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Midsummer Musical Retreat News

Fall 2021 e-Newsletter

December 2021

Welcome Back to Midsummer Musical Retreat 2022



**A Music Camp and Festival for
Adult Singers and Instrumentalists ...**
why should kids have all the fun?

Thursday, July 28 thru Wednesday, August 3, 2022
Whitman College Walla Walla, Washington

*Camp will be held Thursday through Wednesday this year due
to availability of facilities at Whitman College.*

Look for Registration Information in January 2022

Registration for MMR 2022 will open in mid-January 2022. Detailed registration instructions are online at <https://online-registration.musicalretreat.org>. Please read them carefully and ask questions as needed.

At registration you will indicate your preference for on or off campus housing, upload your COVID vaccination card, and pay the \$150 deposit. You will also submit your program preferences and a self-evaluation.

Key Dates to Remember

Mid-January 2022 - Registration opens.

May 1, 2022 - Preliminary housing assignments to be provided and deadline for scholarship requests.

June 1, 2022 - All fees and self-evaluation forms due.

Visit musicalretreat.org for details about program, [fees](#), [refunds](#).

Your Safety Is Our Priority

The MMR Board is implementing the following procedures to create the safest environment possible for MMR.

- At registration, all campers will be required to upload evidence of being fully vaccinated per CDC standards against COVID-19.
 - All campers will be required to comply with Washington State COVID policies current as of July 2022 described in the following link at coronavirus.wa.gov.
 - We will follow the current [WA state guidelines for Performing Arts and Events.pdf](#) relative to social distancing, masking, and bell covers. These guidelines may change with time.
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Bring a Friend and Get \$100 Off Your Tuition



As we look forward to gathering together again in 2022, we also want to encourage new campers to come see what MMR is all about. This year, if you invite someone to camp who has not registered for MMR before and they also register for camp, we will reimburse the inviter \$100 at camp check-in. Thank you for helping us spread the word about camp! Questions? Contact Jane Hutcherson at treasurer@musicalretreat.org.

Help Spread the Word

Our MMR survey results indicate that most first time participants come to camp because they heard about it from someone else. Below are links to a printable letter size poster and a flyer you can download, print, post, and distribute. Consider placing a poster on announcements boards at libraries, grocery, luthier and music stores, etc. Print out copies of the flyer, cut them in half and hand them out to your friends and the music organization you participate in. You can even forward this newsletter! Remember, if you recruit a first time participant you will be reimbursed \$100.



[Printable Poster Letter Size Page](#)



[Printable Flyers Letter Size Page](#)

"Every year, for five years, my concert band director kept telling me about MMR. I finally decided to attend and see what it was about. That was 20+ years ago and I have not missed a retreat since."

Making Music at Midsummer Musical Retreat



Midsummer Musical Retreat, MMR, is a week-long music camp and festival providing a non-competitive but challenging curriculum for adult singers and instrumentalists. Held on the beautiful campus of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, participants from all over the United States, Canada, and around the world return to find the MMR experience to be invigorating, instructive and a rewarding part of their musical lives. Our MMR faculty are distinguished specialists in large ensembles and on all instruments, voices and genre. All are exceptional performers and dedicated, outstanding teachers who provide coaching for sectionals and chamber ensembles and teach electives.

The retreat includes the following.

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The retreat includes the following.

- Chorus
- Symphony Orchestra
- String Orchestra
- Symphonic Band
- Jazz Big Band & Combos
- Coached Chamber Vocal & Instrumental Ensembles
- Music Electives
- Performance Opportunities, Public
- Concerts & Recitals
- WMEA Credits Available
- Wine Tasting

"It was the most exhilarating and exhausting musical experience of my life and I wouldn't trade it for anything. I felt completely immersed in music with the most wonderful participants and coaches. I felt like it fed my soul and was very healing."

"It meets my goals and aspirations - concert band in the morning and jazz in the afternoon."

Large Ensembles



MMR participants are enrolled in one of the large ensembles. The large ensembles perform at the Festival Concert in Cordiner Hall. The morning rehearsal hours are focused on the large ensemble repertoire.

The **Festival Orchestra** is centered on the strings and balanced by winds and percussion. The repertoire is drawn from standard symphonic literature.

The **Festival String Orchestra** is “chamber orchestra” sized and celebrates the unique sound and literature for strings. The repertoire draws on the full range of string orchestra works from the Baroque to the 20th Century.

The **Festival Symphonic Band** explores the exciting literature available for concert and symphonic band, and may include transcriptions as well as original works for winds, brass and percussion.

The **Festival Chorus** prepares SATB music from major choral works for performance with the MMR Faculty Orchestra.

Daily sectionals with faculty specialists on all instruments and voices ensure successful performances at the Festival Concert and a well-earned sense of accomplishment.

“Our conductor was a delight. I learned so much in such a short space of time. Loved the repertoire. Section work helped immensely to learn my part.”

