

NHASTA Fall Orchestra Festival 2024 at Keene State College

Student Information Letter

Dear String Student and Parent,

I would like to tell you about an exciting festival that will be held in the Fall of 2024—the NHASTA Fall Orchestra Festival at Keene State College. The festival is open to any student who will be in grades 9-12 during the 2024-25 school year. Home-schooled students of the same age are also welcomed to attend. Participation is open to any student who wishes to join and is not limited to New Hampshire residents or the students of NHASTA members.

On **Saturday, October 19th, 2024**, students will assemble in the on the Keene State College campus for a full day of rehearsals and an evening performance. The festival orchestra will be made of the high school string students, possibly joined by NHASTA string players and members of the Keene State College Orchestra, and will be conducted by Seelam Manickam, conductor of the KSC Orchestra. At this point in time, we are planning to create at least one string orchestra. If enrollments allow, we may add an additional orchestra. A concert will be given that evening at 7:00 pm.

Students register for the festival this spring, after receiving a recommendation from their teacher. Students receive music for the festival early in the fall semester and are expected to prepare the music before the day of the festival.

The cost of attending the festival is \$25, and all students receiving their teacher's recommendation will be accepted to the festival. Meals are not provided as part of the festival registration fee, and information about food service options will be sent to students in the fall. Likewise, transportation to and from the festival will need to be arranged by the parents and/or teachers of the students. Complete information regarding meals, parking, schedule, concert attire, and other details will be sent in the fall. A brief "Fact Sheet" is included with this letter.

Please know that if NHASTA or UNH needs to cancel the festival for any reason, all registered students will retain their registration fee. NHASTA will hold all payment checks and not cash them until we are certain that the festival will run. Therefore, checks may not be deposited until August. This will avoid the need to issue numerous refund checks. Therefore, interested students should go ahead and register this spring without fear of losing the registration fee. However, students who withdraw individually or otherwise choose to not attend the festival are not eligible for a refund.

I hope you will consider attending the 2024 NHASTA Fall Orchestra Festival at Keene State College. To register, please return the Student Registration Form, Emergency Information Form (health-related), and registration fee of \$25 to your teacher. We are also requesting that you provide an email address that the festival organizers will use to send information directly to you or your parents. Please provide an email you will be checking over the summer months. Please also note that your teacher must send in your application form on or before Friday, June 14, 2024, so be sure to turn in your paperwork before that date. We are looking forward to working with you at this year's Fall Festival. If you have questions, you may reach me at David.Upham@unh.edu. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Musically Yours,



David Upham

Fall Festival Coordinator, New Hampshire American String Teachers Association

NHASTA Fall Orchestra Festival 2024 at Keene State College Fact Sheet

Approximate schedule ~ Subject to revision

Saturday, October 19, 2024

Location: Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond
Keene State College
Music Department
229 Main Street
Keene, NH 03435

Tentative Schedule:

9:00-9:30: Registration

9:30-noon: Rehearsal (locations TBA)

Noon-1:30: Lunch

1:30-3:00: Rehearsal

3:00-3:30: Break

3:30-5:00: Rehearsal

5:00-7:00: Dinner

7:00 PM: Festival Concert in Alumni Recital Hall, Redfern Arts Center

Cost: \$25 Registration Fee.

Meals: Lunch and Dinner are not provided as part of the registration fee. Information about food service options will be sent to students in the fall.

Deadlines: Return your Registration Form and Health Release Form, along with your payment, to your teacher by _____.

Registration forms must be received by NHASTA on or before June 14, 2024.

Additional Information (music, maps, parking, concert attire, etc.) will be sent in September of 2024.