

Course Content Document

C. Orchestra.

Orchestra is an informal and fun playing group which is led by a conductor (Instructor) and co-instructors, who provide the music copy for the pieces which have been pre-selected. The members are periodically polled to create a list of suggested pieces, a program committee melds the selected pieces into programs for each semester, usually leading to a performance concert each semester. We aim to play from original composer's score rather than adaptations or edited editions. Programs may contain a variety of pieces and generally have an interesting theme, and give opportunity to play a wide group of music styles, composers. The experience of going from the first sight reading through personal practice and steadily improving rehearsals to the high quality outcome is a great personal satisfaction.

The Orchestra is a full orchestra and is organized as sections - Strings, Winds, Brass, and Percussion. Soloists will be incorporated when needed. Solo parts will be included for specific music. The orchestra may join with vocal or other groups in combined performances as needed.

Rehearsals are weekly meetings of the class. Pieces are broken down into manageable parts and the group works on learning the various parts. Each person will get the chance to hear their part and their section in the overall ensemble of each piece. Instruction from the experienced personnel is in tempos, the specific music notations, playing style, phrasing, intonation, entrances, exits, hearing the entrances and parts of the other sections. Basic playing technique for each specific instrument is not given in this class. The intended content of the next class is announced to allow all to practice and come well prepared to play their part.

Performances are the opportunity for each player to improve and polish their part and add to the ensemble, for the overall group to achieve a improved group effort. Some pieces are played just for the fun of working on them and are developmental, or just for fun!

9/25/2021 R. Wellons.