

Geneva Tri-M Chapter #4037

Student Handbook



Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in joining the Tri-M Honor Society for the coming school year! Tri-M, or *Modern Music Masters*, is the only music honor society for junior high and high school students in the nation. As part of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), Tri-M serves to recognize students who excel both academically and musically. Tri-M provides students with leadership opportunities to make a difference in their community through music-based service projects. We are excited that you are seeking to join this distinguished society and we look forward to working with you this year!

A Brief History:

Tri-M was founded in 1936 by Alexander and Frances Harley, both music teachers at Maine Township High School (now Maine East High School) in Des Plaines, IL. The Harleys wanted to recognize their students who had given so generously of their time and talents to perform free concerts for the community during the Great Depression. While other societies existed to honor academic achievement, journalistic effort, and success in debating, no such organization was devoted to music. To honor their student musicians, the Harleys drafted a simple constitution and named their group the *Maine Music Masters*. The idea of a music honor society quickly spread to other local schools, and in 1952, the Harleys made the organization national and changed the name to *Modern Music Masters*.

To symbolize all the values of this new honor society, Harley had a key emblem designed with a five-line music staff – each line representing the five points of selection: musicianship, scholarship, character, leadership, and service. A lyre and scroll superimposed on the staff represented proficiency and service in the field of music. Above, a triplet figure in the shape of an *M* stood for the initials of Maine Music Masters (later, Modern Music Masters).



Today, Tri-M chapters have been chartered in public, private, and parochial schools in all 50 states and in countries such as Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, the United Kingdom and many more. Honorary Tri-M members include Arthur Fiedler, Howard Hanson, Bobby McFerrin, Sir Georg Solti, Shinichi Suzuki, Fred Waring, and Meredith Wilson.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Whether you are a new pledge or a returning member, all students who are seeking membership in Geneva Chapter #4037 for the academic school year must submit evidence of participation in activities in the following categories by April.

MUSIC ENRICHMENT
CONCERT ATTENDANCE
SERVICE

Requirements for PLEDGES:

Pledges are students who are new to Tri-M and are looking to be inducted into Chapter #4037 at the end the academic school year. Pledges must participate in 10 HOURS of activities in each of the three categories on page one before April of the academic year. In addition, pledges who are selected for induction **must pay a \$25 membership fee** in April of the academic year. Freshmen are ineligible for induction but may still participate in Tri-M sponsored events throughout the year.

Requirements RETURNING MEMBERS:

Returning members are students who were inducted into the Tri-M Honor Society during the previous school year and are looking to renew their membership for the current year. Returning members must participate in 5 HOURS of activities in each of the three categories listed on page one before April of the academic year. There is no cost for membership renewal for returning members.

Requirements for ALL MEMBERS:

Students must be a sophomore, junior or senior and enrolled in a curricular music ensemble (band, orchestra or choir) for the full academic year to be eligible for induction. Students who are not enrolled in a curricular music ensemble *may* be eligible for induction if they are also enrolled in a GHS Music Theory course AND participate in a school-sponsored, extracurricular music activity (jazz band, musical cast or pit), at the discretion of the chapter advisors.

In addition to the requirements listed above for pledges and returning members, ALL members must maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in their music classes and a 3.0 or higher cumulative grade point average (i.e. the grade point average of ALL of your coursework combined). Student GPAs will be assessed in April of each academic year to determine eligibility.

Solo or Small Ensemble Performance:

ALL members must participate in a SOLO or SMALL ENSEMBLE performance during the year. Performances with your curricular music ensemble will not satisfy this requirement. Acceptable solo or small ensemble performance options include the following:

- Jazz Band
- Musical Cast
- Pit Orchestra
- Solo & Ensemble Festival
- Church/Youth Groups
- Performance at community events
- Performance of national anthem at athletic events
- Performance at a private teacher's recital

Many music enrichment activities (see below) will satisfy this requirement. For example, a student may count their participation in Jazz Band as both a music enrichment activity *and* as a small ensemble performance. Only one solo or ensemble performance is required, though students may give more than one performance if they desire. Please see a director if you have a question about whether a performance option not listed above will satisfy this requirement.

