

Course Content Document

C. String Ensemble.

String Ensemble 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, and these are worked into programs for each semester, usually leading towards a performance concert each semester.

The String Ensemble is a small string orchestra and is organized as four or five string parts with separate parts for violin 1, violin 2, viola, cello, and bass.

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 each specific instrument is not given in this class. The intended content of the next class is given out to allow all to practice and come 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.

5/10/2021 R. Wellons.