

# **SoCal Chamber Music Workshop Players' Handbook (2019)**

Welcome to the SoCal Chamber Music Workshop. This handbook explains everything you need to know to have a happy, productive week of chamber music fun and learning. We hope you have a wonderful week and will come back to join us for many years to come!

## **I. Individual and Preformed Group Participation**

If you are attending the workshop as an individual participant, you are part of the participant “pool” -- you will receive a new assignment each day, with a new set of fellow players, and a new piece. The coaching staff finalizes these assignments each night, for the following morning. (The exception to this is if you have requested and received a jazz or vocal piece for that day. In that case, you will receive the music ahead of time.) You will find the assignment sheet in the morning time in the dorms and outside the library. It may also be delivered via text or email. This is the time you will find out what your assignment for the day is. The goal for individual participants is to provide a good variety of experiences, with a variety of repertoire, fellow players, and coaches. (See Daily Assignments below for more details.)

If you are attending as a member of a “preformed” group, you will stay together for the whole week (minus one day -- your “pool” day – where you will be treated as described in the previous paragraph), working on repertoire of your own choice. The goal of this is to provide a good learning environment for group members that regularly work and perform with each other, or who simply want to delve more deeply into chosen repertoire.

Members of all groups will need to check the schedule every morning, as it will tell you which room your group will rehearse in, and where the master class is.

## **II. Schedule for the Week**

The workshop begins with check-in on Sunday afternoon. (See Check-in and Registration below for important details.) There is a meeting required for all participants at 5pm on Sunday, followed by dinner, which is the first meal of the week. Most years this opening evening includes a concert by a quartet-in-residence, followed by a reception.

Monday through Friday then proceed with the Daily Schedule, as described in the following section.

Saturday is a half day, to allow participants the chance to return home in the afternoon. Saturday breakfast is the last meal provided, and coaching concludes at noon or 12:30 that day. (See Leaving the Workshop below for check-out procedures.)

## Daily Schedule

The daily schedule for Monday through Friday is as follows, subject to minor changes (boldface is mandatory):

7:00 – 8:30	Breakfast
8:00 - 9:00	Directed group chamber reading session (optional)
<b>9:00 - 12:00</b>	<b>Morning rehearsal</b>
11:30 - 1:00	Lunch
<b>1:30 - 3:00</b>	<b>Afternoon rehearsal</b>
<b>3:15 - 5:15</b>	<b>Mini master classes</b>
5:30	Optional pre-dinner presentation
5:30 – 6:30	Dinner
7:15 - 8:00	Optional evening presentations
8:00 - 11:00	Sight-reading, aka “freelancing”
?? - ??	Self-organized socializing and partying

The schedule is the same Monday through Friday. Saturday activity ends around noon. The only required activities throughout the week are the rehearsals and master classes (and the final meeting Thursday noon). It is essential that you arrive at your group on time, ready to focus, play, and learn -- but other than that, it is up to you to set the level of intensity and involvement for your week.

If you and your group are feeling the need for a longer mid-day break, you may arrange among yourselves to take an extended lunch. If you do this, please just let your coach know in advance so that he or she can attend to their other group immediately following lunch.

## Daily Assignments

Each day, the coaches create assignments (group members and pieces) for the non-preformed and non-preassigned groups (e.g., jazz and vocal) for the following day. The assignments are published on a sheet which you will find at the dorms or near the library on your way to breakfast. You may also be notified by text or email.

For non-preformed groups, the music will be set in a stack of envelopes in front of the library, labeled with the name of the group member who is responsible for picking it up and bringing it to the rehearsal. Generally this will be the first person listed for the group on the assignment sheet -- usually the first violinist or pianist. This same person will be responsible for ensuring that the parts are collected and returned to the library at the end of the master class.

If there is a piece you would like to have as an assignment, or a player you would like to work with, please let the coaches know as early as you can and they will do their best to work it into

the schedule. Please understand though that the scheduling task is a difficult one, requiring constant attention and effort from a dedicated and experienced coach, so it may not be possible to honor all requests.

Each preformed group will break up one day during the week to join the general pool. The group's captain will be notified as to which day that is.

Preformed groups are responsible for bringing their own parts and should also provide a score to use during rehearsal and coaching. The workshop library does have scores for the most common works, but if you choose a lesser known work it is especially important to bring a score. Piano groups should bring a score in addition to the piano part, so the coach can follow along without having to watch over the pianist's shoulder.