MUSIC ENRICHMENT:

Music enrichment refers to any activity which builds upon your musical knowledge and strengthens your skills as a musician. It should be a significant musical experience outside of what is required for participation in your curricular music ensemble, but one that does not fall into the categories of concert attendance or service. Examples of some Music Enrichment activities include:

- Summer Music Camps
- Private Lessons
- Master Classes at local colleges
- "Behind-the-Score" lectures
- Music Workshop attendance
- Guest artist rehearsals, sectionals, or events during or outside class
- Lectures by professional musicians
- Open rehearsals (e.g. ESO, CSO, etc.)
- GHS Drum Major training sessions (counts as 1 hour)
- Teaching private lessons
- Participation in Solo & Ensemble
- Performance at Tri-M sponsored events (e.g. Tri-M Coffeehouse)
- Playing in an ensemble at your place of worship
- Playing in a recital organized by your private teacher
- Participation in Jazz Band
- Participation Pit Orchestra
- Participation in other ensembles outside of Geneva High School (e.g. Elgin Youth Symphony, Chicago Youth Symphony, etc.)

You must participate in at least TWO DIFFERENT music enrichment activities throughout the course of the year. Additionally, one music enrichment activity may only count for up to HALF of your required hours. Speak with a chapter advisor if you are unsure whether an activity or event in which you participated meets the criteria for music enrichment.

Students only to need get ONE signature for recurring music enrichment activities. For example, a student does not need to get a signature for each private lesson he/she takes (or for each jazz band/pit orchestra/EYSO rehearsal he/she attends, etc.). Instead, students can simply add up the hours the spent participating in the enrichment activity before required membership materials are due in April and get one signature for that activity.

CONCERT/RECITAL ATTENDANCE:

As musicians, we must also be good consumers and patrons of music. Attending concerts and recitals strengthens our appreciation for music and music performance and motivates us to continue our own musical studies. Members of Tri-M Chapter #4037 are expected to attend live concerts or recitals throughout the course of the year. The following requirements for Concert Attendance apply:

- The event must be a LIVE concert in which you are not performing.
- Music must be the PRIMARY FOCUS of the event. A musician in the corner of the room at a restaurant would be considered background or incidental music, and cannot be counted.

- **PLEDGES:**
 - At least 8 hours of your Concert Attendance must be from **college or professional concerts/recitals**.
 - Up to 2 hours of your Concert Attendance may be from **high school concerts/recitals**.
- **RETURNING MEMBERS:**
 - At least 4 hours of your Concert Attendance must be from **college or professional concerts/recitals**.
 - Up to 1 hour of your Concert Attendance may be from **high school concerts/recitals**.
- **Musicals** may be counted for Concert Attendance.
- **Collegiate marching band performances** at a football game (pregame, halftime, postgame) may be counted for Concert Attendance.
- **Drum Corps** (DCI, BOA) performances may be counted for Concert Attendance.
- **Pop/Rock concerts** *may* qualify for Concert Attendance AT YOUR DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION. The music should relate in some way to your area of music study (i.e. has horns, strings, etc.). Ask a director before purchasing tickets if a pop/rock concert that you are considering attending will count for Concert Attendance.

SERVICE:

Engaging in service activities encourages students to become active members of their school and local communities, fosters responsibility and builds leadership skills. Service is an important component of good citizenship and enables students to acquire life skills and knowledge while helping those around them.

Students may participate in service activities in the school and in the community. However, at least HALF of your service hours must be to the Geneva School District Music Program. You must show evidence of having participated in at least 2 different service activities. Examples of some service activities include:

Examples of Service to the Geneva School District Music Program:	Examples of Service to the School and/or Community:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand out programs at concerts • Set up/tear down for concerts • Help with Music Boosters Sales • Help at Solo & Ensemble Festival • Sort/organize music in the music library • Clean up/organize rehearsal spaces • Participate in Tri-M sponsored events (e.g. Tri-M Coffeehouse) • Perform for school events (e.g. Back to School Night, the Art Show, etc.) • Help at Solo & Ensemble Festival • Sort/organize music in the music library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform at community events (e.g. Christmas Walk, Swedish Days, Festival of the Vine, etc.) • Perform at a Salvation Army bucket during the holiday season • Perform at a nursing home or preschool • Volunteer at a local food pantry • Volunteer at community events or activities • Volunteer at events or activities through your place of worship

Many more service opportunities are available to students throughout the course of the year. Service activities with other organizations (e.g. Key Club, Boy Scouts, church, etc.) can also be counted towards your required Tri-M service hours, so long as at least HALF of your hours are to the Geneva School District Music Program.

Speak with a chapter advisor if you are unsure whether an activity or event in which you participated meets the criteria for a category listed above.

