

Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated 8/20/2018

How do I obtain a registration form? Registration is available online through Itasca Community Education. Just follow the link from our website: www.itascaorchestra.org. If you do not have access to a computer, please call the IOSP office at 218.327.5781 and leave a message so we can arrange a time to call you to register over the phone.

Where and when are lessons?

Adult lessons will be scheduled based on the adult student's and our IOSP instructor's availability. Adult lessons will take place in the IOSP lesson room located in the Reif Center.

May I choose my teacher? We will do the best we can to accommodate requests, but that is not always possible. Our instructors are very committed to our students' learning and recognize that some students personality/learning style are a better fit for a different teacher; and therefore our teachers may even sometimes recognize the benefits of making a change.

How much do lessons cost? For the 2018-2019 school year there is no registration fee. Lessons paid in full are \$595 for the year. This includes lessons, orchestra rehearsals, and concerts. Our tuition fees are heavily subsidized by individual donors, the Blandin Foundation, and a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support Grant.

What other expenses are there? In the first year, all students will purchase a lesson book, Essential Elements for \$10. Your student will use this book for 2 years. More advanced students will also have to purchase an Essential Elements lesson book, and additionally 1 or 2 books for solos or technical work. Typically

these books are in the \$10 to \$15 range. The average student will only buy 1 to 2 books per year. If your student is renting an instrument, the instrument will be provided with good strings, but if a string breaks during the year, then the string will be charged to your account. String prices for beginners range from \$2 to \$13 on violin and viola, up to \$15 for cello. All students are encouraged to purchase a collapsible music stand to encourage practicing with proper posture. You can find collapsible stands on-line beginning at \$11 and up.

Who do I contact if I am going to miss a lesson or rehearsal? Please contact your lesson instructor if you are missing a lesson

Do you offer make up lessons if my student misses a lessons? Make up lessons will only be given if a teacher misses a lesson.

Do you have instruments available to rent?

Yes, the IOSP has instruments available to rent at affordable prices. Rental instruments do not include shoulder rests for violin and viola players. A shoulder rest is necessary for proper playing posture. You can purchase a shoulder rest for as little as \$15.

I am renting and instrument, do I need to go to the IOSP office to pick it up before the first lesson? No, our IOSP instructors will bring the rental instrument to you at your first lesson.

What should I keep in mind if I decide to buy an instrument? When it comes to buying a string instrument, the saying about “you get what you pay for” is true. The IOSP highly recommends investing in a quality hard shell case, especially for cellos and basses.

My instrument is broke what do I do? If you have a rental instrument, let an IOSP instructor or call/email the IOSP office to let us know so we can set your student up with a different rental instrument. Return the damaged instrument to the IOSP office. If you own your own instrument, the IOSP office can give you the name of the individuals to whom the IOSP sends instruments for repair.

My instrument is out of tune! What do I do? (To be answered by our Instructors)

What happens if I leave my instrument in the car in extreme cold and heat? Your instrument will crack. A quick run into the grocery store can become very expensive.