The coaches and organizers put a lot of thought and effort into crafting these assignments, with the goal of providing everyone with a fulfilling week. Please approach each day with an open mind and positive attitude; there is always something to learn about music, about leadership, and about working as a group. If you are unhappy with a day's assignment, please let your coach and/or an organizer know as soon as possible, and we will try to help you have a better session the next day.

## **Rehearsals / Coaching Sessions**

The daily assignment sheet will tell you where to go for your morning session. Please arrive on time and be ready to play at 9am to start working on your assigned piece. Coaches are each assigned a pair of groups and split their time between the two. Because each coach is splitting time between two groups, it is up to you to begin the session by choosing a movement to prepare and to start working on it. Within an hour the coach will arrive to check in on you, and you can expect one concentrated coaching session in the morning and another in the afternoon.

The most important thing to bring to these coaching sessions is your concentration and desire to learn. Be well prepared and maintain an open mind, and your entire group will have a positive learning experience. There is something to learn from every assignment -- about music and about people.

In addition to bringing your focus and attention, you go you will probably want to bring the following items to all rehearsals:

- A portable music stand;
- A stand light, if you prefer to use one. Lighting is generally good.
- A chair cushion, in case the chairs in your room are uncomfortable for you.
- A light sweater, because some rooms have over-achiever air conditioners.

## Mini Master Classes

The goal of the coaching sessions is to prepare up to 10 minutes of music to play for the afternoon's mini master class (also known as a "pod"). The coaches are paired, and their four groups converge on a single room. Each group gets 30 minutes to play their music and to be coached by the "opposite" coach, i.e. the one who was not their assigned coach for the rehearsal sessions.

The intention in having daily master classes is to provide a focus and goal to the rehearsal; nothing focuses a group quite like knowing you will be playing in front of others. If you are anxious about "performing" in front of your fellow participants, please take comfort: while it's true that it is a discerning audience, it is also a sympathetic audience. Everyone there -- including the coaches themselves -- feel humbled by their encounters with this wonderful art form. And we are all trying to learn and improve together. So we hope you enjoy this unique feature of the workshop.

Please note that the location of your pod is listed on the lower right-hand side of the daily schedule. There you will see a pair of the coaches' last names, along with a room for the master class.

Make sure to allow enough time to arrive to your pod on time, and try to make transitions between groups as fast and efficient as possible. We are all responsible for creating a positive and engaging learning environment, and being on time is a mark of respect for your fellow players.

Please note that you are **highly encouraged** (we hate to use the word "required") to stay to the very end of the pod. When your group is through playing, please be an active and attentive (no electronic devices! – except for looking at the score ...) listening member of the audience --- as a courtesy to the other players and as a learning opportunity for you. Participate by asking questions! Thank you!

## III. Optional activities

In addition to the required rehearsals and master classes, there are several optional musical activities you can participate in, depending on your interest and energy level.

### Concerts

Typically the workshop coaching staff includes at least one professional performing string quartet. We usually start the week with a Sunday evening program by a quartet-in-residence. This summer we are thrilled to have the Telegraph Quartet returning. Their 8 PM concert on

Sunday evening will consist of quartets by Haydn, Britten, and Beethoven.

## **Directed chamber orchestra reading**

We try to schedule a daily 8am group reading led by a coach. All interested participants are invited to join a group sight-reading of an interesting, obscure, or difficult work. This is a great way to start the day, filling a big room with a luscious string orchestra sound. The daily schedule will list the organizing coach and repertoire to be played that day. The morning readings will take place in Balch Auditorium.

## **Evening presentations**

Every year there will be one or more optional evening presentations by participants, coaches, or special guests that take place after dinner from approximately 7 to 8pm. Examples from recent years have included:

- Presentations by coaches on rehearsal techniques, rhythm, or other musical ideas
- Presentations about instrument maintenance
- Mini-workshops on jazz, country, or folk fiddling
- Harmonic analysis of a piece of interest
- Guided sessions on yoga or Alexander technique

If you have an idea for an evening presentation you would like to lead, please let the workshop organizers know so you can be added to the schedule. Attendance at all of these sessions is strictly optional.

## **Participants' Concert**

The Friday evening program is devoted to a concert by participants. The program is open to any group that wishes to play for their fellow participants, although in the interest of time the number of groups may be limited, most likely on a first-come-first-served basis. The performance time limit is 10 minutes total per group, including set-up and tuning. If you are interested in participating, please contact the volunteer concert planner. There will be an announcement on the workshop bulletin board and at the orientation meeting. Participation in the concert and attendance is optional.

