



Announcing : New in 2008 – The Sapphyre Strings Mentoring / Leadership / Service Program

The goal of our program is to encourage older students, 7th grade through high school graduation, to continue regular participation in Sapphyre Strings activities, providing service to our organization and the community, inspiring the younger students of the program through mentorship and leadership, and fulfilling the challenge of aspiring to one's personal highest level of musicianship.

Sapphyre Strings will provide awards in the form of certificates for service / leadership that the student can list on his/her resume when applying to college.

Who qualifies? This program is particularly appropriate for students who have themselves grown up in our teaching program, who have participated consistently in our activities throughout the years, who demonstrate a corresponding level of maturity, reliability, poise, musicianship, technical facility, etc. on the violin.

7th and 8th Graders may apply to enroll in Sapphyre Strings' Junior Leadership Program. Upon enrolling, the Junior Leader commits to

- Regular attendance at Sapphyre Strings repertory classes and performances. The Junior Leaders may be asked to assist with tuning violins at the repertory classes and helping the director with other duties as needed at repertory classes as well as at concerts.
- Learning extra parts as needed for balance within the ensemble (for example, harmony parts to the folk tunes and other pieces to be determined by the Teacher.)
- Modeling exemplary behavior at rehearsals and performances, thus teaching the younger students by example to do the same.
- Sufficient home practice to fulfill personal musical goals set at the beginning of the school year/ semester with the Teacher.

Junior Leaders will receive a certificate and mention in the annual spring concert program at the end of each school year. The certificate will indicate at least 15 hours of service for the year to our organization.

High School Students may enroll in the Sapphyre Strings Leadership and Mentoring Program. Upon enrolling, the Mentor commits to

- All of the points mentioned in the Junior Leadership Program PLUS

- Mentoring a younger student once a week by practicing repertory with them. Time and location will be at the Mentor's convenience. He/she will practice repertory with the student as determined by the Teacher. The Mentor will not introduce any new pieces or techniques. The Mentor will be paid for his/her services by the student, NOT by Sapphyre Strings, at the rate of \$8 per half-hour. Younger students who wish to take advantage of the mentoring will need to sign a commitment for the semester but will pay per lesson. The Mentor may take on more than one student at his/her discretion and always with the approval of his/her Parent and Teacher. Students may also be alternated, i.e. one student the first and third week of the month and another student the second and fourth week of the month. Details will be worked out between Mentor, Teacher and Student.
- The Mentor will also help supervise any students they are mentoring at rehearsals and performances and will provide assistance to the Teacher/Musical Director at Sapphyre Strings activities.
- The Leadership and Mentoring certificate awarded at the end of the school year will indicate at least 30 hours of service to our organization.

In addition, **High School Juniors** may enroll and as **Seniors** may qualify to receive a 2-year **Distinguished Service Award** if they, in addition to all of the above requirements:

- Teach a half-hour folk tune / "advanced-beginners" group class once per semester, during their last 2 high school years, which will be separate from and in addition to the regular repertory class. There should be a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 students participating in the class. The Teacher will not necessarily be present but will assist in preparation. Piano accompaniment is not provided nor is it necessary, but the Mentor may use the accompaniment cds if desired. The Mentor will receive compensation of \$2 per student per class, to be paid by the student directly to the Mentor. One of these classes could take place in summer.
- During his/her Senior year, the Mentor will organize and lead an approximately 20-minute long Sapphyre Strings performance at a senior residence or comparable. A rehearsal will need to be included in the organizational process. The group of students can range from 6 to 12 in number, but all these details are flexible and can be worked out together with the Teacher, who will assist in preparation but will not necessarily be present for the performance. The Mentor will receive no compensation for this performance.
- The Mentor will perform a "Junior Recital" during his/her Junior year of high school. The recital should be between 15 and 20 minutes long and can consist of pieces he/she has studied in recent years. Location, time, audience, etc. can be worked out with the Teacher and Parent. Sapphyre Strings will pay for the costs of the accompanist and program and will provide a free professional quality audio and video recording. More than one Mentor may team up together and perform ensemble pieces in addition to individual solo pieces.

- The Mentor will perform a “Senior Recital” during his/her Senior year of high school. The recital should be between 20 and 30 minutes long and should consist of pieces he/she has studied during the Senior year, in addition to some earlier pieces. As with the Junior Recital, ensemble pieces are permitted, but at least half the program should consist of solo pieces. Sapphyre Strings will pay for the costs of the accompanist and program and will provide a free professional quality audio and video recording.
- The Distinguished Service Award presented at graduation will indicate at least 40 hours of service to our organization, in addition to the service hours earned in the regular annual Leadership and Mentorship program.

NOTE: Many students who do not major in music in college still qualify to receive music scholarships. Our recordings may be used to fulfill audition requirements – please inquire at the schools when starting scholarship applications as to their requirements.

To apply for enrollment, the student should submit a letter to their teacher prior to fall semester enrollment, expressing their interest in the program and their commitment for the upcoming school year’s Sapphyre Strings activities. A parent’s signature of approval is also required. The teacher will work with the high school Mentors to ensure that they are well-prepared to help with the younger students.

The participants will record all their activities which fulfill the requirements for the awards in a log, which the teacher will provide.

Since this is a new program being implemented in 2008, adjustments may need to be made to the program. A trial-and-error period is to be expected. We would be happy to get your feedback on this program, which we consider to have wonderful potential within our Sapphyre Strings family and our community.