

The Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University Symphonic Band 2020-2021 REVISED
M1903/2903/3903/4903/9528

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“Official” Class Times and Locations:

Tuesday	3:30-5:20	PDT and MB27
Thursday	3:30-5:20	MB27

Blended Class Times and Locations:

Tuesday	3:30-5:20 (extension, where possible, to 6:15)	PDT, MB27, MB254, MB140
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3:45-4:15	Rehearsal Block 1
4:15-4:45	Break/You must clear the room.
4:45-5:15	Rehearsal Block 2

Thursday	3:30-5:20 (extension, where possible, to 6:15)	PDT, MB27, MB254, MB140
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3:45-4:15	Rehearsal Block 1
4:15-4:45	Break/You must clear the room.
4:45-5:15	Rehearsal Block 2

Course Description and Objectives

The Western University Symphonic Band has a long-standing history of musical achievement. It was the first large instrumental ensemble at the university over 50 years ago. Our goals are to explore quality music written for the wind band and to perform it with mastery. Students will perform and learn about a wide variety of styles, compositional techniques, rehearsal processes, and ensemble concepts. The large ensemble experience will assist performers in advancing their practical skills and general music knowledge while developing individual musicianship. In order to strengthen the ensemble's performance level and to provide more opportunities for individual players, part assignments will normally rotate.

Each player's attitude and preparation are essential to the success of the group. Therefore, individuals are expected to take ownership for their parts and share in the responsibility for their section's performance. In order to meet these expectations, students will be asked to take on leadership roles within the ensemble (e.g., section leaders), and the rehearsal schedule will be posted on Tuesday for the entire week.

Required Materials (see PPE document)

All players must have access to a tuner and a metronome.

Players are expected to bring their instrument, music, music stand, all necessary mutes/equipment and a pencil to every rehearsal.

A “Performer” Smart Music Subscription (\$40US for the year). This one-year subscription may be used for multiple UWO classes. <https://www.smartmusic.com/pricing/>

Concert Dress

- Full-length black skirt or black dress pants.
- Black blouse or dress shirt (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves).
- Black socks or tights, black dress shoes.

Preparation

In order to reach our peak performance, a number of activities must take place. Your work ethic and personal expectations will determine whether we sound like a professional ensemble.

- The full band scores will be available through the library’s electronic course reserves, and links to Soundcloud recordings are posted on OWL. These resources should be used to inform your practice/performance. Ensemble members are expected to listen, while following the score, to each of their assigned pieces within the first week of each repertoire rotation.
 - Know the function of your part for each section of every assigned work.
 - Determine what other instruments have the same part as you. Mark this in your part.
 - Direct your listening:
 - How does their interpretation compare to the actual markings (e.g., articulation, dynamics, tempi, phrasing, etc.)? Do I agree with their interpretation?”
 - Ensemble precision?
 - Blend/balance/tuning within and across sections?
 - Before using rehearsal time to ask a question about a note/rhythm problem in your part, please check the score.
- We have responsibilities to the composer, the audience, and each other, as well as a responsibility to the development of our own personal musical standards.
- Individual parts must be learned outside of the rehearsal process. Therefore, the music for each concert must be picked-up and practiced before rehearsals begin. Ideally, students should be able to “play the page” at the first rehearsal, and then continue to improve for each rehearsal.
- Individuals may be asked to record and share their performance of specific measures with other ensemble members for the purpose of feedback and/or a unified interpretation.
- Individuals may be periodically asked to record certain measures of their repertoire through Smart Music.

- When we PREPARE to the BEST of our abilities for EVERY rehearsal, then we should feel good about the rehearsal no matter what the musical result. Nobody can do more than 100%. The question is, are you doing your 100%?
- Section leaders are responsible for organizing bi-weekly Zoom sectionals. A regularly scheduled time is strongly recommended. In consultation with the conductor, section leaders should plan specific objectives for each meeting. *See Sectional Guidelines below.*
- *See Personal Practice Reminders below.*

Attendance and Participation

Due to the soloistic nature of much of the repertoire, and limited rehearsal time, the success of this ensemble greatly depends upon the regular attendance of every member. Students should regard rehearsals and concerts as professional service, where 100% attendance is expected. Attendance and participation in rehearsals and sectionals will determine whether you receive a credit for this ensemble. An unexcused absence will result in a review of your membership in the WE (i.e., you will be given a warning). A second unexcused absence may result in the loss of credit.

In the event of illness, do not come to rehearsal.

Please notify the conductor and your section leader as soon as possible so that a substitute may be found.

Because our limited rehearsal time will not allow for warm-ups, ensemble members should try to “warm-up” at some point earlier in the day. All members should be warmed-up, set-up, and seated with music and pencil at the specified rehearsal time. Tardy is defined as not being ready for the tuning note.

I. Notes:

i) **Course Prerequisites:** Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

ii) **Grading scale:** Pass-Fail

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence:** Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student’s final grade. **Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus.** Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student’s final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. **Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.**

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of the student's Home Faculty.

For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

iv) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work:** In cases where students are unable to submit work due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online self-reported absence is submitted, or if appropriate supporting documentation is submitted to the Associate Dean's office, and the accommodation is granted, then the missed assessments may be rescheduled or discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course, at the discretion of the instructor. If neither a self-reported absence nor an appropriate supporting document is submitted to the appropriate office, then the missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

v) **Academic Offences:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations.

Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

vi) **Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

vii) **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

viii) **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.
<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

II. Notes (Specific to 2020-2021)

i) **Contingency Plan:** In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor.

ii) **Recording of Online Activities:** All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

iii) **Online Etiquette:** Some components of this course may involve synchronous online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet).
- “Arrive” to class on time.
- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the Event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material.
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you Are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise.
- Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting.
- Be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable.

