

The University of Western Ontario
Don Wright Faculty of Music
M9570a Advanced Conducting 2026-2027

Class Times and Locations:

Monday	10:30-12:20	MB27
Thursday	10:30-11:20	MB27

Instructors:

Dr. Colleen Richardson

E-mail Address: cricha33@uwo.ca

Office: TC 112

Phone: ext. 86873

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This course will operate as a learning laboratory where students function as both student and teacher. Topics will include: rehearsal strategies for common performance issues; repertoire selection/analysis; curriculum planning (e.g., comprehensive musicianship, long-term and short-term planning, learning objectives, assessment); improvisation and composition; conducting techniques; and organization/administration. Assignments will be practical and relevant to your future work as professional teachers and/or instrumental ensemble directors. Students will be asked to teach mini-lessons and demonstrate appropriate rehearsal strategies using repertoire that they will conduct in class.

Graduate Course Learning Objectives:

- Students will be able to remediate common ensemble performance issues.
- Students will be able to analyze a score identifying teaching concepts and learning objectives, as well as assessment and rehearsal strategies.
- Students will be able to structure and execute a lesson with specific performance goals in mind.
- Students will be able to discuss long-term and short-term performance goals.
- Students will be able to conduct with clear and musically appropriate gestures.
- Students will be able to discuss ways to incorporate improvisation and composition into the instrumental classroom.
- Students will be able to conduct/lead the Symphonic Band through a reading of their final conducting test.

Required Materials:

Feldman, Evan and Ari Contzius. *Instrumental Music Education: Teaching with the Musical and Practical in Harmony*, 4th ed. New York: Routledge, 2025.

- https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2026A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/MUS4841A
- Hard copy on reserve. Available online through the library.

Baton, Secondary Instrument, and a Stand.

- Long & McQuade Baton (\$28.00) or a baton of your choice.
- Secondary Instruments are available through Len Ingraio.(\$64/academic year).

Readings/Handouts:

The required readings for specific classes are listed on the tentative schedule below. The textbook pages and the handout number have been specified. Handouts are in the course pack (brightspace). Please be prepared to answer questions about the readings.

Resources:

Ontario Arts Curriculum Documents

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/arts18b09curr.pdf>

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/arts1112curr2010.pdf>

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/arts910curr2010.pdf>

(Electronic and hard copy)

The M4841a Course Pack (Brightspace)

Evan Feldman's Companion Website

<https://routledge textbooks.com/textbooks/9781138921405/instrument-pedagogy.php>

Habits of a Successful Beginning Band Musician" GIA Publications: <https://giamusic.com/habits-beginner-media>

GIA's *Teaching Music Through Performance* series (Study Guides and Recordings where available).

Evaluation:

Forum Postings	15%	
Transposition Quizzes	5%	Start September 21 st
Conducting Competency Test (Mixed meters)	5%	Due September 18 th
Test 1	10%	Starts September 28 th
Test 2	15%	Starts October 19 th
Test 3a	15%	Starts November 9 th
Test 3b	20%	Starts November 23 rd
Conducting Test with SB	15%	Tuesday, Dec. 8 th

Participation and Attendance Policy:

This course will operate as a lab for students to practice and discuss instrumental ensemble techniques. Within this environment, students will be placed in leadership roles that require a professional attitude, including active participation and punctuality. Because class members will function as both teacher/conductor and student/performer, the punctual attendance of every person is expected.

Assignment Deadlines:

- Live conducting tests must be done in class due to the performing ensemble requirement. If you miss a test for a self-attested medical reason, then the instructor will attempt to reschedule the test. Due to the nature of these tests, rescheduling cannot be guaranteed.
- Video assignments must be posted to your private youtube account with a link provided to the instructor by midnight on the due date.
- Late assignments will not be accepted unless you have made arrangements with the instructor prior to the due date.
- Transposition quizzes will be done at the beginning of class on the specified days.

I. Notes:

i) **Course Prerequisites:** Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or 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 prerequisites.

Enrolment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Music.

ii) **Grading scale:** A=80-100%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, F=0-59%
Graduate students fail a course if they receive a grade less than 60.

iii) **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, at the following website:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf.

iv) **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The use of generative AI on any assignments or projects in this course will be treated as a scholastic offense (see previous note on Academic Offences).

v) **Mental Health & 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. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in Thames Hall 2170 or to click on the big green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

vi) 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.

vii) 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

Fall 2026

September 10 (H)

Tentative Schedule (readings and assignments are listed):

Topics: Course expectations; Resources; Conducting review (Patterns, Style, Dynamics, Simple vs. compound meters)

Other: *Conducting Competency Test Guidelines; Test 1 Guidelines; Forum Posting Guidelines*

Resources

Habits of a Successful Beginning Band Musician” GIA Publications:

<https://giamusic.com/habits-beginner-media>

Evan Feldman’s Companion Website

<https://routledgetextbooks.com/textbooks/9781138921405/instrument-pedagogy.php>

Conducting Videos (access through OWL)

CBO folders ready for pick-up (Do you have the correct part for each piece?)

