



## WIND ENSEMBLE: MUS 179B/379B/679

Fall 2018 Syllabus  
www.csun.edu/~stoffel/we

Tu/Th 1:00–3:40 PM + weekly sectional  
Cypress Hall 159  
2 Units

### Dr. Lawrence Stoffel

stoffel@csun.edu  
(818) 677-3160  
Cypress Hall 210

### Office Hours:

Tuesdays, 11:00 AM–12:30 PM  
Wednesdays, 2:00–3:00 PM  
and by appointment

*"In-person is better than E-mail or telephone,  
and drop-in's are always welcomed when the door is open!"*

### Graduate Conductor:

Ryan Gonzales  
ryan.gonzales@lausd.net

### Band Clerk:

Alice Park  
alice.park.953@my.csun.edu

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A select concert band, modeled on Frederick Fennell's Eastman Wind Ensemble concept, designed for high-level, artistic, public performances of major literature for winds and percussion, accomplished through the development and refinement of high-level ensemble skills. As a member of this Wind Ensemble, you are contributing to the three-hundred year legacy of concert band music in the western world. Sensitivity to outstanding musicianship, historical styles, and appropriate performance practices is required. In addition to the highest expectations as an instrumentalist, your ability to apply intellect and spirit in meaningful ways during rehearsals and concerts is also demanded. Skills developed in the Wind Ensemble transfer to all other ensemble types. Membership in the Wind Ensemble is open to any student who qualifies through audition.

Ultimately, the goal of the course is the pursuit of the timeless TRANSCENDENTALS that have defined being human since Antiquity, as well as being the primary purpose of higher education: The CSUN Wind Ensemble exists for the pursuit of TRUTH, GOODNESS, and BEAUTY.

## PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

**Note Well:** Clear all performance dates which conflict with other classes with your instructors by the end of the semester's first week (August 31st) per the university's "Policy on Missed Classes Due to Participation in University-Approved Activities."

Concert Performance (on campus) **Thursday, October 11, 2018, CSUN Concert Band Fall Festival**  
Soraya (formerly VPAC)  
dress rehearsal 1:00–3:40 PM; call-time 7:00 PM; curtain 7:30 PM  
formal black attire

Concert Performance (on campus) **Tuesday, November 27, 2018**  
Soraya (formerly VPAC)  
dress rehearsal 1:00–3:40 PM; call-time 7:00 PM; curtain 7:30 PM  
formal black attire

Concert Performance (on campus) **Tuesday, December 4, 2018, CSUN Music Department Holiday Concert**  
Soraya (formerly VPAC)  
dress rehearsal TBA; call-time TBA; curtain 7:30 PM  
formal black attire

Concert Performance (off campus) **Saturday, December 8, 2018**  
California State Prison; reserve the entire date  
formal black attire

You are also encouraged to attend these special concerts given by your fellow student musicians:

Concert Attendance Tuesday, October 23rd, 7:30 pm, Jazz A Band, Soraya (formerly VPAC)  
Concert Attendance Friday, November 9th, 7:30 pm, CSUN Wind Symphony, PDS

All musicians performing with the Wind Ensemble must complete a CSUN "Audio/Visual Image Release Form."

## CONCERT ATTIRE

All performances are presented in either formal or semi-formal concert attire. We adhere to the common and expected professional norms of concert attire. The appearance of any concert attire should be professional in appearance and of quality tailoring. Concert attire must be worn well-pressed and well-fitted. Attire which is faded, unkempt, or slovenly is never acceptable.

- “Formal Black”** Women: Formal **all-black** dress (full length **to the ankle** *while seated*, covered shoulders, and covered back), or...  
 ...black, long sleeved blouse with long skirt or dress pants (black dress jacket also acceptable)  
 Black or nude hosiery and black dress shoes
- Men: Tuxedo (black jacket & pants, white shirt, black bow tie); black socks, black dress shoes
- “Semi-Formal”** Women:
- black or dark skirt (“over the knee” *while seated*) or dress pants
  - solid color blouse (shoulders and back must be covered); no midriff
  - dress shoes/sandals.
- Men:
- “coat and tie”
  - dress pants/slacks
  - button dress shirt
  - long tie
  - blazer or suit jacket
  - dress shoes and socks

Not acceptable: sweaters, T-shirts, spandex, leggings, jeans, sweatpants, open-toed shoes/sandals

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## REHEARSALS

Successful rehearsals demand both individual preparedness and a conducive spirit. Therefore, mere attendance at all rehearsals is not sufficient for successful completion of this course. Having been selected as the finest wind and percussion instrumentalists at CSUN, each student in the Wind Ensemble is expected to participate in all rehearsals at a level which demonstrates individual preparedness (properly warmed-up prior to rehearsal, music prepared during personal practice time, etc.) and with a motivation which is indicative of collegiate-level inquisitiveness and ambition.

