CSUN Symphony Orchestra
Fall 2014 and Spring 2015  Monday and Wednesday, 12:30-3:10 p.m.

Conductor:  Dr. John Roscigno  Office:  CY 212
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Course Objective

The objective of the course is to introduce students to the standard orchestral repertoire and 20th century repertoire through practice and performance and to help prepare students for auditioning and performing in the professional world.

Preparation

- Listen to a few different recordings of each work to become familiar with style, character and overall scope of the composition. Many recordings are available online and at the Oviat Library on campus. Before the first rehearsal it is your obligation as someone who is preparing for a career as a professional musician to mark your parts clearly including key changes, tempo changes, dynamics and foreign translations.

- Do not spend a lot of time practicing or playing through easy passages. It is to your advantage to go right to the most difficult passages and to work out technical and musical problems prior to rehearsal. Rehearsal is not the time to practice. Rehearsal is the time to learn everyone else’s part. Please pay very close attention to tone quality and intonation. ALWAYS practice with a metronome and tuner by your side.

Grading / Evaluation

The students’s grade will be based on attendance, attitude and preparation. The student is expected to demonstrate professionalism in all rehearsals and performance situations and is expected to be prepared at each rehearsal. Repertoire will always be posted on the orchestra bulletin board or e-mailed prior to the rehearsal. Students should have music, music stand and a pencil at each rehearsal.

Attendance

Missing a dress rehearsal or performance as a professional will amount to you not receiving a paycheck and perhaps never being called back again. Therefore missing a dress rehearsal or performance in your university orchestra will result in a failing grade. Treat your college ensemble experience as a prelude to your professional work. You would never walk up to a professional conductor and ask for a day off to go play a gig somewhere. Don’t do it to your university conductor. Repeating: Gigs are not an acceptable excusal for missing rehearsals, however in some cases a single absence may be granted for a performance with a local professional ensembles or top level youth orchestra (such as LA Phil, AYS, Debut).

Sectional Attendance

This year sectionals will be worked into the full orchestra schedule. Sectionals are a required part of the rehearsal cycle. Principal players have been put into leadership roles for a reason. They were the best prepared for auditions and have demonstrated leadership characteristics. It is expected that students will respect those in leadership positions in the ensemble. Sectional leaders will be asked to report back to the conductor on issues both positive and negative within their sections.

Concert Attire

All men are expected to wear black tuxes with black bow tie. Female members of the ensemble may wear a black dress (below knee length when seated) or black pants with black blouse. If there is change to the dress code for touring and run outs, students will be notified within the first two weeks of class. There will also be certain circumstances that a more casual attire will be called for. In this case men will simply wear all black (pants and shirt) and females will wear a solid color of their choice (dress or black pants with solid color blouse).