



String Project Student Handbook 2023 – 2024

Welcome!

We are so excited to have you as a student in the UNC String Project. String Projects exist all over the country, but we are the only one in Colorado. You are part of something very special! As a String Project student, you will come to class each week after school. In class, you will learn how to play your chosen instrument (violin, viola, cello, or upright bass) and how to be a team player in our orchestra. Dr. Fulcher is our Program Director, being assisted by doctoral student David Brax, and a number of UNC students will be Teacher Assistants. Every person in our orchestra is important and valued and we are eager to go on this journey together!

Program information and registration form available at:
<https://arts.unco.edu/music/string-project>



Primary Contact Info

Fall 2023

David Brax

David.Brax@unco.edu

Spring 2024

Dr. Lindsay Fulcher

Lindsay.Fulcher@unco.edu

Largo Ensemble

Our ensemble for beginners. Students learn to play their instruments all together in one large ensemble. Multiple UNC students are Teacher Assistants, helping each young student to succeed. This class is primarily 4th and 5th grade students, but students in other grades are welcome to join if they are interested. Largo Ensemble rehearses from 5:30-6:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Frasier Hall on UNC's Campus.

Stretto Ensemble

Our ensemble for students with a year or more of experience. Students meet from 5-6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Frasier Hall on UNC's campus. Part of that time will be large ensemble rehearsal. The other part of that time will be small ensemble rehearsals. Students will also receive a weekly private lesson for 30min. That lesson will be scheduled between student and teacher, on any day that works well. UNC students are large ensemble assistants, small ensemble coaches, and private lesson teachers.

Cost

Largo participation fee: \$100 per semester (\$200 per school year)

Stretto participation fee: \$125 per semester (\$250 per school year)

This fee should be paid by the first rehearsal each semester. If a payment plan is needed, please be in touch with David Brax (fall) or Dr. Lindsay Fulcher (spring) before the first rehearsal. Payment accepted as cash or check (payable to UNC School of Music, memo: String Project). Instrument rental is not included in the participation fee. Please see the “Instrument” section for additional information.

No student will be turned away from String Project because of financial need.

If the semester fee is a hardship for your family, please indicate this in the appropriate place on your registration form and a need-based scholarship opportunity will be presented to you.

Instruments

All String Project students must have an instrument in good condition and required accessories. **Students are strongly encouraged to rent an instrument rather than purchase one.** Although it may seem like a good deal to buy something online, these purchases rarely work out well. Playing a sub-par instrument greatly hinders the progress of a student. Additionally, young students will go through several sizes of a single instrument and renting makes this transition the easiest.

PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE AN INSTRUMENT FROM AN ONLINE AUCTION SITE, CRAIGSLIST, A DEPARTMENT STORE, FACEBOOK, AMAZON ETC. WITHOUT CONSULTING US.

Poor quality instruments frustrate students and negatively impact a student’s progress.

If a student has been given an instrument or has purchased one, please know that it may not be of acceptable quality. It will need to be approved by a String Project teacher. If it is found to be of unacceptable quality, the student will need to take the instrument to an authorized string shop to be fixed/upgraded/improved. Some instruments, however, are simply not of acceptable quality, and no number of upgrades are possible to improve it to a minimum standard. It is very possible that the student will be required to obtain a different instrument.

We recommend renting an instrument from Music Depot of Greeley (2318 W 17th St, Greeley, 970-352-3380). They are very aware of String Project needs and are a local business we are proud to support.

Also recommended:

- Boomer Music Company (3761 S. Mason St., Fort Collins, 970-223-2424)
- www.SharMusic.com/Rentals (To do this you will need to work with Mr. Brax or Dr. Fulcher and make sure you get the correct size instrument.)

In addition to having a good quality instrument & bow, the following are also required:

- a case that properly protects the instrument & bow
- a shoulder rest (violin/viola only)
- an endpin stop (cello/bass only)
- rosin
- cloth to wipe off the instrument

Please note that some places sell instrument, bow, and case separately. Make sure that you are purchasing all items your student will need to perform successfully.