Typical Preparation Schedule (but may be adjusted according to needs of the concert schedule):

- by the **SECOND** rehearsal of each concert cycle, it is expected that each individual musician has attained **COMPETENCY** on their own parts
- by the **FOURTH** rehearsal of each concert cycle, it is expected that each individual musician has **COMMAND** of the music on their own parts (able to demonstrate musicality on all music)
- by the **SIXTH** rehearsal of each concert cycle, it is expected that each individual musician has attained **ARTISTRY** on their own parts

As per Music Department policy, students must supply their own music stands for all rehearsals and for practice sessions.

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## SECTIONALS

A weekly sectional experience will ensure a more productive full-band rehearsal experience. All sections of the Wind Ensemble will meet 1 hour per week outside of rehearsal time for sectional practice. The sectional is a cooperative endeavor, but responsibility for running the sectional in a manner that results in musical progress and success is given to the assigned leader in each section. Each section shall determine the best hour of the week to accommodate each member's weekly academic schedule. The same attendance policy is in effect for sectionals as is for rehearsals.

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## SHEET MUSIC

All members of the Wind Ensemble will be assigned their own music folder and set of parts. You are responsible for the care and return of these items. Music problems (extra parts, photocopy of a page due to an awkward page turn, missing page, etc.) are your responsibility and should be taken care prior to a rehearsal. A pencil must be had at every rehearsal.

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## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required at each rehearsal and sectional. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each rehearsal, and by the section Principal at each sectional. As per longstanding Music Department practice: "Attendance at all rehearsals is required. Any absence is unacceptable. In consultation with the faculty of the applied area, conductors have the option of considering requests to be excused from a rehearsal due to exceptional circumstances." Requests must be presented well in advance of the rehearsal:

- Requests for being excused from a rehearsal or sectional are decided by Dr. Stoffel. Excused absence requests must be *in writing via E-mail*, and in advance. Typically (but *not* automatically) an absence will be excused under these strict limitations: illness requiring a doctor's visit, funeral within immediate family, religious observance, or significant pre-professional opportunities (such as a career interview or audition within your major). However, assume that your request for being excused from a rehearsal will *not* be approved; after all, you enrolled in Wind Ensemble to be an *active* member of the Wind Ensemble.
- If you are tardy to a rehearsal, speak to Dr. Stoffel at an appropriate time *immediately after rehearsal* to ensure that your attendance is properly recorded.
- As a pre-professional musician, you are encouraged to seek outside musical opportunities to augment and enhance your professional prospects upon graduation. These opportunities might include being hired to teach lessons at a local school, perform in a drum corps or winter guard, play pick-up gigs with local bands or musical theater companies, etc. However, as a music major at CSUN your primary professional responsibility is as a student. As per the CSUN Music Department policy, you will not be excused from a Wind Ensemble rehearsal or performance due to outside work. Re-schedule or decline outside opportunities whenever they conflict with Wind Ensemble activities.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As public performances are the primary product of the Wind Ensemble, the development of professional-level ensemble performance skills is the primary learning objective in this course. While there are a host of other skills and concepts that you will develop, discover, and learn this semester, there are four principal learning objectives in this course:

### Performance Skills

Students will...

- attain mastery of individual parts
- perform music with others with excellent technical skill (matching tone, pitch, blend, etc.)
- perform music with others with excellent expressive skill (style, phrasing, artistry, etc.)

### Ensemble Skills

Students will...

