

Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University Symphony Orchestra (WUSO) 2021-2022
Music 1901, 2901, 3901, 4901, 4950
Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30-5:30pm, MB 27

Conductor/Instructor: Simone Luti
Office: TC10
Office hours: by appointment

Email: sluti@uwo.ca,

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Course Description

Experience in the WUSO helps to prepare students for careers as performers and teachers. Students have the opportunity to develop rehearsal, performance and ensemble skills, as well as leadership abilities, while rehearsing and preparing advanced level orchestral repertoire. Repertoire is varied and challenging, requiring individual preparation between rehearsals. Throughout the course of the academic year, the WUSO will perform three programs and undertake composers' readings. Placement in this ensemble is based on a combination of students' technical and sight-reading abilities and a perceived positive, hard-working attitude. Participants are expected to audition and placements are decided by a panel of experts comprising staff and faculty of the Western University music department.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will develop musical literacy and technical skills on their instrument at a high level of proficiency.
- Students will be able to collaborate in order to create and present musically artistic events, combining individual knowledge, skills, and values with a collegial and flexible mindset.
- Students will cultivate the abilities of effective time management; task prioritization is demonstrated by maintaining a practice regimen.
- Students will perform with artistic excellence, communicating emotional and musical meaning.
- Students will develop their artistic personality and potential through informed interpretation of practical, historical, and theoretical concepts in their performances.
- Students should be able to demonstrate musical independence through self-remediation in performance.
- Students should develop the confidence to know what to add, what to ignore, and what to enhance in a musical performance.
- Students will develop focus and efficiency in problem solving through critical listening and self-reflexivity during practice time.

- Students should be able to demonstrate professionalism through performance, pedagogy, and personal initiative.

Learning Objectives

In case of an absence, you will be asked to prepare work in lieu of your missed attendance. The nature of this homework will be explained on our Owl site: it will consist in developing modules in support of the following learning objectives.

- Listening Practice: Developing listening skills relevant to understanding symphonic performances.
- Performance Study: Identifying and discussing historically important performances, orchestras, conductors, soloists, and developing an understanding of historical performance evolution.
- Orchestral Score Study: Analyzing and developing understanding of the score and its elements; structure, form, melody, harmony and rhythmic structure, various sectional relationships, themes and their variations, primary and secondary elements, etc.
- Excerpt Practice: Demonstrate knowledge of phrasing, articulation, dynamics, and rhythm related to excerpts chosen from the standard repertoire. For string players - learning skills about various bow strokes and how these are to be deployed in orchestral playing. For wind and brass players – understanding how to play soloistic passages vs. accompaniment figures.
- Rhythm Practice: Developing rhythmical skills through collectively studying specific orchestral excerpts (e.g.: Stravinsky's *Le sacre du printemps*)
- Basic Conducting Practice: Learning patterns, cuing, and basic conducting skills in order to be able to conduct small ensembles and sectionals, and better respond to conductors.
- Ensemble Practice: Working on adjusting balance, intonation, articulation, sectional blend etc. through face-to-face rehearsals, performances, and recordings
- Recording Practice: Learning skills for high-quality music recording, comparing techniques, mic spacing, practice etc.

Course Prerequisites

Please note that there are **no course prerequisites** for playing in the WUSO. Admission to the ensembles is based on either a live audition a recorded audition, and granted at the discretion of the conductor and the audition committee. Admitted students can enrolled in the WUSO course number corresponding to their year of study. Those students who enroll in the course stand to receive an ensemble performance credit. As this credit is required for students in the Music Faculty, preference will be given to admitting music students to the orchestra prior to non-music students.

NOTE: Non-music students require special permission from the Dean of their home faculty to enroll in the WUSO for academic credit. Unless you have written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may 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 permission.

Rehearsals

Attendance is mandatory throughout the year for all orchestra sessions, including regular rehearsals with Professor Luti, dress rehearsals, performances, and breakout sessions with the GTA teaching team. WUSO rehearsals are not like other classes or labs, but rather like a professional service. Individual practice is expected outside of regular rehearsals. Performances are generally held outside of normal rehearsal times. **Please review the concert schedule below and be sure to advise the instructor and TAs immediately should you have any conflicts.**

Required Materials

- Metronome
- Tuner
- Pencils with eraser
- Cloth face-mask, or another face-covering approved for mitigating airborne spread of coronavirus (NOTE: Wind/Brass Players should keep a face-covering on hand for instances where they are not playing their instruments for extended periods of time)
- Music Stand (NOTE: To further mitigate COVID-19 spread, **all students are expected to bring their own stand** to all sessions. Stand-sharing is prohibited to maintain physical distancing.)
- Music (NOTE: Digital copies of scores and parts will be distributed online using OWL, or alternately via emailed PDFs. **Students are expected to print copies of their parts prior to the first rehearsal.** Portable tablet reading devices may also be used, provided the student has the conductor's permission, a paper copy of the music is on hand, and the use of a tablet does not inhibit the sightlines of other players in the orchestra.)

Preparation

You need to have your music and a pencil at every session. Participants are expected to learn their parts prior to any group rehearsal so that rehearsal time can be spent as productively as possible. Listening to the works being played while viewing a full score is highly valuable and recommended.

While it is understood that this is a student ensemble, a **professional attitude and approach** is expected.