Strings: all students are strongly encouraged to have a full set of spare strings in their case. In the event of a broken string, a String Project teacher will replace the string with one of the student's spare strings. We cannot guarantee that String Project will have the appropriate string, of appropriate size, to assist your student if they break a string.

No student will be turned away from String Project because of financial need.

This includes instruments.

UNC owns a small number of instruments that are available for students with financial need.

Families will be asked to pay \$20 per semester (\$40 per school year) for use of these instruments. This is a maintenance fee so that we can ensure the instruments are kept in good condition. The adult and student will also be asked to sign an agreement, indicating they will take excellent care of the instrument and be responsible for any damage.

If you are interested in renting an instrument from UNC, please indicate that in the appropriate place on your registration form. Dr. Fulcher will contact you to discuss the fee and instrument availability. Instrument rental is separate from participation fee scholarships. One does not require the other.

Expectations

Students are expected to:

1. Be kind, courteous, and helpful. You should be respectful of all teachers, fellow students, and surroundings.
2. Attend weekly classes, arriving early enough to be set up and ready to play by start of class.
3. Bring instrument, pencil, and music to each class.
4. Practice at least 15 minutes a day.
5. Share announcements and flyers with your adult. You are responsible for sharing String Project information with your family.
6. When/if you have an orchestra available at school, you must enroll in it. If you do not participate in orchestra at school, you may not continue in String Project. We are a community program and support our local school orchestra programs. We hope that String Project will help you to be successful in your school music programs and bring music to our community for your whole life.

Adults are expected to:

1. Alert Mr. Brax or Dr. Fulcher to absences. If it is necessary for a student to miss class, an adult should email Mr. Brax or Dr. Fulcher before class time. The only valid excuses for absences are 1) illness, 2) a death in the family, or 3) a school conflict. Excessive absences will result in probation.
2. Pick up their child immediately after the end of class. Families in violation of this will be placed on probation.

3. Help students acquire a good quality instrument.
4. Encourage students to practice at home.
5. Attend concerts. You are also encouraged to attend class if you are able.
6. Check email to receive important class updates.
7. Consider joining our Facebook page: University of Northern Colorado String Project

We are aware that COVID-19 is still impacting our community. As of fall 2023, we are not requiring masking in String Project classes. Students are still encouraged/supported if they want to wear a mask (teachers may be masking as well). **We request that any family experiencing a case of COVID disclose that to Mr. Brax or Dr. Fulcher so that contract tracing can be implemented.**

Should bad weather arrive, we will follow the Weld County School District 6 and UNC weather announcements. If schools are closed on Tuesday, no String Project. If UNC cancels evening classes on Tuesday, no String Project. We will send an email to all families if class is cancelled and we will do our best to update our website and Facebook page promptly.

The UNC String Project is part of the American String Teachers Association National String Project Consortium and must adhere to certain guidelines for the program. One of these guidelines is that students who leave the program are not allowed to re-enter. Occasionally, a family circumstance may arise in which a student needs to leave but does not wish to do so permanently. In this case, the family should communicate with Mr. Brax or Dr. Fulcher and a leave of absence can be arranged.

Multiple instances of disrespect/misbehavior, late pick-ups after class, and/or unexcused absences may lead to probation. Probation means that we are closely evaluating the student's ability to continue in String Project, with the assistance of the family. The student will remain on probation for one semester. At the end of the semester, the concerns will be reevaluated and the student will either be reinstated as a student in good standing, or dismissed from the program.

Students may be dismissed from the program at any time for any violations of policy or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by UNC String Project teachers and/or the Director. Although a rare situation, students may be dismissed from the program without first being placed on probation and without prior notice. Students dismissed from the program are not allowed to re-enter the program.

Locations

Rodarte Community Center
 920 A St
 Greeley, 80631
 Free parking lot and street-parking

Free street parking along 10th Ave, 17th St,
 and 18th St

Frasier Hall, UNC's Campus
 1710 9th Ave
 Greeley, 80631