

WIND ENSEMBLE — MUS 179B / 379B / 679 Syllabus

Tu/Th, 1:00–3:40 PM

Synchronous Class Meetings via Zoom

Class website: www.csun.edu/~stoffel/we

Fall 2020

2 Units

Dr. Lawrence Stoffel

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Phone: (818) 677-3160

Band Clerk:

T.B.A.

Office Hours: by appointment

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

Due to the COVID-19 circumstances that we face this semester, performances by the CSUN Wind Ensemble will follow established protocols which will likely preclude any live performances. However, we will still be offering performances to the public, as this is the primary objective of both the CSUN Concert Bands! Our most likely performance medium will be virtual performances shared online through social media and online video-sharing platforms.

There is a remote possibility that the CSUN Wind Ensemble may receive administrative approval to meet on campus weekly rehearsals under strict safety protocols. Students who are not comfortable or able to come to campus for rehearsals may still participate in Wind Ensemble through virtual/remote rehearsals. No student will be “required” to come to campus.

Possible Livestream Performance Event from The Soraya:

Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, November 19, 2020, 1:00 PM (tentative)

Concert: Tuesday, November 24, 2020, 1:00 PM (tentative)

Per university policy, all musicians performing in the Wind Ensemble must complete a CSUN “Audio/Visual Image Release Form.”

CONCERT ATTIRE

Concert attire will reflect the formality and aesthetic of any given performance. A more formal performance may call for “formal black” attire. A more non-traditional performance format may call for less formal attire. Once the plans for our performances this semester are finalized, appropriate concert attire will be determined.



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 among all the 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 sufficiently prepared during personal practice time, etc.) and with a motivation which is indicative of collegiate-level inquisitiveness and ambition.

SHEET MUSIC

All members of the Wind Ensemble will be assigned their own 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.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- 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."
- Therefore it is the policy for the CSUN concert bands that in the rare case of an absence from rehearsal, the student shall: (1) secure a sub in his or her place for the rehearsal, and (2) notify Dr. Stoffel in advance of the absence. The subbing musician must possess the musical ability equal or greater to the absent student. The absent student shall provide the sub with music and all other information necessary for the sub to contribute to the rehearsal's productivity.
- 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.

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

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.)
- develop strong sight-reading skill

Ensemble Skills (Working as a Group or Team)

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
- prioritize 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:

1. perform standard repertoire appropriate to their performance area as members of ensembles.
2. 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.
3. develop pedagogical skills fundamental to their area of specialization for application across a variety of music and music-related professions.
4. demonstrate professional competence in the execution of business processes and practices commonly employed within their area of specialization.

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 very start of the semester;
- Performance Skills are formally assessed at every rehearsal. 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 prepared on their parts to the levels described in the “Preparation Schedule” may be required to pass a playing test before being allowed to continue in regular rehearsals.)

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<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+		

Point Assessment

- Poor attendance negatively affects your course grade:

Missed rehearsal (no sub provided)	= 3 points
Missed rehearsal (sub provided)	= 2 point
Recurring missed rehearsals	= 3–5 points
Missed dress rehearsal	= 8 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 rings in rehearsal (1 pt.); having a personal conversation during rehearsal (1 pt.); not returning music on time (1 pt.); not having your part learned after 5th rehearsal (3 pts.); not having your part learned after 8th rehearsal (5 pts.); missing audition dates (4 pts.); not attending required concert (3 pts.).

- 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.

Disability Resources and Educational Services

If you have a disability and need accommodations, please register with the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) office or the National Center on Deafness (NCOD). The DRES office is providing virtual services until further notice and can be reached by phone at (818) 677-2684. NCOD is providing virtual services until further notice and can be reached by phone at (818) 677-2054 and by Zoom ID: 818 677 2054. If you would like to discuss your need for accommodations, please also contact me to arrange an appointment.