

Greetings PMEA All-State Orchestra participants!

Congratulations on your acceptance into this year's All-State Orchestra. Your hard work, your preparation, talent, and commitment have taken you far, and I am expecting an invigorating and exciting weekend of music-making together in Pittsburgh.

To that end, I wanted to let you know that I expect you to come to the first rehearsal fully-prepared. That means:

- 1) All notes and rhythms must be learned and mastered. We will not have time in our limited rehearsal time to 'teach notes.'
- 2) Come with a sharpened pencil, your music, your instrument, and a good, willing attitude to work hard and make rapid progress. We will work at an intense pace in order to get our music up to performance quality.
- 3) Familiarize yourself with the recordings linked here from YouTube. You may of course also listen to other recordings, but these two in my opinion accurately reflect the music we will play.

Tchaikovsky: Francesca da Rimini

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmKymqHg4ak&t=175s>

Jennifer Higdon: blue cathedral

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtitS8gjAfU>

- 4) You may also be interested in the stories behind the pieces. Links to those program notes can be found here:

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/artist/composition/2397>

<http://www.jenniferhigdon.com/pdf/program-notes/blue-cathedral.pdf>

I am looking forward to working with you soon. Good luck with your preparation, and safe travels to Pittsburgh!

Sincerely,

Daniel Meyer  
Music Director Erie Philharmonic  
Music Director Lakeside Symphony Orchestra  
Artistic Director Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra  
Director of Orchestral Activities Duquesne University