

Q: How do you pick the music the orchestra plays?

A: That is a very big question. Here is part 1 of the answer:

A music committee chooses the music for the season. It is made up of *Wojciech*; *Dean Glace*, our principal trumpet and librarian and vice-chairman of the Board; *Jan Coldwell*, our oboe, English horn, and bassoon player (she plays whichever instrument is needed) and she gives the popular Pre-Concert Talks; *Gordon Tedeschi*, our principal 2nd violinist and a retired orchestra conductor; and me (I have a Master's in Music). As you can see, each of the members of the committee has a different expertise within the orchestra and we all have years and years of musical and orchestral training. We meet for months to come up with a season. First we have to pick dates, taking into account major holidays, hurricanes and ice storms, let alone availability of Summerville Baptist Church! This is also when we start considering music and themes for the upcoming season. Heads up! This is where you come in - let us know any specific pieces you'd like us to play or any genre or composers. We will continue this Chat next month.

Fun fact: The Summerville Orchestra is the only orchestra of any size in the country that plays classical and pops on every concert in its subscription season (per League of American Orchestras, the umbrella organization for all orchestras in the USA).