Music Folders

Your music can be picked up from the Choral / Band / Orchestral (CBO) Collection, located on the main floor of Talbot College (T.C. 134). Folders will be available before your first rehearsal, unless otherwise instructed by your ensemble director.

You are responsible for the music signed out to you. Use pencil marks only and please avoid damaging your music to prevent potential fees. Please erase all unnecessary markings on your parts/copies before you return them to the library.

If, at any time, you need to switch parts with someone, please email or visit us in the Music Library, so that we can reassign the part(s) to the appropriate account.

You can return music to the CBO or the Music Library (T.C. 234) by the appropriate due date, as indicated on your folder. If you are finished with your music and wish to return it at an earlier date, please do so.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at muscbo@uwo.ca.

Repertoire and concert dates for 2021-2022

Concert #1- Sunday November 28th, 3pm, PDT (dress rehearsal in PDT on Nov 27th, 10-1. There will be also a short rehearsal in PDT on Nov 28th, 12-1.30pm)

Beethoven Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op. 68 (Pastoral)

Chopin Piano concerto n 2 in F minor op 21

De Falla El sombrero de tres picos, suite n 1

-Featuring pianist, Winnie Zheng (Chopin)

Concert #2- Sunday, March 27th, 2pm, PDT (dress rehearsal in PDT on Mar 26th, 10-1pm. There will be also a short rehearsal in PDT on Mar 27th, 12-1pm)

Bernstein Overture to Candide

Creston Concertino for marimba and orchestra op 21

Koppel Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra n 1

Dvorak Symphony n 9 in E minor op 95, "From the New World"

Mendelssohn Symphony n 4 in A major op 90, "Italian"

Featuring percussionists, Andrew Busch (Koppel) and Meagan Foster (Creston)

Concert Attire

Bottom: Full-length black skirt or black dress pants, black socks or tights, black dress shoes

Top: Black blouse or dress shirt (At least $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves)

Grading Scheme

This course is marked on a Pass or Fail basis (P/F). In addition to attendance, other factors affecting the administering of a passing grade include:

1. Punctuality to all services. Participants are expected to be in place and warming up at least 5 minutes before the service begins.
2. Preparation. Participants are expected to be able to play the music and be aware of general tempi etc.
3. Demonstration of improvement throughout the rehearsal process. This will require additional individual practice time
4. Demonstration of a positive attitude towards colleagues
5. Students are expected to address all theatre technical staff in a respectful manner should there be any need to request adjustments to equipment, etc. during services in Paul Davenport Theatre.
6. Demonstration of professional demeanor at all times during rehearsals and performances i.e. no phones/tablets, no talking during performances, etc.

Online Learning Resources

For the duration of the 2021-22 academic year the WUSO teaching team will be maintaining an OWL Project Site to coordinate communications, distribute music, enable file-sharing, as well as provide access to VoiceThread and other resources related to virtual learning. All members of the orchestra will be given access to the WUSO Project site via their OWL account.

All players will have received an email notification about being granted access to the project site – please notify a member of the WUSO teaching team if you did not receive this notification email. To access the site, simply go to the OWL log-in page (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>) and type in your Western ID and password, and then go to the Sites portal (The “Sites” icon looks like a waffle-iron in the upper-right-hand corner of the interface). In the Sites portal, you should see “Western Symphonic Orchestra” listed under the Projects heading – click on the link to be taken to the WUSO Project site.

As in the past, email will be the primary means by which the WUSO teaching team communicates with the orchestra. Please ensure that you are checking your UWO email regularly for updates and announcements. These communications will also be posted to the OWL Project

Site. If you prefer to receive messages at a non-UWO email address, it is your responsibility to arrange that with the teaching team. **If you are not receiving communications from the WUSO teaching team, please notify us immediately at your next in-person/virtual session so that we may remedy the situation.**

Attendance Policies and Procedures

As previously stated, students are expected to attend and participate in all WUSO rehearsals. Permission to be absent from rehearsal must be granted by the conductor in extenuating circumstances. Grounds for absences are as follows:

- Official school functions (e.g. Performing in a masterclass/recital, or attending mandatory exams in other university courses) Approval must be obtained from the conductor well in advance.
- A death in a student's immediate family
- Illness

All other absences will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In most cases, any member of the WUSO who is absent from a dress rehearsal will not be permitted to perform in concert.

Note that by enrolling in the WUSO, the expectation is that your orchestra commitments will take precedence over other performing opportunities which may arise during the year. This policy is consistent with the expectation of a professional performing ensemble.

Attendance and participation are major factors in assessing students' success in the WUSO. Attendance is documented at each orchestra session by a designated GTA on the WUSO teaching team. An **unexcused absence** will result in a review of a student's membership in the WUSO and may jeopardize their credit.

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. 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

Special Note for Covid-19-related Situations:

As a guideline, if a student has been contacted by the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to self-quarantine due to a Covid-19-related situation, then the Self-Reported Absence system is not to be used to report this absence or to request an academic accommodation. The student should contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as they are notified.

In general, students are advised to not self-determine when to self-isolate. Unless directed by the MLHU students should go about their business as usual. But if a student chooses to self-isolate due to a suspected Covid-19-related situation while waiting to receive direction from the MLHU then the student is directed to contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as possible for further direction on receiving accommodation consideration.

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.

Academic Offences: 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:

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

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.

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

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>

Contingency Plan: Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered 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 assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Electronic Devices in Classrooms: The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

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.

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