12 Course Outline
2015 / 2016

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Course Objectives

In this course, students will learn about *music*, and concert band happens to be the medium we use. The goals of this course are as follows:

- to nurture students to become lifelong lovers of music;
- to empower students to become independent musicians, who can create music on their own;
- to become critical thinkers, who can objectively evaluate their own work and improve upon it;
- to understand their importance as members of a team who are greater than the sum of their parts.

Course Description

We will pursue the above goals through the following activities:

practicing the techniques required to play instruments;	performing diverse repertoire in concert , exploring music across cultures and throughout history;	refining stylistic musical playing and interpretation ;	advancing an understanding of the elements of music (<i>pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony, and timbre</i>);	reading music notation and developing other music theory skills;
developing listening and critical thinking skills in regards to performance and rehearsal;	expanding rehearsal skills (<i>concentration, following direction, listening, critical thinking, preparing through practicing, punctuality, and initiative</i>);	realizing the significance and function of their individual roles and responsibilities within the ensemble;	discovering skills in applying production elements (<i>setting up, taking down, demonstrating stage presence, using lighting and sound equipment</i>);	examining the various roles and purposes of music in society , exploring career opportunities related to music, and developing skills for pursuing those options.

Announcements

seycovemusic.weebly.com

Visit our website frequently for more information about Seycove’s choral and band programs and to keep up-to-date with announcements, dates and times, and other pertinent information.

Course Outline Continued

Sectionals and Section Leaders

There will be a section leader chosen for your section, who is responsible for leading the sectional and taking attendance. The band room is booked at the following times for sectionals and sign-up sheets will be posted each week to reserve the space:

Mondays at lunch	Tuesdays at lunch	Wednesdays at lunch	Thursdays at Lunch	Fridays at Lunch
woodwind sectionals	percussion sectionals	open time	brass sectionals	chamber groups & jazz combos

Uniform

Grade 8's wear: black dress pants or long black skirt, black socks or tights, black dress shoes and Seycove Grade 8 T-Shirt, which costs \$15 and is theirs to keep.

Grade 9 to 12 boys wear: black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes, black dress shirt with a collar and Seycove Blue Tie, which costs \$25 and is theirs to keep.

Grade 9 and 10 girls wear: black dress pants or long black skirt and black blouse or sweater with sleeves, or a long black dress, black socks or tights, and black dress shoes.

Grade 11 and 12 girls wear: black dress shoes and Seycove long black dress, which costs \$85 new or \$20 used and is theirs to keep, or they can sell or donate it back to the program upon graduating.

An order form is attached for the uniform.

Assessment

The *entire course* is split into three terms, with each contributing equally to the final mark:

Term I (33.33%)

Term II (33.33%)

Term III (33.33%)

***Each term* your mark is divided as follows:**

Term I

Rehearsal and Performance Etiquette and Effort:	50%
Playing Test on Technique	30%
Written Assignments and Quizzes:	20%

Term II

Rehearsal and Performance Etiquette and Effort:	50%
Chamber Music or Combo Project:	30%
Written Assignments and Quizzes:	20%

Term III

Rehearsal and Performance Etiquette and Effort:	50%
Playing Test on Expression and Musicality	30%
Written Assignments and Quizzes:	20%

Seycove Music Program Attendance Policies

ATTENDANCE IN CLASS, AND AT CONCERTS, IS MANDATORY. Although your class may take place outside of school hours, it is no less important than in-timetable classes. Everyone depends on each other's full participation at every rehearsal and every performance in order to succeed. A high number of absences, late arrivals and early departures brings down the morale of the whole group and holds everyone back from achieving excellence. **It is your responsibility to ensure that you are available for *all* of the major performances for your ensemble, which are treated like exams. Significant marks will be deducted for any unexcused absences or lateness from classes, dress rehearsals, sectionals, sound checks or performances, which may result in a failing grade for the term.**

If you are *severely* ill (i.e. much worse than the common cold) or have another legitimate reason for missing a performance, parents are asked to reach the school immediately, so that arrangements can be made to hire a professional musician in your place, if necessary. You may see many students in the class, but there is often only *one* person who can fulfill your role, and that's *you*!

Regarding missing classes (not concerts), if you have...

