

Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University Chamber (Opera) Orchestra 2026-27, Fall term
Music 9564

Time: As per attached schedule

Conductor/Instructor: Prof. Simone Luti
Office: TC10
Office hours: by appointment
Email: sluti@uwo.ca

Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs)

Tasman Tantasawat, ttantasa@uwo.ca
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Course Description

Participation in the chamber orchestra provides students with essential preparation for careers as professional performers and educators. Students will refine their rehearsal, performance, and ensemble skills, while also developing leadership abilities, through the study and preparation of operatic repertoire. The repertoire is varied and demanding, requiring consistent individual practice outside of scheduled rehearsals. Throughout the academic year, the orchestra will prepare and perform Mozart's 'Don Giovanni'.

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate advanced musical literacy and technical proficiency on their instrument.
- Collaborate effectively to create and present musically and artistically refined performances, combining individual skills with collegial flexibility.
- Develop strong time management and task prioritization skills, maintaining a consistent practice regimen.
- Perform with artistic excellence, conveying both emotional and musical meaning.
- Expand artistic personality and potential through informed interpretation of historical, theoretical, and practical concepts.
- Demonstrate musical independence through effective self-assessment and self-remediation in performance.
- Exercise judgment in performance by determining what to enhance, what to refine, and what to omit.
- Develop focus and efficiency in problem-solving through critical listening and self-reflection during practice.
- Exhibit professionalism through performance, pedagogy, and personal initiative.

Course Prerequisites

Admission to the ensemble is determined by audition and granted at the discretion of the conductor and the audition committee. Placement is based on a combination of technical and musical ability, as well as demonstrated professionalism and work ethic. Students must audition each year, and placements are determined by the audition panel. Admitted students will be enrolled in the course number corresponding to their year of study, and will participate in either the Fall or Winter production as assigned.

Students without the required prerequisites, or without special written permission from their Dean, may be removed from the course. Removal is final and not subject to appeal, and no tuition adjustment will be provided in such cases.

Rehearsals

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled orchestra sessions, including rehearsals with Professor Luti, dress rehearsals, performances, and breakout sessions with the GTA teaching team. Orchestra rehearsals function as a professional service environment, and students are expected to maintain a high level of individual preparation outside of rehearsal.

The chamber orchestra operates on a condensed rehearsal timeline compared to other ensembles. Initial orchestra-only rehearsals will precede sitzprobe rehearsals (with singers but without staging), held the weekend prior to performances. In the week leading up to performances, joint rehearsals with cast and orchestra will be held in Paul Davenport Theatre. Please consult the attached schedule for specific rehearsal and performance dates.

While every effort will be made to follow the published rehearsal schedule, adjustments may be required. Any changes will be communicated at the end of rehearsal, via email, and through OWL. Students are expected to check their email regularly for updates.

Required Materials

- Metronome
- Tuner
- Pencils with eraser
- Music stand
- Music (please see below)

Preparation

Students must bring their music and a pencil to every rehearsal. Parts are to be learned in advance so that ensemble rehearsal time can be used efficiently. Listening to recordings while following the full score is strongly encouraged. Although this is a student ensemble, participants are expected to adopt a professional attitude and approach.

Music Folders

Music can be collected from the Choral/Band/Orchestral (CBO) Collection, located on the main floor of Talbot College (T.C. 134). Folders will be available prior to the first rehearsal unless otherwise directed by the ensemble director. Students are responsible for the music signed out to them. Markings must be made in pencil only, and music should not be damaged. All extraneous markings must be erased before parts are returned to the library.

If a part exchange is necessary, students must notify the Music Library so the part can be reassigned appropriately. Music must be returned by the indicated due date, either to the CBO or to the Music Library (T.C. 234). Students are encouraged to return music early if no longer needed. Questions can be directed to muscbo@uwo.ca.

Repertoire for fall 2026

Mozart's Don Giovanni

Performances schedule

November 19th at 7.30 pm in PDT

November 20th at 7.30 pm in PDT

November 21st at 2 pm in PDT

November 22nd at 2pm in PDT

Concert Attire

Concert Black

Grading Scale:

A	80 – 100%
B	70 – 79%
C	60 – 69%
F	00 – 59%

In addition to attendance, other factors affecting the grading include:

1. Attendance and punctuality to all rehearsals. Students are expected to be in place for tuning right on time.

2. Preparation. Students are expected to arrive prepared to all rehearsals with their parts learnt as well as a general understanding of the pieces rehearsed for each rehearsal.
3. Demonstration of improvement throughout the rehearsal process. This requires additional individual practice time.
4. Demonstration of a positive attitude towards colleagues
5. Demonstration of professional demeanor at all times during rehearsals and performances i.e. no personal use of phones/tablets, etc
6. Active and Engaged participation to all rehearsals and performances.

Online Learning Resources

For the duration of the 2026-2027 academic year the chamber orchestra teaching team will be maintaining OWL Brightspace to coordinate communications, distribute music, enable file-sharing, as well as provide access to VoiceThread and other resources related to virtual learning.

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. **If you are not receiving communications from the teaching team, please notify us immediately.**

Mandatory Course Information

Enrolment Restrictions

Enrolment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Music, as well as any student who has obtained special permission from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

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:

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

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the Wellness and Wellbeing website:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/index.html>

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca

Health and Wellness Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support for a complete list of options about how to obtain help: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>.

Accessible Education (AE)

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 (AE), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AE 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.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

NA