

**WIND SYMPHONY: MUS 179A/379A/679**  
**Fall 2023 Syllabus**  
[www.csun.edu/~stoffel/ws](http://www.csun.edu/~stoffel/ws)

**M/W 3:30–4:50 PM + weekly sectional**  
**Cypress Hall 159**  
**1 Unit**

**Dr. Lawrence Stoffel**  
stoffel@csun.edu  
(818) 677-3160  
Cypress Hall 210

**Office Hours:**  
Mondays & Wednesdays, 1:30–3:00 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 Assistant:**  
Skye Solorio  
skyesolorio@gmail.com

**Band Librarian:**  
T.B.A.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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A select concert band designed for in-depth study and public performance of major literature for concert band accomplished through the development and refinement of advanced-level ensemble skills. The Wind Symphony performs literature deemed of the highest quality from the repertory of both traditional and contemporary compositional styles. As a student-member, you will develop a deeper sensitivity not only toward outstanding musicianship, but with regard to historical style, performance practices, and aesthetics. Particular emphasis on pedagogy is placed in rehearsals making this a valuable learning experience for performance and education majors alike. In addition to high 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 Symphony transfer to all other ensemble types. Membership in the Wind Symphony 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 Symphony exists for the pursuit of TRUTH, GOODNESS, and BEAUTY through the concert band medium.

## PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

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**Note Well:** Clear all performance dates which conflict with other classes with your instructors by the end of the semester's first week (Friday, September 1st) per the university's "Policy on Missed Classes Due to Participation in University-Approved Activities."

**Concert Performance**     **Wednesday, September 27, 2023**  
off campus     outreach concert @ Huntington Park High School; transportation provided  
call-time 3:30 PM; return-time 10:00 PM (estimated)  
semi-formal attire

**Concert Performance**     **Tuesday, October 10, 2023**  
on campus     65th Anniversary Showcase with the CSUN Wind Ensemble @ The Soraya  
dress rehearsal 3:30–6:00 pm; call-time 7:00 pm; curtain 7:30 pm  
formal attire

**Concert Performance**     **Saturday, November 18, 2023**  
on campus     65th Anniversary Showcase with **The Pacific Brass** @ Plaza del Sol  
dress rehearsal 11:00 AM–1:00 PM; call-time 2:00 PM; curtain 2:30 PM  
formal attire

### In-House Visits

We occasionally have school groups come to our rehearsals. These dates are announced in advance. Concert attire for these events typically is "collegiate wear" (see concert attire section in this syllabus).

**You are also counted upon to attend this concert given by your fellow band musicians:**

Concert Attendance     Saturday, December 9, 2023, 2:30 PM, CSUN Wind Ensemble, Plaza del Sol

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

## CONCERT ATTIRE

All performances are presented with a uniformity of concert attire. We adhere to the common and expected professional norms of concert attire, specifically using the concert attire protocols of the LA Philharmonic and LA Chamber Orchestra as our exemplars. 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. Remember that concert attire is intended to enhance the audience members' aesthetic experience. Choose clothing with that primary goal in mind!

- “FORMAL BLACK”**
- Option A:** black tuxedo; white shirt; black bow tie; black dress shoes; black socks.
- Option B:** long-sleeved floor-length black dress (slits no higher than the knee when sitting); dresses are to have tasteful neckline (front and back); black or nude hosiery; closed-toe black dress shoes; (may include optional black dress jacket)
- Option C:** black blouse; blouses are to have tasteful neckline (front and back); long-sleeved floor-length black skirt or black dress pants; black or nude hosiery; closed-toe black dress shoes; (may include optional black dress jacket)
- “SEMI-FORMAL”**
- Option 1:**
- dress pants/slacks (any color)
  - button dress shirt (any color or simple pattern)
  - long tie, or bow tie (solid or pattern)
  - blazer or suit jacket (any color)
  - dress shoes and socks
- Option 2:**
- blouse (any color or simple pattern), shoulders and back must be covered; no midriff
  - skirt (any color), "over the knee" while seated; or dress pants
  - dress shoes/sandals.

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

- “COLLEGIATE WEAR”**
- CSUN Shirt; or plain red & black shirt
  - pants (jeans acceptable as long as not torn/ripped)
  - everyday footwear

Any student with questions or concerns concert attire requirements for this course should see the conductor immediately to ensure that all students' concert attire blend seamlessly.

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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 among all the wind and percussion instrumentalists at CSUN, each student in the Wind Symphony 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.

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

- by the **THIRD** rehearsal of each concert cycle, it is expected that each individual musician has attained **COMPETENCY** on their own parts
- by the **FIFTH** 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 **EIGHTH** rehearsal of each concert cycle, it is expected that each individual musician has attained **ARTISTRY** on their own parts

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## SECTIONALS

A weekly sectional experience will ensure a more productive full-band rehearsal experience. All sections of the Wind Symphony will meet each week outside of rehearsal time for sectional practice; typically the sectional should last for 1 hour. 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 principal musician 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.

## **SHEET MUSIC**

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All members of the Wind Symphony 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.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

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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 Music Department policy, attendance at all rehearsals is required: "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:

- If you are tardy to a rehearsal, speak to Dr. Stoffel at an appropriate time after rehearsal to ensure that your attendance is properly recorded.
- Requests for being excused from a rehearsal or sectional are decided by Dr. Stoffel. Excused absence requests must be in writing, by 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 Symphony to be an active member of the Wind Symphony.
- 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 never be excused from a Wind Symphony rehearsal or performance due to outside work. Do reschedule or decline outside opportunities whenever they conflict with Wind Symphony activities.
- Our **rehearsals are under a "No Cell Phones" policy.**

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

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As public performances are the primary product of the Wind Symphony, 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 Symphony (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 Symphony 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 Symphony:

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 Symphony dependent upon all of the other students in the band. Your potential to grow and develop as a musician in Wind Symphony 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.)

### Grading

Each student in the Wind Symphony 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>
4	A-	14	C
7	B+	15	C-
9	B	16	D
10	B-	≥17	F
13	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 (2 pt.); having a personal conversation during rehearsal (1 pt.); not returning music on time (1 pt.); not having your part learned after 5<sup>th</sup> rehearsal (3 pts.); not having your part learned after 8<sup>th</sup> 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.