

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY

DOROTHY A. TERRELL

COLLEGE TRACK MENTORSHIP PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK

The New World Symphony (NWS) College Track Mentorship Program (CTMP) serves up to ten young classical instrumental musicians (grades 8-12) from backgrounds underrepresented and underserved in classical music.

WELCOME

Welcome to the College Track Mentorship Program! This handbook addresses the schedule, responsibilities, and privileges shared by the CTMP students. Whether you are a returning CTMP mentee or a new one, please explore this handbook's contents. It includes a wealth of information about financial support, workshop schedules, as well as some mandatory activities for every student.

This handbook is not a contract. The policies and procedures described in it are intended to foster a constructive environment. All the CTMP mentees are expected to follow these policies and procedures.

INTRODUCTION

The College Track Mentorship Program is made possible with support from NWS Vice Chair/Secretary of Board of Trustees Dorothy A. Terrell, who after making a significant leadership commitment to fund the program for four years, further expanded her gift, ensuring that 10 gifted local students will enjoy access to NWS Fellow mentors, free lessons, professional-quality instruments, as well as tuition and travel expenses to attend summer music festivals. She hopes this NWS program will be a model to other organizations.

The students chosen for the College Track Mentorship Program are each matched with a Fellow who provides 20 to 25 lessons per season, additionally they continue to teach their students virtually over the summer. Fellows assist the students in selecting and acquiring new instruments and accessories as needed. NWS staff and Fellows work with each student on college preparedness and in their senior year, the college application process.

The program helps each student apply for and attend a summer music festival or camp. NWS assists the students in securing scholarships or provides financial support for these summer activities. The students participate in an end-of-year recital at the New World Center to celebrate their accomplishments.

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

The New World Symphony, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation organized and based in Miami Beach, Florida. It operates under the governance of a Board of Trustees of up to 60 members and an executive committee. Fellows are not NWS employees.

Stéphane Denève is the Artistic Director of the New World Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director Laureate.

NWS Fellows are expected to number up to 87, consisting of 26 violinists, 10 violists, 9 cellists, 7 bassists, 3 players in each woodwind section, 5 hornists, 3 trumpeters, 2 trombonists, 1 bass trombonist, 1 tubist, 1 timpanist, 4 percussionists, 2 keyboardists, 1 harpist, 1 Conducting Fellow, 1 Library Fellow and 1 Audio/Video Engineering Fellow.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

All the CTMP students must be ready to begin all program related activities by the time the 26-27 orientation takes place.

CTMP divides its curriculum into seven areas:

- 1. Weekly Lessons**
- 2. Workshops and Masterclasses**
- 3. Rehearsal Observations/Concert Attendance**
- 4. Side-By-Side Competition**
- 5. Juries and Final Recital**
- 6. Performance Opportunities**
- 7. Career and College Readiness**

Attendance and participation in all the program activities as outlined in this handbook are required to be part of the program. Attendance in all aspects of the program will be monitored by the Program Manager. All students will be part of a 1-on-1 weekly check-in with the Program Manager. Lack of attendance and participation in any area may lead to suspension or expulsion of the program.

Weekly Lessons

Each student must take lessons with their paired mentor once a week, in person at least 2 times a month. Transportation will be provided if needed.

Workshops and Masterclasses

All students need to attend all activities workshops, and masterclasses, failure to do so may result in program suspension/termination (absent extenuating circumstances). Please submit any requests for absences to the Program Manager in writing and with a note from your parent/guardian or teacher at least three weeks in advance.

Rehearsal Observations/Concert Attendance:

Each CTMP student is required to attend a minimum of three NWS concerts during the 26-27 season. Tickets must be requested at least 7 days in advance. Tickets are free of charge.

Side-By-Side Competition:

All CTMP students are required to apply to the NWS Side-By-Side ensemble and are welcome to audition for the optional Concerto competition.

Juries and Final Recital:

All students are required to be part of the first and second semester juries. Each student will perform for a panel of 3-5 NWS Fellows. Additionally, every student needs to participate in the CTMP final recital that will be scheduled at the start of the season.

Performance Opportunities:

Students will showcase their growth through juries, coaching, masterclasses, and the final recital. They may also be invited to perform at NWS events or community programs. In addition, all students are encouraged to audition for the National Equity Arc Orchestra and Wind Symphony, a national initiative supporting diverse young musicians. These opportunities help students gain confidence, stage experience, and professionalism.

Career and College Readiness:

Beyond lessons, students will prepare for higher education and music careers through workshops on auditions, applications, and professional skills. They will also take part in group piano classes, online music theory courses, and sight-singing classes to strengthen core musicianship. These activities ensure students are ready for college auditions, conservatory studies, and future opportunities.

Expenses Covered by the Program:

Travel Expenses: The NWS will cover travel expenses to and from the NWC for lessons, events, and concert attendance **if personal transportation is not available** – e.g., Ubers, bus fees, train fees. Travel expenses covered by the program will only apply when going to and from your lessons at the New World Center.

Musical Materials: The NWS will purchase any musical materials that the students may need. This includes strings, sheet music, instrument rentals, tuners, etc.

Instrument Purchase: The student will discuss with their mentor if a new instrument is needed. Once a consensus has been made, the student and the Program Manager will develop a plan to help raise money to purchase a high-quality instrument.

Conservatory/University Research and Audition Tour Support: As each student enters their junior and senior years of high school, NWS will provide logistical and monetary support to facilitate the college/music school application and audition process.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Program Expectations & Agreements

1. **Lesson Readiness**

I agree to be at New World Center or on my computer and ready to play at least five minutes prior to each lesson or activity.

2. **Lesson Attendance**

I agree that if I cannot attend a scheduled lesson, I will notify my instructor as soon as possible. Any lesson canceled with fewer than 24 hours' notice must be due to illness or emergency circumstances only.

3. **Preparation**

I agree to have all assigned music properly prepared before each lesson.

4. **Materials**

I agree to bring my instrument and my copies of the music to every lesson.

5. **Participation in Activities**

I agree to attend all scheduled activities, juries, and the recital.

6. **Concert Attendance**

I understand that if I plan on attending a New World Symphony concert, I must secure tickets by calling or emailing the Program Manager.

7. **Professionalism & Communication**

I agree to be respectful in all interactions and to only communicate with my mentor and/or the Program Manager during business hours (9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday), except in cases of emergency.

8. **Staff Instructions**

I agree to comply with all instructions given by New World Symphony staff members.

Student Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____