## **Freelancing**

Because evenings are free of assigned activities, many participants choose to conclude their long day of music by meeting with fellow participants for an evening of unstructured sight reading, also known as "freelancing". Note that freelancing is totally optional --- depending on your mental and physical state, energy level, sleep deprivation, etc.

## Finding a Group for Freelancing

Because the organizers have a lot of work on their hands simply to put together the daily assignments, it is generally up to you to take initiative and find yourself a group to play with in the evening. However, we also will have several new modes of assistance, for example, at least one evening (Monday) of “assigned” freelancing (in which the groups are assigned, but not the repertoire), an area for unattached hopeful freelancers to congregate in the evening, sign-up sheet on the bulletin board near the Humanities Auditorium, etc. Of course, the “old-fashioned” and best way still is: if there is someone you’d like to play with, ask them! This includes coaches, who are typically able to sight read with participants at least twice during the week, on evenings when they do not have workshop work or their own rehearsals to attend to.

## Finding a Room for Freelancing

Once you have identified the members of your group, you need to have one member of the group sign up for a room. (Do not sign up for a piano room if your group does not contain a piano.) You can do this by listing the names of **all group members** on the freelancing room sign-up sheet, posted on the bulletin board near the Humanities Auditorium. All rehearsal and master class rooms will be available for freelancing. Make sure to list everyone in the group by first and last name, so all members can figure out where to go to meet each other, and you don’t end up with a split group.

Pianists should make sure that they do not freelance in the same room twice; this will help to ensure that everyone gets to share equally in the better rooms and pianos.

## Assigned Freelancing

In order to help new participants meet a few veterans, we have an evening of “assigned freelancing” on Monday night. We will probably have one other evening of assigned freelancing this year. As much as possible, we will try to make sure every group has a new person in it. You may have opted in to this evening via a form included in your acceptance packet. If you did not do so then, you will still be able to join at any time before Monday evening. Just make sure your request is in to the assigned freelancing organizer. Your group and room assignments for this session will be posted on the bulletin board by the Humanities Auditorium.

## IV. The Library

The workshop has a large library of music you can borrow that includes all of the major works of the string and piano chamber music repertoire. It is located in Humanities 119. See [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1O9\\_G6egbc7RTyth2l9Gq5ta0nZBGRhnh2YpP\\_WEXk0l/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1O9_G6egbc7RTyth2l9Gq5ta0nZBGRhnh2YpP_WEXk0l/edit?usp=sharing)

You are free to borrow any of this music for freelancing by filling out a request form. Fill out the form as soon as you know what music your group wants to play; this gives the library staff the

chance to pull the music off the shelf and have it ready for you in advance, to avoid the post-dinner rush. Also, when you are finished, ***please return music as early as practical***, to give the library staff the chance to re-shelve it. All music is due by 11pm, when the library officially closes. Please do not wait until the next morning to return the parts -- there is a good chance that another group needs those parts for the next day's assignment.

Library staff are volunteers from among your fellow participants; please show them consideration and do whatever you can to put in your requests early, and return music before it gets too late. If you are willing to volunteer to work in the library, please let the organizers know.

You are encouraged to bring your own music, too --- for example, your own fingered parts or scores. Also, please bring any rare music or special favorites that you would like to share -- either for your own daily assignments (make a request), or for freelancing. You can either leave those in the library for the week or keep them in your possession.

## **V. Travel Arrangements**

The workshop runs from Sunday afternoon until noon the following Saturday. Please make your arrangements to **arrive on campus Sunday by 3pm**. If you plan to stay for the half-day (9am to noon) session on Saturday, please do not book air travel any earlier than 2pm from Ontario. Only use LAX if you absolutely must! (See Check-in and Registration for procedures if you need to arrive later.)

If you are traveling by airplane, you will probably find it to be much more convenient to fly into Ontario Airport, rather than LAX. Ontario is a quick 15 minute drive, while LAX is an hour on an impossibly good day.

It may be possible for you to share rides with fellow participants; please join our facebook group ("I Live for the SoCal Chamber Music Workshop") and ask to share rides from either airport.

At the end of the workshop there will be an area on the bulletin board where you may list your name as either needing a ride, or willing to provide a ride, back to the airport. Most participants drive to the workshop, and everyone is happy to help you out if they have room, so do not feel shy about asking to hitch a ride.

