

Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University Chamber (Opera) Orchestra 2021-2022
Music 9565b

Time: As per attached schedule

Conductor/Instructor: Simone Luti

Office: TC10

Office hours: by appointment

Email: sluti@uwo.ca

Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs), Frangel Lopez-Cesena flopezce@uwo.ca,

Menelaos Menelaou, mmenelao@uwo.ca, Zifan li, zli2873@uwo.ca Ethan

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Course Description

Experience in the chamber orchestra 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 operatic repertoire. Repertoire is varied and challenging, requiring individual preparation between rehearsals. The orchestra will perform Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*. 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.

Course Prerequisites

Admission to the ensembles is based on either a live audition or recorded audition, and granted at the discretion of the conductor and the audition committee. Admitted students enrolled in course number corresponding to their year of study, as well as the production to which they've been assigned (Fall or Winter). 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. Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Music program, as well as any student who has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

Rehearsals

Attendance is mandatory throughout the year for all scheduled orchestra sessions, including regular rehearsals with Professor Luti, dress rehearsals, performances, and breakout sessions with the GTA teaching team (See below). Orchestra rehearsals are not like other classes or labs, but rather like a professional service. Individual practice is expected outside of regular rehearsals.

The chamber orchestra rehearses on a condensed timeline relative to other university ensembles. The first four rehearsals of each production will be conducted without singers and will be fairly spaced out – once every two weeks. These orchestra-only rehearsals will be followed by the “sitzprobe” rehearsals the weekend before the production goes up, in which the cast sings through their parts without staging. In the week leading up to the performances, the cast and orchestra will rehearse together in Paul Davenport Theatre. Please refer to the attached schedule (at the end of the course outline) for specific dates and times of rehearsals and performances for the fall and winter productions. **Students who have a pre-existing conflict with any of the dates in the attached schedule should advise the instructor (Prof. Simone Luti) and GTAs as soon as possible.**

Important: While every effort will be made to adhere to the rehearsal schedule, please be aware that changes may occur depending upon the progress of the ensemble. Changes to the rehearsal schedule will be announced at the end of rehearsal and/or communicated via email and OWL. Please check your emails regularly.

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.)

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 for 2022

Program #2: Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* (for all 'b' versions of the course)

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 ¾ length sleeves)

Grading

This course is graded. In addition to attendance, other factors affecting the grading 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 2020-2021 academic year the chamber orchestra teaching team will be maintaining OWL Project Sites 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 chamber orchestra OWL project sites via their individual OWL accounts.

All players will have received an email notification about being granted access to the project site for the production in which they're involved – please notify a member of the teaching team if you did not receive this notification email. To access the project 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 the opera production listed under the Projects heading – click on the link to be taken to the chamber orchestra project site.

As in the past, email will be the primary means by which the teaching team communicates with the orchestras. Please ensure that you are checking your UWO email regularly for updates and announcements. These communications will also be posted to the OWL Project Sites. 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 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 chamber orchestra 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 chamber orchestra who is absent from a dress rehearsal will not be permitted to perform in concert.

Note that by enrolling in the chamber orchestra, 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 chamber orchestra. Attendance is documented at each orchestra session by a designated GTA on the teaching team. An **unexcused absence** will result in a review of a student's membership in the chamber orchestra and may jeopardize their credit.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Statement on Health and Wellness

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Accommodation for Medical Illness (adapted from the Senate policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences–Undergraduates) at

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

The Graduate Program in Music recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by illness or injury. In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's course grade shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the office of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies), not to the course instructor.

Students with special learning needs or other circumstances are asked to inform the instructor as soon as possible so that necessary accommodations can be considered.

Accessible Education Western (AEW)

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

“Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

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.

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, even when the MLHU has not advised students to self-isolate, students are advised to follow the most recent directions from the university and the MLHU concerning when to self-isolate and for how long. Specifically, if a student believes they have Covid-19 then the student is directed to report this to the Academic Counselling office as soon as possible for further direction on receiving accommodation consideration.

Chamber orchestra schedule 2021-22

Elisir D’amore schedule

Reading #1	Feb 7	6:30 – 9:30pm	MB 27
Reading #2	Feb 11	6:30 – 9:30pm	MB 27
Reading #3	Feb 14	6:30 – 9:30pm	MB 27
Reading #4	Feb 18	6:30 – 9:30pm	MB 27
Orch Rehearsal #1	Feb 28	6-10 pm	PDT
Orch Rehearsal #2	March 1	6-10 pm	PDT
Dress Rehearsal #1	March 2	7-10 pm	PDT
Dress Rehearsal #2	March 3	7-10 pm	PDT
Perf. 1	March 6	2-5 pm	PDT
Perf. 2	March 7	6-10pm	PDT

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