

CAMMAC Ottawa/Gatineau

Playing in the CAMMAC Orchestra: Tips and Guidelines

Updated November 2022

CAMMAC (Canadian Amateur Musicians, www.cammac.ca) is an organization by and for people who love making music. CAMMAC Ottawa/Gatineau organizes different events that allow instrumentalists of various backgrounds and skill levels to play together in an orchestral setting. It is important to us that everyone feels welcome in a supportive environment.

The CAMMAC Orchestra is an ad-hoc community orchestra that comes together for specific projects. Thus, it works differently than other community orchestras you might know. The following points contain a few explanations and suggestions that might help all players, whether with limited or extensive orchestral experience, to make the most out of their participation.

Ahead of time

- You will be able to get the music at least one week ahead of the first rehearsal/reading. Please have a look at it as appropriate.
- For readings: Our goal is to have fun and get acquainted with new pieces. Please be ready to play your part.
- For Annual Concert rehearsals: Our goal is to enjoy the process of preparing a piece for a performance in front of friends. Please be ready to play your part comfortably at an appropriate tempo; please review the material covered in the last rehearsal with attention to the conductor's instructions (articulation, phrasing, tempo, etc.).
- Section leaders, please come to rehearsals ready to indicate articulations and phrasings to other players.
- If you need to add any markings to parts we have rented, please use a pencil only.
- If you would like to get a better impression of the piece we will be reading or performing, you might benefit from listening to a recording of the piece we will be rehearsing or reading. If you have a recording in your collection, great. If not, YouTube has a great selection for most pieces.
- For the Annual Concert: All players must be able to attend the dress rehearsal. Section leaders must be able to attend all rehearsals. If you are unable to make a rehearsal, please notify the organizer by email.

What to bring

- Since CAMMAC rents churches, we cannot supply music stands. So please bring (in addition to your instrument): your part, a music stand, and a pencil.
- Optional: tuner, light for the music stand, water.
- During the winter or muddy season, please bring a change of shoes.

At the rehearsal or reading

- Please be ready for the reading/rehearsal to begin on time. (For most players, setup and warm-up require at least 20 minutes.)
- Before the rehearsal/reading and in breaks, section leaders might want to clarify details about articulation, bowing, phrasing, or intonation.
- During the rehearsal: please leave the talking to the conductor.
- You will find that players in the orchestra have different backgrounds and goals. Please show understanding for players who might struggle with the piece more than you do. Encouragement is always good; pointing out mistakes might not always be helpful. Please use your judgment and recall that we want our events to be supportive, fun, and inclusive.
- If you have serious concerns about any musical matters, please raise them with the music director privately during a break or after the rehearsal.
- At the end of the rehearsal, the organizers would appreciate if you can help putting away chairs.

After the reading/rehearsal

- If you played from a part that belongs to CAMMAC and this is the last session with this piece, please make sure to leave your part behind.
- If you have any other comments, questions, or concerns, or if you would like to help with future events, please let the organizers know.

Thank you!