- 1. a regularly occurring conflict between this course and another activity, such as an outside-of-school team,** speak with your instructor about it in September. If you are not available for most of the classes, it's just not fair to others and you may not be allowed to take this course.
- 2. a medical appointment, illness or emergency,** your absence will be excused. Because any absence impacts the rehearsal plan, please let your instructor know as soon as you know about an upcoming absence. Please make sure your parents call the office to excuse your absence. Please make your best effort not to schedule these appointments during our class time.
- 3. a field trip,** your absence will be excused. Because any absence impacts the rehearsal plan, please let your instructor know as soon as you know about an upcoming absence. The office will mark you absent.
- 4. a game for a Seycove team,** your absence will be excused. Because any absence impacts the rehearsal plan, please bring your instructor an official team schedule at the start of the season and you and your instructor will plan which, if any, classes/rehearsals you may miss. The office will mark you absent.
- 5. a practice or team meeting, these do NOT take precedence over class time and you should not miss class for them, generally.** If you absolutely must attend an important practice that conflicts with band, bring your instructor your official team schedule at the start of the season and you and your instructor will plan which, if any, classes/rehearsals you may miss.
- 6. a project or a make-up test to do, volunteering or a club meeting.** These do not take precedence over our class time and you should not miss rehearsal for these things, generally. If you ask permission at least a day ahead of time, it might be possible depending on the rehearsal plan.
- 7. a family event, such as a birthday, vacation, tickets to a game or concert or other events of a personal nature.** Your parents have the right to call the school to excuse you in these instances, however please be aware that all absences impact the group negatively and impede progress. All students have made personal sacrifices in order to attend and have a great experience, including planning their personal time to happen later. Whenever possible, book personal events outside of class time. Your parents must call the office to excuse you in these instances.
- 8. a part time job. You should never miss any class, even x-block classes, for a part-time job.** Employers cannot insist that you miss school, whether in x-block or in-timetable. Give employers your school schedule early to avoid conflicts later. If it happens, I wouldn't want you to lose your job, but let's talk about how we can ensure it never happens again.

**A preliminary list of performances and events is posted to
seycovemusic.weebly.com.**

Seycove Bands Rehearsal Expectations

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the start of every class (for Senior Concert Band, this is 5:15pm, not 5:30pm). See the Seycove Music Program Attendance Policies for expectations regarding attendance.

Preparation

Your homework is to practice for a minimum of one hour, outside of class, each week, so that you will arrive at rehearsal prepared to move the ensemble forward in learning the music. Ideally, you should spend some time every day playing your instrument.

Instrument

You will provide your own instrument. Information is attached about how to rent one. It must be in good condition. A broken or dirty instrument will cause further damage, frustration and bad habits and disrupt the rehearsal. If you suspect that you have a problem with your instrument, please get it fixed right away. Have your supplies such as valve oil, slide grease, cork grease, reeds, cleaning cloths and rods, etc next to you in rehearsal.

Music and Band Folder

Look after your music, even if it is *just* a photocopy. If you lose your sheet music, you will not be prepared for class, making others wait for you to get a new copy. If you lose books and/or sheet music, you may be charged for it at the end of the year. An order form is enclosed for a personalized band folder.

Pencil and Eraser

A pencil is a necessity in this class. Have it ready and make markings as soon as you think of them or get instructed to by the director. Marking your music the first time saves valuable rehearsal time for everyone. Mark down troublesome passages to look at later on your own or in rehearsal, so that you make best use of your practice time.

Rehearsal Set-Up and Take Down

At the beginning of every class, get your own chair and music stand. Percussionists must take out and set up all of the equipment you will need for the music. The rehearsal schedule will be posted on the board so that you can put your music in order and plan any equipment you need. At the end of class, please put music stands, chairs and all of the auxiliary instruments, sticks and mallets, mutes and instrument stands away.

Warm-Up and Tuning

At the start of class, begin warming up on your instrument as soon as you are set up. This is an important part of getting ready to rehearse. The rehearsal begins with tuning to a concert Bb. Listen to the tuning note and match pitch. Do not talk, play excessively loudly or quietly or play any other notes. The senior concert band starts at 5:15, so that you have 15 minutes of warm-up time on your own before the rehearsal portion of class begins.

Rehearsal Deportment

During the rehearsal, always listen to everything that is going on. Everything the director says is relevant to the music and therefore to your part as well. Listening and engaging in the rehearsal process allows us all to achieve excellence. Distracted and distracting behaviors, such as talking, using a cell phone, playing out of turn, doing other homework, etc., are disrespectful to others and break the trust which is necessary to be musically expressive.

Food and Drinks

Food, drinks and chewing gum are only allowed in the band room at the break in evening Senior Concert Band rehearsals, or in lunchtime sectionals. Food and drinks are never allowed in the band room during regular rehearsals. Please clean up all messes and garbage.

Seycove Bands Information about Instruments

All band students are responsible for acquiring an instrument, whether you purchase your own, rent on from a local retailer or from the school. Percussionists - must provide their own drum-sticks, timpani mallets, soft mallets, hard mallets, a practice pad and a gig bag labeled with his or her name. Guitarists must supply their own patch cord. **Please label your instrument case with your name and phone number with a luggage tag** (not a sticker or duct tape, which damage the case).