LEADERSHIP

Adult Leadership

The Geneva High School Music Faculty serve as advisors for Tri-M Chapter #4037. The role of the advisors is to:

- Provide input and guidance for the student leadership team and membership during the planning of meetings and events
- Help to preside over membership meetings
- Handle certain administrative tasks that may not be handled by the student leadership team (e.g. reserving school spaces and equipment for Tri-M events, etc.)
- Handle finances for the organization, including the collection of pledges' membership fees

Student Leadership

The Tri-M Honor Society is meant to be a primarily student-run organization. The student leaders and general membership of the chapter are responsible for the planning and running of meetings, events, fundraisers, ceremonies and other activities. The adult leadership (detailed above) will provide input and guidance to the students, manage administrative and other logistical duties that cannot be completed by students (e.g., handling money, reserving building spaces for use, etc.) and will serve as the “seal-of-approval” and “final word” for any decisions made by the student membership.

Six Tri-M members will serve as student officers for our chapter; three junior officers and three senior officers. Student officers must be returning members (not pledges). Each discipline within the music department (band, orchestra and choir) will be represented by one Junior and one Senior Officer. Junior Officers are nominated by the membership each year and are appointed by the chapter advisors. Junior Officers become the senior officers the following year, at the discretion of the chapter advisors. Duties of the student officers include:

- Prepare an agenda for regular meetings of the membership
- Preside over regular meetings of the membership
- Coordinate with advisors in the planning and preparation of meetings and events
- Publicize meetings and other chapter events
- Maintain a record of the chapter's membership
- Communicate with chapter members and pledges

Student officers may also report chapter activities for the *Chapter Summary Reports* and apply to NAFME for *Chapter of the Year*.

Chapter advisors may remove any student officer from their position if that student fails to meet their obligations as an officer or violates school or department policies.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

When and where does our Tri-M Chapter meet?

Geneva Tri-M Chapter #4037 meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Meeting dates may be changed if there is a major conflict or if there is no school on that date. Meetings are held after school and typically take place in one of the ensemble rehearsal rooms. Additional meetings may be held on an as-needed basis. The meetings for 2023-2024 will take place on the following dates:

- **Tues., Aug. 22**
- **Tues., Sept. 5**
- **Tues., Oct. 3**
- **Wed., Nov. 8**
- **Tues., Dec. 5**
- **Tues., Jan. 9**
- **Tues., Feb. 6**
- **Tues., Mar. 5**
- **Tues., Apr. 2**

In preparation for each general membership meeting, Tri-M Officers and at least one director will meet sometime during the week before to discuss the agenda and any other business that must be addressed. Tri-M Officers are responsible for the scheduling and planning of the agenda for this meeting and must communicate this with each other and the directors via email at least two days in advance.

How do I “submit evidence”?

Students must keep a record of their music enrichment, service, and concert attendance. Tri-M Music Enrichment, Service and Concert Attendance are available in the music department and on the Tri-M website. For each activity in which you participate, complete the information that is requested on the corresponding sheet and get the signature of an adult who can vouch for your participation. For Concert Attendance, be sure to also collect documentation from the event (concert program or ticket stub).

Students must keep their record sheets and other documentation organized in a 1”, 3-ring binder that will be submitted at the Tri-M general membership meeting at the beginning of April for review by the directors. The binder must have a computer-printed cover sheet that displays the student’s first and last name, student ID number, membership status (i.e., pledge or returning member) and year in school (sophomore, junior or senior). Documentation materials (e.g., concert programs, ticket stubs, etc.) may either be placed in plastic sheet protectors within the binder or in a separate envelop clearly labelled with the student’s name. Pledges - do not turn in membership dues when you submit your materials.

Please let your director know at the time you submit your materials whether you would like to have them back after they have been reviewed (otherwise, they will be discarded after review). Materials submitted in any other format (e.g., loose papers or a packet of paper stapled together) or submissions that do not contain the proper documentation may not be accepted!

After review by the directors (including a check of each student's cumulative and music-specific GPA), an invitation to attend the Tri-M induction ceremony will be sent to students who meet the membership. Students must complete the induction invitation form and submit it to their director by the date indicated, and pledges must also submit their \$25 membership fee.

Can you tell me more about the induction ceremony? Do I have to attend?

The Tri-M induction ceremony is a formal event that honors and recognizes our student membership. The induction ceremony will take place in April or May of the academic school year. At the ceremony, new members (pledges) will receive an official Tri-M membership card, gold key pin with the Tri-M insignia and official Certificate of Membership for Tri-M and the Illinois Music Honors Society (ILMHS - see below). Returning members will receive an official Tri-M Certificate of Continuing Membership and a certificate of membership for ILMHS. Seniors will receive their Tri-M graduation cords with the rest of their graduation materials at another time.

Students are not required to attend the Tri-M induction ceremony but are strongly encouraged to do so! You have worked hard to earn your membership in our chapter and attending the ceremony demonstrate pride in your achievement and in your membership in our chapter. Students should dress nicely for the ceremony (e.g., dress slacks/skirt, dress, button-up shirt or blouse, tie, dress shoes, etc.). The induction ceremony is organized by the directors and is facilitated by the student leadership team. Family and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Can I count ONE activity for more than one category?

