



WEST GEORGIA ARTS COLLECTIVE

West Georgia Winds
Student Handbook

2025-2026 Season
rev. 9/21/2025

2025-2026 REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

The regular rehearsal schedule is posted below. Any cancellation of a rehearsal due to extreme circumstances will be communicated via email.

FALL ENSEMBLE	DATE	LOCATIONS
AUDITIONS	9/14/25 (Sun.)	
Both Middle & High Divisions	11/2/25 (Sun.)	Band Room - Carrollton Middle School Band Room - UWG Humanities Building
Both Middle & High Divisions	11/9/25 (Sun.)	Band Room - Carrollton Middle School Band Room - UWG Humanities Building
Both Middle & High Divisions	11/16/25 (Sun.)	Band Room - Carrollton Middle School Band Room - UWG Humanities Building
Both Middle & High Divisions	11/30/25 (Sun.)	Band Room - Carrollton Middle School Band Room - UWG Humanities Building
WGA Fall CONCERT	12/7/25 (Sun.)	Mabry Arts Center

SPRING ENSEMBLE	DATE	LOCATION
Middle School	1/18/26 (Sun.)	Band Room - Carrollton Middle School
Middle School	1/25/26 (Sun.)	Band Room - Carrollton Middle School
BOTH ensembles	2/8/26 (Sun.)	Band Room - Carrollton Middle School Band Room - UWG Humanities Building
BOTH ensembles	2/22/26 (Sun.)	Band Room - Carrollton Middle School Band Room - UWG Humanities Building
High School	3/1/26 (Sun.)	Band Room - UWG Humanities Building
Middle School Division CONCERT	3/2/26 (Mon.)	Mabry Arts Center
High School	3/8/26 (Sun.)	Band Room - UWG Humanities Building
High School	3/15/26 (Sun.)	Band Room - UWG Humanities Building
High School Division CONCERT	3/27/26 (Fri.)	Mabry Arts Center

All performances take place in the Mabry Arts Center for Performing Arts at Carrollton City School's campus unless otherwise noted.

Address: 510 Stadium Dr, Carrollton, GA 30117

Rehearsal Sites

Middle School

Band Room - Carrollton Middle School
151 Tom Reeve Dr., Carrollton GA 30117

High School

Band Room - UWG Humanities Building
202 W Georgia Dr, Carrollton, GA 30117

HEALTH, SAFETY, & POLICIES

These policies are subject to change due to changing health and safety guidelines and recommendations.

Adherence to these policies by students and parents is required for WGA membership.

The safety and health of our students, parents, patrons, musicians, and staff is of the utmost importance. WGA will comply with all applicable CDC, OSHA and Georgia safety and health requirements and maintain safety and health standards that equal or exceed the best practices of our host facilities.

PROGRAMS

Our concert programs are digital. In addition to information about the production, artistic and director's notes, stay tuned for more content (which may include behind-the-scenes materials!).

MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

School Participation

Participation in a school music program is required, provided one exists. We believe wholeheartedly in supporting our community of music educators by supplementing (and not replacing) their music programs. **The School Program Participation form--found at the end of this document--is due August 17, 2025.** Any student who has not submitted this form--or the Parent Guardian Exception Form, also found at the end of this document--by the due date will be prohibited from participating in WGA activities until the requisite completed form has been received by WGA.

Any submissions of the School Program Participation form found to be fraudulent will result in immediate dismissal from the WGA program without refund.

Code of Conduct and Expectations

Students are expected to arrive on time to all scheduled events, attend both rehearsals and concerts

musically prepared, and adhere to the attendance policy stated below.

WGA maintains a zero-tolerance policy on bullying or harassment of any kind. Students found bullying or harassing other students may be suspended from WGA pending an investigation of the incident. Depending on the outcome of the investigation, consequences can range from a warning to possible expulsion from WGA without refund.

Attendance Policy Introduction

Regular attendance by all members is essential for the success of any ensemble. WGA members are typically involved in a myriad of activities, all of which have value. Active participation in WGA must be a priority for all members.

Reporting An Absence

1. If you know you will be absent, you should complete the [absence notification form](#) as soon as you are aware of the absence. The [absence notification form](#) allows a quick report to be provided to directors to identify if there will be any major holes within a section during a rehearsal. **Emails will not be accepted for absence notifications.**
2. All planned absences should be communicated with as much notice as possible. For any unforeseen circumstances (emergencies), please submit an [absence notification form](#) as soon as possible.
3. Communication of an absence is important to help keep members in good standing and aid in situations that require discretionary decisions regarding student participation.

Attendance Policies

1. Students should have no more than two absences for any concert cycle (Fall or Spring). A concert cycle is defined as the first rehearsal on repertoire to be performed on a given concert through that concert performance. *More than two absences will result in the termination of the student's WGA membership without any reimbursement of tuition.*
2. The number of absences resets with each new concert cycle.
3. Members arriving up to twenty (20) minutes after the posted rehearsal start time will be considered late/tardy. Arriving beyond twenty (20) minutes late may be considered an absence.
4. Two (2) instances of tardiness at any point during the concert cycle period will be counted as one (1) absence.
5. Absences are not permitted at either the last regular rehearsal before the performance, or the dress rehearsal on the day of the performance. Students must seek special permission from the Executive Director (mmenendez@westgaarts.com) who will communicate with the respective ensemble director if they need to miss either of these rehearsals. Excused absences from dress rehearsals are not guaranteed.

Seating and Part Assignments

All part assignments are at the discretion of each individual director and do not necessarily reflect audition rank. Seating may change throughout the season.