Friday, September 11th

L & M sells batons at 11:00am

\$28.00 including tax: payable by Visa/MC/Cheque/Cash ... NO DEBIT

(Cheques payable to: Long & McQuade Musical Instruments)

September 14 (M)

Topics: Rehearsal strategies; Errors as a way to improve; Asking Questions; Are they fit to be conducted; Subdivision techniques; Fermata review; Practice the Conducting Competency Test

**Always bring the assigned readings and resources to class.*

**Always bring your baton, Instruments, music stands, and music folders to class.*

Read/Post

“Rehearsals,” Feldman ch. 15 (p. 290 up to “Lesson Planning,” p. 305)

Resources/Bring

“Subdivision of Beats,” CP26 (p. 121-123)

September 17 (H)

Topics: Correcting basic rhythm and notes issues; Developing your conductor’s ear; Directed listening

Conducting: Right hand cues; Review the Conducting Competency Test

Read/Post

“Rehearsals,” Feldman ch. 15 Part III (p. 322 up to “The Dunning–Kruger Effect,” p. 331)

Friday, September 18 = Conducting Competency Test Due by Midnight!

September 21 (M)

Topics: Differentiated instruction; Creative repetition

Conducting: Bring conducting questions for Test 1; Score markings and planning your conducting

Transposition Quiz No. 1 (First 5 minutes of class)

Read/Post

“Rehearsals,” Feldman ch. 15 Part III (p. 331 “The Dunning–Kruger Effect” up to “Additional Ways,” p. 341)

Resources/Bring

"Long-Term vs. Short-Term Rehearsal Strategies," CP54 (p. 249-252)
"The Rehearsal Toolkit," Feldman Appendix (p. 575–627)

September 24 (H)	Topics: Structuring the rehearsal; Misconceptions about learning; The testing effect; Interleaved practice; Verbal praise Conducting: The Gesture of Syncopation; Showing the rhythm Read/Post "Rehearsals," Feldman ch. 15 (p. 305 "Lesson Planning" up to the end of p. 322) Resources/Bring "The Relationship Between Motivation, Assessment, and Planning," CP55 (p.253-254) "GOS," OWL Resources (In the M3841a Course Pack)
September 28 (M)	Test 1 Starts! Other: <i>Test 2 Guidelines</i>
October 1 (H)	Topics: Motivation; Warm-ups; Remediating common performance deficiencies Transposition Quiz No. 2 (First 5 minutes of class) Read/Post "Motivation and the Likeability factor," CP30 (p. 128-129) "An Introduction to Sound-to-Symbol," Feldman ch. 1 (p. 41 "Modeling" up to "On Adopting," p. 43) Resources/Bring "Ideas for Avoiding the Warm-up Rut," CP40 (p. 152-155) "Most Common Performance Issues," CP7 (p. 35-36) "Focus on Fundamentals—Where to Start," CP53 (p. 245-248)
October 5 (M)	Test 1 Continues!
October 8 (H)	Test 1 Continues!
<u>October 12-16</u>	<u>Fall Break/No Classes</u>
October 19 (M)	Test 2 Starts! Other: <i>Test 3 Guidelines</i>
October 22 (H)	Topics: Introduce a piece using Sound-to-Symbol; Improvisation Other: <i>SB Conducting Test Choice Forms</i> Transposition Quiz No. 3 (First 5 minutes of class) Read/Post "Teaching Improvisation and Composition," Feldman ch. 4 (p. 87 up to "Teaching Tonality and Meter in Improvisation," p. 94) Resources/Bring "Sound-to-Symbol in the Beginning Instrumental Classroom," Feldman, ch. 18

October 23-24th = Western/OBA Intermediate Honour Band!
Volunteers needed.

<https://www.onband.ca/western-oba-intermediate>

October 26 (M) **Test 2 Continues!**

October 29 (H) Topics: Teaching Tonality; Harmonic patterns
Other: *SB Conducting Test Choice Form DUE*

Read/Post

“Teaching Improvisation and Composition,” Feldman ch. 4 (p. 93
“Teaching Tonality and Meter in Improvisation,” up to “Teaching
Composition,” p. 99)

Resources/Bring

Jim Karas, “Handout,” CP62 (p. 275-280)

November 2 (M) **Test 3a Starts!**

November 5 (H) Topics: Teaching rhythm patterns; Flash cards; Reinforcing note-names
Other: *SB Conducting Test Guidelines*