No. Though some activities may fall into multiple categories (e.g., music enrichment and concert attendance), each activity that you record can be used for one category only.

When can I start collecting hours for next year? Can I count activities that I did over the summer?

Students may begin recording Concert Attendance, Service and Music Enrichment activities immediately following the induction ceremony each year. Students may record Service, Concert Attendance and Music Enrichment activities in which they participated over the summer.

How do I count my participation in Solo & Ensemble for Music Enrichment hours?

Band students may count the time that they spend practicing, preparing and performing at the Solo and Ensemble festival for up to HALF of their required hours for Music Enrichment.

If I attended a non-required, music-related field trip with my curricular music ensemble, can I count that time?

Yes! If the field trip was not a required part of your participation in your curricular music ensemble, you may count any service, music enrichment or concert attendance activities that you engaged in.

My curricular ensemble had a guest conductor or clinician come in to work with us during class (e.g., a college professor or composer) – does this count as music enrichment?

Yes! Although such an event takes place during your in-school rehearsal period, this is considered a significant musical experience in the category of music enrichment because it expands your knowledge and strengthens your musical skills beyond the work that you do with your regular ensemble director.

Can I count activities that I participated in on a music department trip toward my required hours?

Yes! Music Department Trips always present students with opportunities for service, music enrichment and concert attendance. See your director for more information.

I see that Geneva High School also has a Chapter of the Illinois Music Honor Society (ILMHS)...what's that about? If I meet the membership requirements for Tri-M, will I also be a member of ILMHS?

Tri-M is administered by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), the same organization that used to manage the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA). The affiliation between NAfME and ILMEA officially ended on July 1, 2021, and ILMEA no longer has any ties with Tri-M. To continue to recognize outstanding music students in programs at district festivals and at the Illinois Music Education Conference ("All-State"), ILMEA launched its own honor society, known as the Illinois Music Honors Society or ILMHS.

Geneva High School has both a Tri-M Chapter AND an ILMHS Chapter – they are one and the same. This is because the membership requirements for ILMHS are the same as those of Tri-M, and students who meet the membership requirements of Tri-M will also become members of ILMHS. Students who meet the membership requirements will receive an official Certificate of Membership for ILMHS at the Tri-M induction ceremony, in addition to the Tri-M membership materials they will also receive. Students do not need to pay any additional fee for their membership in the GHS Chapter of ILMHS.

How do I show evidence that I participated in a solo or small ensemble performance during the year?

If you participated in a school-sponsored event as a soloist or as a member of a small ensemble (e.g., jazz band, musical pit, GHS Solo & Ensemble festival, etc.), your director will know and you do not need to submit any evidence. If your solo or small ensemble performance was not at a school-sponsored event, please submit program with your name, a photo of yourself performing at the event or have another adult who was present (i.e., youth group leader, church choir director, private lesson instructor) email your director to verify your participation.

Is there an official Tri-M t-shirt?

Yes! T-shirts are available in different sizes in purple (see the pictures below). T-shirt orders will be taken by the student leadership at the beginning of the academic year and the order will be placed by a director. Students are not required to purchase a Tri-M t-shirt but are encouraged to do and to wear their shirts at official Tri-M events to foster solidarity

and pride in our Chapter and to promote our organization to the school and general community.



Official GHS Tri-M Shirt (purple w/ white text)

Is there a Geneva Tri-M Website, Remind account, GroupMe or Message Board?

Yes! The Geneva Tri-M Website can be accessed at www.geneva304.org/Tri-M.aspx. On the website, you can find copies of the Service, Music Enrichment and Concert Attendance Record Sheets, copies of the sheet music and audio files of the Tri-M loyalty song (*Music Masters, Hail to Thee!*), a contact information form and additional information and documents.

Pledges and Returning members should also sign up for the Tri-M Remind account. To do so, text the message @genevatri to 81010. Standard text messaging rates apply.

Student Officers also manage a GroupMe account. Signup information for interested students will be provided by the Student Officers.

The Tri-M Message Board is located on the wall at the end of the C hallway, outside the Orchestra Room. Extra copies of the record sheets, recommendations for music enrichment, concert attendance and service opportunities and other materials are posted there throughout the year.

THANK YOU!

Thank you, again, for your interest in the Tri-M Music Honor Society! We hope that you find your involvement with Tri-M an enjoyable and rewarding experience. We look forward to getting to know and work with you this year!



Tri-M Music
HONOR SOCIETY