## **VI. Living on Campus**

The workshop takes place on campus at Scripps College in Claremont, CA. This is a lovely campus, with trees and grassy quads. You can find access to the check-in location by searching google maps for 1151 Amherst Avenue, Claremont, CA Workshop volunteers will post signs or be stationed to direct you. If problems, contact one of our Organizers (listed at the end).

## Campus Map

You can access an interactive online campus map here: <http://www.scrippscollege.edu/map/>

The most important locations to note are:

Name	Description
Browning Hall	One of our two dorms
Dorsey Hall	The other dorm
Covered Parking	There is free covered parking under the playing fields
Humanities Building	Office/library is in Humanities 119/120. The building includes spaces for rehearsals and master classes.
Malott Commons	The dining hall
Boone Recital Hall	Some evening programs plus daily rehearsal space and master classes
Balch Hall	Evening concert(s) plus early morning group reading, daily rehearsal space and master classes
Performing Arts Center (PAC)music rooms	Rehearsal rooms and master classes, plus several piano rooms in the basement. The entry to the basement is near the east backstage door of the big performance hall.

## Parking

You can park unrestricted for the whole week on any street sidewalk or in the parking structure under the field located near 1111 N. Mills Avenue called “Alumni Field and Parking Garage” on the campus map. There will be spaces reserved for our vehicles, with surveillance during the week.

## Check-in and Registration

Check-in and registration will take place in the living room of Browning Hall, on the west side of the last alley from Platt Blvd. There will be signs and volunteers to help you find

You can register between 12noon and 4pm on Sunday at the beginning of the workshop. One of our Scripps student conference assistants will lead a campus tour at 4pm to help you get oriented. We urge you to make travel arrangements such that you can arrive by this time and get settled in before the 5 PM mandatory orientation meeting, dinner, and concert. If for some reason you do miss this registration period, please check in at the workshop office/library in



Humanities 119 as soon as possible or contact an Organizer (listed at the end).

## Your Dorm Room

The workshop takes place at Scripps College, with the accommodations in dorm rooms. This year we are using Browning and Dorsey Halls. When you check in, you will receive an envelope with your electronic swipe card to get into the dorm, and a conventional key to open the door to your assigned room. **Please keep this envelope**, because we will ask that you return the key and swipe card in it. That is a big help in sorting through all of them on the last day.

You will receive your swipe card and key along with a lanyard and name badge. We highly recommend that you make it a habit to simply wear this lanyard at all times; this will help you avoid getting locked out of the building. If you *do* get locked out, we can call security to let you in, but the college charges a large fee for this service. And of all of the fees they charge, the largest is for a lost key -- \$250! This is your responsibility. So please take care of your key and do not lose it.

The rooms are no-frills dorms, but include a set of bedding and linens. Even though these are supplied by the college, you may want to bring a favorite pillow, towel, and **soap**, etc. from home. (Note that Scripps does not supply soap!) Please do not lose any of the supplied towels or sheets! The university charges absurdly high fees for any lost linens. If for some reason you do misplace a towel and you are aware of it, please let the organizers know so we can find a replacement.

We ask that upon entering your room, you immediately check your linen packet to make sure it contains the requisite eight pieces: a washcloth, two towels, two sheets, a pillow case, a mattress cover, and a blanket. If some item is missing, please let us know immediately! At the end of the week we ask that you place all these items in the laundry bag (that should also be in the room).

## Checking Out

The procedures for checking out are described below, in the section called "Leaving the Workshop."

## The Workshop Office/Library

The workshop office and music library is located in Humanities 119 near the Humanities Lecture Hall. This is where you go to borrow music for freelancing or daily assignments. You can also borrow a music stand or stand light here; please just ask the volunteer library staff how to sign them out.

You can also leave your instruments here during mealtimes, so you don't have to return to your dorm room.

Near the library, on the Humanities Lecture Hall wall, is a bulletin board. This is where you will find various daily postings and sign-up sheets (for example for freelancing room reservations, airport ride-shares, early departure notifications, etc.).

## **Meals**

One of the compliments we often hear about the workshop is that the food is surprisingly good. There is great variety, a large salad bar, omelettes to order for every breakfast, great desserts, and a very friendly staff who are proud of what they do.

Meals are served in the Malott Commons, and are included in your room and board charge. The electronic swipe card in your lanyard serves as your meal ticket. The staff will not admit you without your card, so make sure not to leave it in your room, or you will have to walk back to get it!

