

# Navarro River String Camp



## Performance and sight-reading activities during camp

### 1. Sight-reading with the coaches (optional evening activity)

This is one of several activities that take place on two evenings of camp. On the first day of camp, there will be a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in **playing chamber music with the coaches**. Along with signing up, if they feel so inclined, campers are welcome to suggest music they would like to play. The sign-up sheet will be available until lunch of the following day.

After that, from the names signed up, the coaches will form suitably matched groups to play trio, quartet, or cello ensemble music, allocating coaches to each group and listing the music to be played. A notice of the groups will be posted in the morning on the third day of camp. The emphasis for these evening sight-reading sessions will be on playing chamber music and working on the piece with a coach or coaches who are now members of the group instead of coaching from the outside.

### 2. Final chamber group performance and “WiPPs” casual performance sessions

We believe that a performance at the end of string camp is a valuable experience to share the fruits of our labors and stretch with the support of our colleagues. We also want to offer a performance opportunity that allows attention to be paid to the all-important issue of being present in performance with our chamber group and with the music, something that as musicians we all continue to work on at whatever level we may play.

For the **final chamber group performance**, each chamber group performs a chorale-like piece that will be one of the pieces mailed out in advance of camp. Chorales by J. S. Bach and others were originally hymn tunes to be sung, but they lie well for string players and their texture and tempo offer an ear-opening opportunity to listen to all the parts. Since in chorales the notes tend to be less of a challenge, performance of a chorale allows each group to focus on musicality and presence, which can so easily be lost under the pressure of performance.

For those who have signed up for a lead sheet instead of classical chamber group, in lieu of playing a chorale at the final performance, these groups can demonstrate some of the improvisational processes they have worked with during camp.

A number of **casual performance sessions** (known at camp as “WiPPs” or works-in-progress-performance-sessions) are scheduled over several days of camp to allow any chamber group that wants to perform their other assigned piece(s) the opportunity to do so.