

Dear Honors String Orchestra Musicians,

CONGRATULATIONS on being selected to perform in the Honors String Orchestra at Carnegie Hall! I look forward to sharing a memorable musical and social experience with all of you. For many, (including myself!) this will be your first time performing in one of the most famous concert halls in the world. I am honored to be leading you and cannot wait to begin!

I have selected a diverse and challenging program for our time together. You are expected to arrive in New York with your individual part prepared to the best of your ability. I encourage you to not only listen to each piece (with part in hand, and/or a downloadable conductor's score), but to hear how your part fits with the others. I also urge you to do research on the composers, who all have unique and profound stories.

Repertoire will include:

**Jennifer Higdon: Celebration Fanfare**

Written in 2003, this short work demonstrates what Higdon strives for, her "American sound," which she says is characterized by "an American type of energy and active rhythms."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBNsDqbUHVc>

**Kirt Mosier: Overture to the Wind**

The mixed meter was designed to mimic his grandfather's shirts as they snapped on the clothes line at uneven rhythms due to an approaching storm in Kansas.

<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&type=audio&productID=2253102>

\*There are prominent solos in Violin I and Viola. For those interested in being considered, please email a YouTube link (or other) with the solo excerpts (Violin I- mm. 95-121, Viola mm. 105-113) to [dpdroste@bsu.edu](mailto:dpdroste@bsu.edu) by **Friday, January 10, 2020**. Make sure we can see both hands and that the sound quality is good!

**George Walker: Lyric for Strings**

This was originally the slow movement of his first string quartet (1946), and titled Lament, an homage to his grandmother. Walker's musical contribution is quite independent and unquestionably valid.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W17aIPNaVfY>

**Johannes Brahms, arr. McCashin: Academic Festival Overture**

Brahms incorporated student songs into an orchestral overture as a tribute to the University of Breslau upon receiving an honorary doctorate.

<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&type=audio&productID=2480768>

**Brian Balmages: Point Lookout**

Inspired by the rich history of Point Lookout State Park in Maryland, this fantasy on civil war songs pays tribute to the remnants of Fort Lincoln, which served as a Civil War fortification.

<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&type=audio&productID=10027381>

**Calvin Custer: Central Coach Special**

This fun fiddle tune employs many of the traditional sounds and techniques of the old-time style, which



is inspired by reels, jigs, hornpipes, and other dances.

<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&type=audio&productID=10374203>

Honor Performance Series weekends are always such a thrill! They're an intense and focused block of time to grow together musically. I also challenge you to get the "full experience" of this program - take advantage of your time in New York and meet as many new people as possible.

These weekends are also typically hurried! If we don't have a chance to speak outside of rehearsal, PLEASE come up and introduce yourself during a break. EVERYONE is important in this ensemble, no matter where you sit.

I look forward to meeting all of you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Douglas Droste'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Douglas' and last name 'Droste' clearly distinguishable.

Douglas Droste  
Director of Orchestras, Ball State University  
Artistic Director, Muncie Symphony Orchestra  
Conductor, Music for All Summer Symposium Orchestra