String Basses (shared by all bass players at school)

\$20 per year

Bassists are expected to make the transition to upright acoustic bass by the end of Grade 10, and most borrow the school's upright basses. The rental fee, new as of this year, just covers the cost to maintain these instruments through normal use (strings and bow hair replacement, repairs to scratches and cracks, and loose knobs and wiring on amps).

Woodwind and Brass Instruments Belonging to Seycove

\$150 per year

The rental fee just covers the cost to sterilize, repair and maintain these instruments each year through normal use. Instruments are limited and priority is given to senior students.

Percussion and Keyboard Instruments Belonging to Seycove

No charge

Keyboardists and percussionists are welcome to use the school instruments at no charge, however percussionists must supply their own sticks, mallets and practice pad. You may purchase your own percussion kit through Seycove (see below).

Percussion Starter Kit

\$125

Includes: gig bag, drum sticks, timpani mallets, hard mallets, and soft mallets. Does not include a practice pad, which you must supply on your own. An order form is attached for percussion kits.

Repairs and Maintenance

If a Seycove instrument needs repair or adjustment through normal use, please bring it in immediately to be fixed. **If any Seycove instrument is damaged due to misuse or carelessness, parents will be expected to get it repaired at their own expense (in addition to the rental fee).** seycovebands.weebly.com lists several excellent repair shops in the Lower Mainland.

Storage

There is an instrument storage room available for students to use throughout the year. It is locked overnight and you may leave your instrument there overnight. **North Vancouver School District #44 will not be held responsible if an instrument goes missing from school grounds, so please check your home insurance policy and make sure the instrument is covered by it. Please don't leave your instrument in the hallway – anyone could take it!**

Seycove Bands Start-of-Year Order Form

Student's Name: _____

<i>Item</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Subtotal</i>
Supplies			
Course Fee <i>You will receive an invoice in September for all of the course fees. The Main Office collects course fees, please DO NOT include them in this order. Thank you.</i>		\$40	<i>n/a</i>
Personalized Band Folder (yours to keep year to year.)		\$20	
Bass Rental Fee (yearly)		\$20	
Woodwind or Brass Instrument Rental Fee (yearly)		\$150	
Percussion Starter Set (yours to keep year to year.)		\$125	
Uniforms			
Grade 8 T-Shirt (yours to keep)		\$15	
Boys' 9 to 12 Blue Tie (yours to keep year to year)		\$25	
Girls' 11 and 12 Black Dress (new; yours to keep or sell back to the program later)		\$85	
Girls' 11 and 12 Black Dress (used; supplies are very limited)		\$20	
Donations			
Donation to the Seycove Music Parents' Association <i>Your donation benefits all students in the program and goes towards the purchase of music and equipment, repairs, guest artists and clinicians, workshops, festival fees, bursaries and scholarships for students. THANK YOU!!</i>		\$	
Lessons			
Private Instruction is available at Seycove on all band instruments and voice and arranged with the instructors directly. Please see the Private Instructors page on seycovemusic.weebly.com or get in touch with the Band Director to set up private lessons.			<i>n/a</i>
TOTAL:	\$		

Please enclose a cheque for the amount above made payable to "Seycove Secondary". Write your son or daughter's name and "band start of year" in the memo line. Attach it to this order form and drop them in the locked drop box by Wednesday, September 30th. (Post-dated cheques are fine, too – please highlight the date). There are programs available for any family whose financial circumstances make these fees unaffordable. Please speak with me in confidence or send me an e-mail rmcdonell@sd44.ca.

Please note that band folders, t-shirts, ties and dresses each take a minimum of two weeks to arrive. Thank you for your patience.

Last Name:

Class of: 20_____

Seycove Bands Student Information Form

Please complete the following information, to indicate that you have read this package and list of concert dates. Bring this form, and any concerns you have about it, to your instructor by Wednesday, September 30th please.

Student Signature: _____

Student's Name printed: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____ / 2015

Check one of the following:

All Seycove *teachers* will now be able to e-mail their classes with important information using the e-mail address you provide to the school. (Hooray!) From time to time, *parents* from the Seycove Music Parents' Association would like to contact you by e-mail as well. May we *please* share your e-mail address with the SMPA?

Yes! Please send occasional e-mails from the SMPA about fundraisers, scholarships and bursaries, special parent initiatives and other enrichment opportunities for my child!

No, thank you. I will watch the website for this information.

**Seycove Music Parents' and Music Students' Associations
Meet and Greet and Annual General Meeting!
7:30pm, Wednesday, September 23rd, 2015,
Seycove Cafeteria**

All students in the Seycove Music Program and their parents are asked to please attend this brief but highly informative meeting. We will introduce Melodie Langevin, our new and wonderful Choir Director, and give important information about the program and exciting events planned for this year! Refreshments will be served and students will perform.