“Rehearsals led to a great performance experience. The music continues to walk through my mind now that I am home. Thank you for making this possible.”

Chamber Music & Electives



During the afternoon and evening, MMR singers and instrumentalists broaden their musical experience by electing to participate in a wide variety of small chamber ensembles and elective classes. Participants may also request chamber ensembles using a secondary instrument or voice, e.g. singers may request an instrumental ensemble; instrumentalists may request a vocal group; wind or brass players may request a string group; etc.

Chamber ensembles are either camper pre-arranged or MMR arranged. A member of the faculty is assigned to coach each ensemble to enhance their musical performance.

Participants may choose electives in conducting, drum circle, brass ensemble, saxophone ensemble, flute choir, clarinet choir, men's and women's barbershop, jazz improvisation, jazz big band, and many more.

"This has been the most rewarding, supportive, helpful, enjoyable, friendly, and encouraging musical session I have attended. I now know what I need to improve."

"I cannot praise our coach enough. His gentle, non-judgmental approach put me at ease from the very start of the first session. He helped me play at a much higher level than if I had tried practicing the pieces on my own."

Electives for 2022



- Free Time - An unscheduled hour for relaxation or personal practice.
- Drum Circle - Learn African and Latin drumming patterns.
- Jazz Big Band - An ideal group for all who enjoy performing large ensemble jazz.
- Jazz Improvisation - Open to instrumentalists and vocalists, this class will cover the basics of improvising: chord progressions, what scales to use with what chords, articulation styles, and how to develop a melody.
- Afternoon Elective Orchestra - An afternoon ensemble for strings and classical brass, winds.
- The Well-Traveled Violinist - A fun and instructive class for violinists at all levels featuring a common-sense approach to shifting, and a light touch, traveling up, down the fingerboard.
- Vocal Music from Africa - Hesitant singers and veterans alike are invited to join in a celebration of vocal music from Africa. Join with members of the percussion elective to explore the rhythms of West African songs.

- Langston Hughes in Song - Take this historic moment to explore and honor African American artists with our voices, including settings of the stirring poetry of Langston Hughes.
- Vocal Recovery - A guide to returning to singing, Given the extended period of “silence” where choirs and singing have stopped due to COVID, we will focus on understanding changes to our anatomy and identify strategies to cope, overcome, and recover our singing ability.
- Vocal Chamber Ensemble - Join coached vocal ensembles. You will be assigned to a chamber ensemble by the vocal coordinator. Open to all campers.

Instrumental Chamber Ensemble - Join coached instrumental ensembles. Bring your own chamber group or play with a chamber ensemble assigned by instrumental coordinators.

- Brass Ensemble
- Clarinet Choir
- Flute Choir
- Percussion Ensemble
- Saxophone Ensemble
- Instrumental Ensembles (strings, winds, piano, etc.)

"I had a blast even though I didn't know anyone or the camp routine to begin with. I gained skills, improved musicality, and met like-minded musicians. The atmosphere was non-stressful and supportive. Now I know people, and I can talk it up among fellow musicians in Portland, so I can look forward to more fun next year."

Performances and Recitals



Performances and recitals are held on the campus of Whitman College and open to the public. The final Festival Concert for the large ensembles is held in Cordiner Hall, the main

auditorium on the Whitman Campus. The final morning participant recital, two faculty recitals, and other participant performances are held in other venues on campus.

Performing is the usual end to the preparation of music. It is part of the process and should contribute to the "learning experience" for each camper. We encourage, but do not require, every group to find a venue to perform that suits their comfort level.

"I always feel that the Faculty Concert alone is worth the price of the entire week. We get to hear amazing performances of music we would never encounter anywhere else."

"I really liked how our director challenged us to think about the music rather than just telling us what to do. Positive reinforcement, enthusiasm for the music were great tools she used. VERY satisfying experience."

Educators Can Earn Recertification Clock Hours



Attention Certificated Music Educators: MMR is happy to announce that we are a partner member with the Washington Music Educators Association and expect that by attending camp, educators can earn up to 40 clock hours for recertification through the Washington Music Educators Association. If you are an educator from another state, contact us at

midsummer@musicalretreat.org and we will begin working with those agencies on your behalf.

Housing and Accommodation Options

On-Campus Housing Options

Due to continuing renovation projects at Whitman College, housing for campers will be in Stanton, Lyman, and College House . NOTE: None are air conditioned and Lyman and College House do not have elevators. For more information about the college dorms, visit <https://www.whitman.edu/residence-life/halls>.

There are lots of beds and we hope to be able to leave the upper floors empty. Both campers wanting to share a room must register and pay the deposit. Campers requesting single rooms will be assigned to Stanton.

Off-Campus Housing Options

The following Walla Walla hotels and motels have offered group rates for MMR camp 7/27 – 8/3, 2022.