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, select the blue “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question.
- Kindly remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking.
- Self-identify when speaking.
- Kindly remember to select the “raise hand” function again to lower your hand and mute your mic after speaking.

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of “Zoom-bombing” a class, or of other serious online offenses, may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Zoom Sectional Guidelines (An online “check-up” every two weeks.)

Great ensembles are built from great sections.

Responsibilities of Section Leaders

- Inclusion and respect are key.
- Be professional, prepared, productive, and *positive* (i.e., demonstrate what is expected; lead by example).
- Remember that everyone needs to take ownership. Therefore, different people should “lead the sectional” for different pieces (e.g., the lead player runs the sectional for that piece).
- Organize bi-weekly section check-ups.
- Create a recurring zoom meeting with a password for extra security (check the university’s recommendations).
- Determine the sectional plan and goals.
- Consult scores and conductor.
- Email bi-weekly reports outlining progress and concerns to the conductor.

Responsibilities of Section Members

- Inclusion and respect are key.
- **If you are playing principal on a certain piece, you are expected to run the sectional for your piece ☺ ... no matter what year or program you are in.**
- Be punctual (i.e., be respectful of other people’s time).
- Regardless of who leads the sectional, find ways to share your ideas in a positive and productive manner.

Topics

- Tone \Rightarrow Blend \Rightarrow Balance \Rightarrow Intonation.
- Articulation (unify note shapes and releases).
- Interpretation (style, phrasing, dynamic nuance, etc.).
- Precision ... without unified articulation/style, there is no precision.
- Consistency.

Ideas

- Break into groups and do full range intonation charting.
- Break into groups based on part assignments. Students perform for one another.
- Build, balance, and tune chords wherever they occur (i.e., not just on whole notes).
 - What is the function of your pitch within the chord?

- Is your note doubled? If yes, how will this change your dynamic?
- Balance, blend, and tune unison passages one note at a time.
- Isolate difficult passages (one note at a time) and discuss remediation plans.
- Discuss personal practice strategies. Examples:
 - What is the best metronome subdivision for a specific section?
 - Alternate fingerings.
 - Tuning practice (drone use, etc.).
 - How will you interpret the articulations (Demonstration by the principal player)?
 - Who will lead the crescendo or decrescendo?
- Principal players record passages and share them with the section.
 - Stylistic consistency.

Personal Practice Reminders

- SCHEDULE YOUR PRACTICE into EVERY DAY of the week. This is not a 9-5 job.
- DO INTONATION EXERCISES EVERY DAY. If you don't know your tuning tendencies and the intonation tendencies of your instrument, then the ensemble doesn't have a chance.
- PRACTICE MAKES PERMANENT ... PRACTICE FOR ACCURACY!
 - Aim for quality, not quantity.
 - Play at a speed where you can be accurate and focus on the details. If you practice too fast, you are practicing mistakes!
 - Isolate small problem areas and practice them at a speed where you do not make any mistakes. Only speed them up after they are accurate. Be patient with yourself ☺
 - Practice until you never play it wrong!
 - Practice in style.
- PLAN your practice sessions:
 1. Warm-up ... fundamentals (tone and technique)
 2. Practice challenging sections from your repertoire (studio and ensemble).
 - Break longer, challenging sections into smaller bite-sized pieces.
 - Plan which sections will be practiced, and when, throughout the week.
 3. Reward yourself at the end of a practice session by playing through something that you feel good about and enjoy, but maintain focus on quality.

SB's Tentative Rehearsal and Performance Schedule (2020-2021)
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Please note that dates and events are tentative. Ensemble members will be notified well in advance of any changes to the schedule

Tuesday	September 15
Thursday	September 17
Tuesday	September 22
Thursday	September 24
Tuesday	September 29
Thursday	October 1
Tuesday	October 6
Thursday	October 8
Tuesday	October 13
Thursday	October 15
Tuesday	October 20
Thursday	October 22
Tuesday	October 27
Thursday	October 29

November 2-6	Fall Break	No Classes
Tuesday	November 10	
Thursday	November 12	
Tuesday	November 17	
Thursday	November 19	
Tuesday	November 24	
Thursday	November 26	Dress Rehearsal

Concert #1
Saturday, November 28th, 2:30 p.m. (PDT)
Call time is 1:30 p.m. (i.e., warmed-up and in concert attire)
And/Or
Saturday, November 28th, 7:30 p.m. (PDT)
Call time is 6:30 p.m. (i.e., warmed-up and in concert attire)

Tuesday	December 1
Thursday	December 3
Tuesday	December 8

Tentative Term 2 Schedule:

Tuesday	January 12	
Thursday	January 14	
Tuesday	January 19	
Thursday	January 21	
Tuesday	January 26	
Thursday	January 28	
Tuesday	February 2	
Thursday	February 4	Dress Rehearsal

Concert #2: Saturday, February 6, 2:30 p.m. (PDT) ... CANCELLED

Tuesday	February 9	
Thursday	February 11	
February 15-19	Reading Week	No Classes
Tuesday	February 23	
Thursday	February 25	
Tuesday	March 2	
Thursday	March 4	
Tuesday	March 9	
Thursday	March 11	
Tuesday	March 16	
Thursday	March 18	
Tuesday	March 23	
Thursday	March 25	Dress Rehearsal

Concert #3: Saturday, March 27, 7:30p.m. (PDT)
Call time is 6:30pm (i.e., warmed-up and in concert attire)

Tuesday	March 30	
Thursday	April 1	
Tuesday	April 6	No Rehearsal
Thursday	April 8	No Rehearsal