



Orchestra Attendance, Grading, Dress Code and Placement

Professor James Smith, Director of Orchestras

Office: Room 4418 Mosse Humanities Bldg. (263-6346); jrsmith6@wisc.edu

UW Symphony Orchestra

660-062 (Undergraduate)

660-570 (Graduate)

Tuesdays: 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. (Mills Hall)

Thursdays: 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. (Mills Hall)

UW Chamber Orchestra

660-061 (Undergraduate)

660-571 (Graduate)

Mondays: 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. (Mills Hall)

Wednesdays: 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. (Mills Hall)

Grading will be based on the following three areas:

1. Attendance: In order to nurture professional responsibilities and expectations, and to maintain quality standards within the UW orchestra program, attendance and punctuality is required at all scheduled rehearsals and performances. Attendance will be recorded at every rehearsal and performance.

Students are asked to notify the UW Orchestra office (Cheryl Olson; ctolson@wisc.edu, 263-1891) if an absence is the result of illness or an emergency. Students must also submit a written explanation to the conductor (jrsmith6@wisc.edu) stating the date of the absence and the circumstances in order for Prof. Smith to consider the absence as an excused absence. The student will be notified if the absence is not excused.

One unexcused absence will result in a warning from the Director of Orchestras.

Two unexcused absences will lower the semester grade by one full letter grade.

Three unexcused absences will result in a grade of F and dismissal from the orchestra.

(For those students who perform in an orchestra for no credit, two unexcused absences will result in immediate dismissal from the organization.)

Unexcused tardiness occurring more than three times will lower the semester grade by one full letter grade.

Please check the current orchestra schedule with your personal calendar immediately. Extra rehearsals may have been added, in addition to those listed above! Orchestra rehearsals are scheduled classes, therefore conflicting classes, review sessions, exams, lessons, recitals, etc. should not be scheduled at the same time. If you have unavoidable conflicts (academic, professional, or personal), please make an appointment by email to discuss the situation with Prof. Smith as soon as possible in order to find a compromise that will satisfy your responsibility and protect the integrity of the orchestra. (jrsmith6@wisc.edu)

2. Individual technical and musical preparation of the scheduled orchestra repertoire, and the degree of improvement demonstrated throughout the semester. The conductor reserves the right to request a private hearing with any student throughout the semester in order to evaluate the student's preparation of the repertoire being studied and performed.

3. A professional attitude in rehearsal and performance is expected of each member of the orchestra. Any music not returned to the orchestra librarian after the concert, or not returned on time will be replaced at the student's expense. Some of the music is rented and needs to be returned in good condition immediately after the concert. Please make minimal markings on music. Music can be picked up in the Orchestra library, Room 1311 Humanities Bldg. during designated times posted by the librarians. (over)

Librarians are assigned to each orchestra to assist with music distribution in Room 1311. Please watch for announcements on the Orchestra bulletin board outside Room 1322 (and email) throughout the semester.

Dress Code: Proper concert attire is mandatory.

Females: Black dress (with sleeves) must be mid-calf or longer. Black dress pants or skirts with black blouses are also acceptable. Black hosiery and black dress shoes (no sandals or tennis shoes) are required. Sleeveless or sequined dresses are unacceptable.

Males: Tuxedo OR black or dark navy suit with white dress shirt, black bow tie, black socks and black dress shoes (no sandals or tennis shoes) are required. Concerts before 6:00: dark navy or black suit and a white shirt with long, conservative tie is acceptable.

Audition and Placement in the UW Orchestras: Results will be posted outside Room 1322. Acceptance is based on the level of performance and the overall potential demonstrated in the audition.

1. Music majors who play a string instrument and are required to perform in an orchestra as a part of their degree program are expected to be available for placement in either the Symphony Orchestra or the Chamber Orchestra. After auditions they will be assigned to an orchestra. The orchestras must be balanced appropriately in instrumentation and ability, and assignment decisions are made by the Director of Orchestras and the appropriate studio teachers following the audition process. Students may indicate a preference at the time of the audition, but placement in a specific orchestra is not guaranteed.

Class conflicts for music majors will be considered only if that specific course is required for graduation, must be taken that semester, and is not offered at an alternate time that does not conflict with orchestra rehearsals. If the course will be offered again prior to the student's expected degree completion, or if any other course can be used to satisfy the degree requirement, the student is expected to enroll in an alternate section or course to eliminate the conflict with orchestra. All class conflicts cited by undergraduate music majors will be referred to the undergraduate music advisor for verification of their accuracy and legitimacy. Shifting between orchestras for the spring semester is handled by the Director of Orchestras based on vacancies created by graduation and other circumstances.

2. Students who are not music majors should consult their class schedule carefully before auditioning for the committee. Students may indicate an orchestra preference at the time of the audition. Please be aware that the string section of the Symphony Orchestra is much larger than that of the Chamber Orchestra and historically has the greater number of non-majors performing in the string sections.

The faculty and orchestra conductor will assign students to the Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and All-University String Orchestra after considering the individual auditions, balances, personnel requirements for each organization., The student's orchestra preference will be taken into consideration, if possible. (Students may register for All-University String Orchestra without an audition.)

The UW orchestras may use rotating seating throughout the semester. The conductor reserves the right to assign individual parts for the woodwinds, brass, and percussion, and may make any changes in the string principal or section assignments when necessary.

- July 2009

To schedule an audition or ask questions, contact Cheryl Olson, Program Coordinator; ctolson@wisc.edu
(608) 263-1891; UW-Madison School of Music Orchestra Office
Room 4511 Mosse Humanities Bldg, 455 N. Park Street, Madison, WI 53706
More details available at www.music.wisc.edu; UW Music Concert Line: (608) 263-9485