- develop a personal code of conduct in which they dedicate themselves to the others in the Wind Ensemble (such as being musically prepared for each sectional and rehearsal, reliance on yourself to complete assigned tasks, etc.)
- develop a work ethic which enables them to contribute to the betterment of the Wind Ensemble in each sectional and rehearsal
- develop a demeanor which enhances the productivity and musicality of every rehearsal and sectional (such as avoiding personal conversations during rehearsals, turning off cell phones, removing hats during rehearsals, etc.)

### Managerial Skills

Students will...

- develop personal planning skills to successfully complete the many and varied daily tasks required of a professional musician

### Professionalism Skills

Students will...

- complete administrative duties in a timely fashion (such as returning music, enrolling in course, completing personnel tasks assigned, etc.)
- demonstrate professional conduct while on tour, in performance venues, and rehearsals
- perform in appropriate concert attire
- demonstrate timeliness in regards to start-times at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances

### CSUN Department of Music "Student Learning Outcomes" in Wind Ensemble:

- perform standard repertoire appropriate to their performance area as members of ensembles.
- demonstrate a working knowledge of music history within their area of specialization and an acquaintance with the history, cultural background and repertoires beyond that area, including a wide selection of Western and world music literature.
- develop pedagogical skills fundamental to their area of specialization for application across a variety of music and music-related professions.
- demonstrate professional competence in the execution of business processes and practices commonly employed within their area of specialization.

## ASSESSMENT & GRADING

### Assessment

The very nature of an ensemble class makes each student in the Wind Ensemble dependent upon all of the other students in the band. Your potential to grow and develop as a musician in Wind Ensemble is directly and decidedly affected by the level of musicianship brought by your fellow classmates to each rehearsal. This phenomenon also means that your level of musicianship directly affects everyone else's learning potential, as well. What a fantastic sense of accountability this places on each student! You have the power to assist (or hamper) everyone's learning in the class. If you arrive at rehearsal well-prepared on your parts, expressive in your musicianship, alert and attentive to responsive playing, and productive in creating a real musical product, then everyone in the rehearsal that day will likewise grow as musicians. If, however, you arrive at rehearsal ill-prepared, or lacking in expressiveness, or distracted, or just "playing notes," then everyone in rehearsal is stifled equally so.

Each and every rehearsal serves as an opportunity for assessment of the stated learning objectives; each rehearsal is an opportunity for each student to demonstrate command of these skills:

- Professional, Managerial, and Ensemble skills are assessed from the start of the semester (that is, your audition day);
- Performance Skills are formally assessed beginning with the fourth rehearsal of each concert cycle, when it is expected that each individual musician has COMMAND of the music on their own parts (able to demonstrate musicality on all music). Each student is automatically, fully, and continuously assessed throughout each and every rehearsal. Each student can expect to be asked to perform their part in the context of full band, small section or groupings, and individual playing. (Students who are not adequately prepared on their parts to the expected level may be required to pass a playing test before being allowed to continue in regular rehearsals.)

### Grading

Each student in the Wind Ensemble will earn a grade reflecting the individual's productive participation in rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts. It is expected that all students should earn a grade of "A" for the semester. A student who is prepared, productive, and active at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances will earn a grade of "A," indicating "excellent" collegiate-level accomplishment. Your course grade will be determined by a point system which indicates your level of success in meeting the above learning objectives. The higher the accumulative points, the lower the grade earned:

<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Final Grade</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Final Grade</u>
3	A-	12	C
6	B+	13	C-
8	B	14	D
10	B-	≥ 15	F
11	C+		

- Poor attendance negatively affects your course grade:

Missed rehearsal (no sub provided)	= 3 points
Missed rehearsal (sub provided)	= 2 points
Second absence	= 5 points
Third absence	= Failing grade
Missed dress rehearsal	= 6 points
Absence from rehearsal week prior to concert	= 5 points
Tardy to rehearsal	= 1-2 points

- Poor performance, ensemble, managerial, or professionalism skills negatively affect your course grade:

Each incident = ½-8 points (depending on severity of infraction)

Some examples might be: cell phone out during a rehearsal; causing a distraction in rehearsal due to personal conversation; not returning music on time; not having your part learned after 4<sup>th</sup> rehearsal; missing the audition dates.

- An absence from a performance will result in a grade of "F" for the course.
- Dr. Stoffel will formally communicate with any student who has fallen below "A"-level participation.