Super 8 Motel by Windham – 2315 Eastgate St N

- Double Queen \$80.99/night
- After March 1, \$105.99/night wkdys, Fri.-Sat. \$155.99/night
- Cancellation without penalty within 1 month prior to reservation
- Free breakfast
- Call (509) 525-8800 for reservation, asking for “MMR” group rate
- 5 min drive to Whitman campus

The Finch – 325 E Main St

- Finch (King) - \$129/night
- Double queen - \$159/night
- Rates will apply until April 26th (90 days prior to camp)
- Book room online (finchwallawalla.com) or by phone (509)956-4994, using the group booking code – MMR2022 Limited breakfast items
- available in lobby Walking distance to Whitman campus
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Marcus Whitman Hotel – 6 W Rose St

- Standard King – wkdys \$139/night, Fri.-Sat. \$169/night
- Double queen - wkdys \$169/night, Fri.-Sat. \$184/night
- Rates will apply until June 27th
- Breakfast included – served in Restaurant
- Call (866) 826-9422 for reservation, asking for ‘Midsummer Musical Retreat’ group rate
- 3 min drive to Whitman campus

Best Western Plus Motel – 7 E Oak St

- Single queen – wkdys \$150/night, Fri.-Sat. \$170/night
- Double queen/King – wkdys - \$160/night, Fri.-Sat. \$180/night
- Free breakfast
- Call (509) 525-4700 for reservation, asking for ‘Midsummer Musical Retreat’ group rate
- 2 min drive to Whitman campus

Other Accommodations

Bed and Breakfast and Vacation Rentals are available in Walla Walla at the following links: [airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com) and [vrbo.com](https://www.vrbo.com)

You can connect with fellow campers using our [Facebook](#) page to arrange shared accommodations.

Refunds and Travel Insurance

Prior to registering for MMR in 2022, take a few moments to review the [MMR Refund Policy at Fees | Midsummer Musical Retreat](#). The MMR refund policy reflects the contractual obligations to the MMR Faculty and Whitman College. Depending on your situation and the date of the MMR defined contractual obligations, you may be entitled to all or a portion of the funds you pay to attend camp.

The MMR refund policy does not cover exceptional events, such as a mid-week closure of camp due to the outbreak of an infectious disease. It is possible to find a Travel Insurance policy that covers many types of travel disruptions, including a camp program disruption due to an outbreak of an infectious disease.

An MMR Board Member recently shared, “I was reading about COVID-related travel insurance and unsurprisingly, there are numerous options depending on what exactly your trip is. I think it would be good to direct campers to a resource and they can decide what works for them, as policies vary by age and type of travel (planes, any rental cars or layovers). I found a policy I'd be happy with pretty quickly.”

For more information consult with your travel agent, or Google Travel Market Insurance web sites such as [aardy.com](https://www.aardy.com) or [squaremouth.com](https://www.squaremouth.com).

Airfare Discounts

Alaska/Horizon Air offers a 5% discount to MMR campers traveling within the continental U.S.

To access the discount, go to www.alaskair.com. Select the dates for your flights and enter discount code ECMD881. The discount will be deducted when payment for the flights is computed.

Board News



Front row, left to right: Sue Zell, Social Committee Chair; Gennie Winkler, Steering Committee Chair; Morven Balmidiano, Board Member; Jane Hutcheson, Treasurer.

Back row, left to right: Heather Irwin, Board Member; Rick Thompson, Board Member; Bob Kremers, President; Katie Schneider Secretary. Missing: Rumei Mistry, Vice President and Legal Counsel; Paul Sayan, Board Member.

The MMR Board has continued to meet monthly since 2019 to prepare for a safe, enjoyable MMR camp experience in 2022. Ongoing communication with Whitman College has identified facilities available for rehearsals, meals, social events, and housing.

Although costs for use of the facilities at Whitman College have increased this year, the Board has made a commitment not to raise fees for MMR 2022. This is made possible by the generous donations of so many campers who donated their deposit fee in 2019 when camp was cancelled due to COVID. Thank you!

Remembering Sue Tierney



MMR lost a beloved member of the Board last year with the passing of Sue Tierney. She graciously and effectively interacted with many campers over the years as treasurer and volunteer coordinator. She was a quiet and very capable presence. We will miss her!

Support MMR

Consider supporting the high-quality musical experience at MMR by making a donation using the DONATE button at www.musicalretreat.org. Donors will be recognized for their contribution in the MMR Camper Handbook.

Midsummer Musical Retreat is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation and operates on income generated by fees and by donations from our supporters. Donations to MMR are tax deductible. Let us know if your donation will be matched by your employer.

Join us for Midsummer Musical Retreat 2022
Summer wouldn't be the same without it!

Please forward this email to others who might be interested.



Tel: 1-800-471-2419

Questions: midsummer@musicalretreat.org

Registrar: registrar@musicalretreat.org



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