Our seating philosophy is intended to provide fair opportunities, new musical perspective, and the greatest learning experience for all players. Rotational seating is a commonly used tool intended to promote student growth and enhance the ensemble as a whole. These assignments are based on a myriad of factors such as technical ability, musicality, maturity, leadership skills, and rehearsal habits of the player. At their discretion, ensemble directors may require reseating hearings.

Rehearsal Preparedness

Arriving punctually and well-prepared to rehearsals will help the entire ensemble succeed. Each director will specify exactly what is needed for their ensemble, but general guidelines are as follows:

- **Instrument:** This includes bow, mouthpiece, working reeds, sticks and mallets, valve oil, extra strings – anything that you need to insure that you will be able to play.
- **Music:** Do not rely on your stand partner or section mates. If you lose or forget your music, we cannot guarantee a replacement part will be available for that rehearsal.
- **Pencil:** Bring one to every rehearsal.
- **Water:** A closed container (no straws or open tops) of room temperature (no ice due to condensation) water is permitted in rehearsals. **No other liquids or foods of any kind are permitted in the rehearsal halls.**

Music

Music will be distributed via PDF approximately two weeks before the first rehearsal of a given concert cycle, facilitated by the WGA Operations Manager and WGA Interns. It is the responsibility of the student to be accountable for their music at all times. Additional replacements will cost \$20. Attending a rehearsal without music results as tardy. New copies may be provided. Emails must be sent 24 hours in advance to rehearsal managers prior to the beginning of rehearsal in order for them to provide copies.

Copyright Laws

WGA complies with all national and international copyright laws. Photocopying of music is expressly prohibited unless said photocopying is done within the educational use parameters of copyright law or with the copyright holder's permission. *No copies may be shared with friends or shared online etc.

Rehearsal Attire

Students should wear comfortable clothing that does not restrict their ability to perform.

Performance Attire

Students may choose one of the following options:

- All black: black shirt (with collar and long sleeves), black dress pants, black shoes, black socks or full-length black skirt with black long sleeve top with modest neckline, or a black dress that goes past the knee with modest neckline and long sleeves.
 - If sleeves are short, a matching jacket or black sweater with long sleeves must be worn as well. Black, closed-toed dress shoes with black tights or black hose (no patterns)

should be worn with skirts or dresses. Bare midriffs are unacceptable.

- Black jeans or corduroy pants are NOT acceptable.
 - **No perfume, cologne or aftershave during rehearsals or performances in consideration for members with allergies or medical needs.**
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ANNUAL TUITION

Membership in WGA is for the entire season, from the initial acceptance at the beginning of summer through the final concert in May. Musicians are expected to remain active and committed for the entire season. Visit <https://www.westgaarts.com/payments> to make tuition payments.

2025-2026 Season Tuition

- Middle School: \$200 for full year (or two installments)
 - \$100 for second semester only (one installment)
 - This only applies to new members who did not participate in the first semester.
- High School: \$300 for full year (or two installments)
 - \$150 for second semester only (one installment)
 - This only applies to new members who did not participate in the first semester.

Payment Schedule

- **Middle School**
 - **September 28th: First Installment: \$100 (optional full \$200 amount)**
 - **November 2nd: Final Installment: \$100**
- **High School**
 - **September 28th: First Installment: \$150 (optional full \$300 amount)**
 - **November 2nd: Final Installment: \$150**

If you are unable to follow this payment schedule, please contact the WGA Operations Manager to request approval for an alternate payment plan.

Tuition Refunds

Tuition is for the full season and is non refundable.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

Our philosophy is to serve *all* musicians - no student should be turned away for financial reasons. Scholarships are available for partial or full WGA tuition. [Click here to apply](#) for a partial or full scholarship application form and submit supplementary materials. All financial information submitted is kept strictly confidential. **Scholarship applications are due by Saturday September 27th, 2025. Students will be notified on September 28th as to whether or not they have been awarded a scholarship or not.**

Please view important forms below

FORMS

2025-2026 SCHOOL ENSEMBLE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FORM

The school ensemble program standing portion must be completed by the WGA member's school ensemble program director. In the event the member's school/homeschool program does not offer an ensemble program, the member's parent/guardian must complete the exemption portion of the form.

Any submissions of this form found to be fraudulent will result in immediate dismissal from the WGA program without refund.

Director's Affirmation of Ensemble Standing

(to be completed by the ensemble program director of the WGA member's school)

WGA provides an opportunity intended to augment, not replace, ensembles in the schools. To that end, WGA requires that all members are in "good standing" with their school's corresponding ensemble program—band for woodwinds/brass/percussion/jazz –provided one exists. "Good standing" means that members are either active participants in their ensemble program or are excused from active participation for a reason approved by the school's ensemble program director (e.g. an unavoidable scheduling conflict with an AP class.) Please complete the form below to share the WGA member's status in your ensemble program. (Note: If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, form, or the listed student's standing in your program, please contact WGA at operations@westgaarts.com.)

WGA Member's Name (print):

(select one)

- ☐ **IS** in good standing with my school's ensemble program.
- ☐ **IS NOT** in good standing with my school's ensemble program.

School _____

Ensemble _____

Director Name (print): _____

Director's Email: _____

Ensemble Director Signature: _____

Date: _____

EXEMPTION PORTION

(to be completed by the WGA member's parent/guardian, only if relevant)

By signing below, I affirm that a corresponding music ensemble program is not offered by my student's school/homeschool program.

School _____

Parent's Name (print): _____

Parent's Email: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____