If you are a commuter, not staying on campus, your swipe card includes lunch and dinner. If you have a guest, you can buy individual meal tickets which will be sold outside the dining hall entrance by a volunteer.

The dining hall is open at the following times Monday - Friday: (note that it is open during times when the workshop has mandatory sessions --- this is because the dining hall services others beside just us)

7:00 - 8:30am: breakfast  
11:30 - 1:00pm: lunch  
5:00 - 6:30pm: dinner (6:00 Sunday)

The first meal served is dinner on the Sunday at the beginning of the workshop. The final meal provided is breakfast on Saturday morning at the end of the workshop. There is no lunch on Saturday.

## **The Instrument Room**

The workshop typically has more than 100 participants, and if all of us bring our instruments to the dining hall during meals, this can create trip hazards and confusion, while often leaving the instruments unguarded. To alleviate this, we have a designated instrument room in Humanities 119 which is the library/office. This room is guarded by a volunteer during mealtimes so your instrument will be secure without your having to be encumbered by it.

## Emergency Instrument Repair

The following is a local recommended shop:

<http://www.jbviolin.com>

Shop hours are 10-5pm Tue - Sat.

Jim Brown Violin Maker

232 1/2 N Indian Hill Blvd

Claremont, CA 91711

[909-624-0849](tel:909-624-0849)

## VII. Additional (non-musical) Activities

The only activities on the daily workshop schedule that are actually obligatory are rehearsals and master classes. So if you choose, you can take advantage of other activities.

### Sports Facilities

For a small charge you can get access to the excellent sports facilities on campus. You can purchase a pass from the Scripps conference office. Available facilities include an excellent swimming pool and a fully equipped gym. Times are M-Th 11-1 and 4-6, Friday 11-1. The charge for the pool is \$5 per dip. There are also tennis courts available for free use.

### Public Gardens and Art

Claremont is a peaceful and safe town for walking, with quiet residential streets and charming college campuses to explore. Of particular note is the Skyspace installation on Pomona college, which people refer to as “the light show”. You can find more information on that at this URL: <http://www.pomona.edu/about/pomoniana/skyspace.aspx>

## VIII. Leaving the Workshop

The workshop concludes on the final Saturday after the morning coaching session. If your travel plans require you to leave the workshop early, ***please notify the coaches or organizers by noon the day before***, so you can be left off of the schedule for the following day. For the final Saturday there will be a sign-up sheet near the office where you can add your name to the list of early departures.

In the next few subsections, we address a few more things to keep in mind when heading home:

### Linens

When you leave your room, please leave all of the linens in the bag in your room and sign the tag certifying that all the original contents are there; the workshop runs on a very tight budget,

and the campus charges us exorbitant fees for lost sheets and towels. If you are aware of anything missing, please let us know; we may be able to help avoid these high charges.

## **Keys**

Please place your keys (card key and door key) in their original envelope, and return them on Saturday to the volunteer in the dorm lobby. If you are leaving early, you may return them to the library. Again, the college charges very high rates for missing or broken keys so please take care of them and return them neatly.

## **Library**

If you have checked music out from the library, please return it as early as possible. It is difficult for the workshop to replace missing parts, and time consuming to have to take care of reorganizing music in addition to all of the other work of ending the workshop. So please take extra care to return music before the library closes on Friday night.

## **Rides to the Airport**

If you would like to share rides to the airport, there will be a ride-share signup sheet on the bulletin board near the library. If you need a ride or can offer a ride to others, please post your time of departure.

## **IX. How to help**

The workshop is completely run by volunteers, and we encourage you to contribute. Some ways you can help:

- Organize extra events or arrange for a visiting vendor
- Offer your help in the library
- Guard instruments in the instrument room during meals
- Help set up before and/or clean up after parties
- Arrive early to set up before the workshop
- Stay after noon on Saturday to help tear down the workshop

If you are interested in helping, please let us know.

Another way you can help the workshop is to “like” us on FaceBook. Our group is called “I Live for the SoCal Chamber Music Workshop”. Please keep the workshop strong by spreading the word about this special place, and by coming back each year and bringing your friends.

## **X. Organizers' Contact Information**

For early or late registration, please call Amy Anderson 831.402.2474 or Annie Li 415.706.4644.

If you have an emergency, please do not hesitate to call one of the workshop organizers:

Leo Marcus 310.902.8913

Adam Birnbaum 858.243.5874

Ingrid Burger (415) 572-6298

Ron Goldman 619.509.8815

George Valley 310.662.1576