Read/Post

“Teaching Rhythm Words,” Feldman ch. 2 (p. 61 up to “Technique 1:
David Newell’s Musical Algebra” p. 70)

November 9 (M) **Test 3a Continues!**

November 12 (H) Topics: Balance; Teaching students how to emote

Resources/Bring

“Balance Paradigms,” CP60 (p. 269-272)
“Some Ideas About Interpretation,” CP18 (p. 83-86)
“Stages of Development to Becoming an Expressive Musician,”
CP19 (p. 87-90)

November 16 (M) **Test 3b Starts!**

November 19 (H) Topics: Context- and content-based creativity

Read/Post

“Teaching Improvisation and Composition,” Feldman ch. 4 (p. 99
“Teaching Composition” to the end of the chapter)

Resources/Bring

“Agrell Melody Games,” CP 41
“The Creative Band and Orchestra,” CP 12
“Colgrass’ Graphic Notation,” CP 44a
“Developing Musicianship Through Improvisation,” CP45 (p. 195-218)

- November 23 (M) **Test 3b Continues!**
- November 26 (H) Topics: What to teach–Curriculum; Assessment
- Read/Post
 “Curriculum, Assessment, and Grading,” Feldman ch. 8 (p. 175 “What to Teach” up to “Using Rubrics,” p. 186)
- Resources/Bring
 “Concert Band-Course Outline,” CP13 (p. 48-59)
 “Central’s Grade 11 and Grade 9 Course,” CP16a
 “HB Beal Samples,” CP17
- November 30 (M) Topics: Adjusting scores to fit your band; Transcriptions; Festival participation; Teaching towards appreciation; Repertoire selection mistakes
 Conducting: Symphonic Band Conducting Test challenges/questions
- Read/Post
 “Repertoire,” Feldman ch. 10 (p. 222 “Study Sheets,” up to “Programming Music for Contests and Festivals,” p. 233)
- Bring
 Your SB Conducting Test Score with phrasing/cues marked
 **No Instruments needed today!*
- December 3 (H) No class (replaced by the conducting test). Extra help sessions available.
- December 7 (M) Topics: Recruitment; Budgeting; Professional growth
 Conducting: *Sing/conduct your Symphonic Band pieces in small groups*
- Resources/Bring
 “Planning for Professional Growth,” CP47
 “Budgeting for your Band Program,” CP61 (p. 273-274)
 “High School Needs Assessment,” CP32 (p. 134-140)
 “Projected School-Owned-Instrument Needs,” CP36 (p. 141-148)
 **No Instruments needed today!*

<i>December 8 (Tuesday) *Conducting Test with SB (Between 3:30-5:20)</i>
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M9570a Advanced Conducting 2026-2027

First Term folders ready by September 4, 2026

Scores on reserve in the library by this same date.

Music Return Date: December 14, 2026

Rehearsal Resources	MBD #:
Best in Class Book 1 – Pearson	MWP35
Basic Training Concert Time Folio – John Kinyon	MBC15

Test 1	MBD#
1. Brother James' Air – Wagner (2:29)	3154
2. March Zuma – O'Reilly (2:11)	3300
3. An Irish Air – Sheldon (2:30)	3299
4. The Expert March – VanderCook/Grauer (2:33)	3295
5. Crystal Moon – Clark (2:40)	3153
6. Argosy – Smith (2:51)	3293
7. Black Bear – Sigurdson/Kristofferson (2:13)	3309

Test 2	MBD#
1. Celtic Air and Dance No. 3 – Sweeney (3:14)	3337
2. Epic Venture – Grant (2:28)	3332
3. Ancient Fires – Carol Brittin Chambers (2:12)	3326
4. The Coastline Express – Alan Lee Silva (2:19)	3359
5. Dark Adventure – Ford (3:23)	3186
6. The Burning of the Royal Fortune – Meeboer (3:28)	3181
7. Escape – Adrian Sims (1:47)	3334

Test 3a and 3b (meet to discuss rehearsal sections/strategies)	MBD#
1. The Conquest – Meeboer (3:30)	3373
2. Saga – Christina Huss (3:37)	3331
3. Chant and Ceremony – Williams (3:17)	3296
4. Cloud Dancing – Clark (3:00)	3294
5. One Night in Athens – Bobrowitz (2:22)	3155
6. Procession of the Sardar – Ivanov/Williams (3:27)	3143
7. Loki: the Evil Trickster of Asgard – Kaisershot (4:00)	3105

M4841a Conducting Test ... with Symphonic Band on Tuesday, December 8th.

These scores should be on reserve, but these parts will not be in the folders.

SB Conducting Test Repertoire	MBD#
Kentucky 1800 – Grundman (4:20)	186/3151
Creed – Himes (4:28)	2284
Prairie Songs – La Plante (4:58)	2205