



# CWRU BANDS

## SYMPHONIC WINDS

### DIRECTOR:

Dr. Ryan Scherber  
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### OFFICE HOURS:

Available by appointment

### TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

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### COURSE PHILOSOPHY:

The CWRU Symphonic Winds strives to be a welcoming ensemble for performers of all abilities. Every effort is made to perform diverse repertoire to advance each individual's musicianship while providing a positive social experience. At times, the Symphonic Winds may be divided into a smaller wind ensemble or chamber group as needed to perform specific repertoire or provide necessary experience for our music majors. Performing ensembles are group endeavors and as such, no performing ensemble can successfully achieve its objectives without complete commitment to excellence from each member. The Case Western Reserve Symphonic Winds (SW) provides the opportunity for all members to enjoy themselves while developing performance skills, musicality, self-discipline, self-confidence, and interpersonal skills. Membership is open to all students by audition for part placement within their instrument section.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE:

This ensemble is open to all interested CWRU and CIM affiliated individuals who seek to continue their musical development by performing quality wind and percussion literature. Each person is required to audition once each school year to determine section placement. Symphonic Winds performs four to six concerts per year and there will be some additional rehearsal or performance time outside of the standard course grid. Care will be taken to keep additional rehearsals at a minimum in order to respect the musician's time.



**COURSE GOALS:**

1. To expose students to a variety of quality repertoire that is representative of various time periods, styles, composer diversity, and historical significance.
2. To reinforce appropriate performance fundamentals of tone, articulation, and intonation as well as musical sensitivity.
3. To enable students to demonstrate/reinforce proper ensemble rehearsal and performance procedures.
4. To enable student to accurately perform a variety of musical styles and forms.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

The student will:

1. Demonstrate continued musical and technical growth through preparation of the assigned ensemble part.
2. Apply knowledge of theoretical, historical, and cultural contexts inclusive of all musical traditions through performance in the ensemble.
3. Display leadership and collaborative demeanor in ensemble contexts.
4. Listen openly and apply personal musical and technical skills to the ensemble part by executing accurate rhythms, articulation, and intonation all with good tone.

**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:**

Our first and foremost goal is to provide a safe environment in which to make music. As such, we will be following all [University](#) and [Department of Music operational guidelines](#). Specialized performance masks, bell covers, and absorbent pads for brass players will be provided to each student.

**EXPECTATIONS:**

The success of the SW is dependent upon the dedication, musical achievement, attendance, and appropriate behavior of all members of the group. Absences and tardiness from rehearsals have a significant effect on the band's ability to move ahead, as do negative or inappropriate behaviors. As such, the following guidelines apply:

1. All CWRU and CIM students are required to be registered for the course.
2. Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances as listed on the SW calendar. When joining the SW, you accept the posted the rehearsal/performance calendar as your personal responsibility.
  - a. SW is a University course. CWRU Policy dictates that a student cannot be "compelled" to miss a University course to attend to the requirements of another class held outside the posted meeting times for said class. Therefore, ANY "required" conflicts with labs, exams, etc. should be brought to the attention of the Director IMMEDIATELY at the start of the semester. The two instructors of record will deal with the conflict.
3. Greek Life: Fraternities and Sororities are forbidden via University Policy to require attendance at mandatory meetings in direct conflict with a scheduled course. Your presence will be expected at all SW events regardless of "required" Greek Life events.
4. Rehearsals are held from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, Monday and Wednesday. Dress rehearsals, soundchecks, and concerts are held as listed in the calendar and **mandatory**.
5. Be prepared for each meeting such that rehearsal may begin on time. This means that you



have your instrument warmed up, music, pencil, and other necessary materials ready to start promptly at 7:00 PM with your music in rehearsal order.

6. It is expected that students will behave in a manner that is respectful to other students, staff, and patrons. All university rules and expectations remain in place during all rehearsals, performances, and events.
7. At pre-scheduled times, CIM applied faculty or other area experts will be asked to provide individual or sectional assistance with musicianship skills. These sessions will be scheduled during course time and are expected to be **highly-productive sessions**. Students will be required to ensure their individual music parts are prepared to the best of their ability as this is not a time to learn notes and rhythms, but rather ensemble skills and expressivity.
8. All members, following auditions, will be added to the official SW communication platform, Google Groups. It is expected all members will remain enrolled in the group and will monitor this resource on a regular basis.
9. All members registered for the course will submit their recorded part assignments in a timely manner each concert cycle.

#### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Music: You will be issued a SW music folder and it is your responsibility not to misplace your music. Save a tree, don't utilize excess copies. CWRU Music folios are the property of the University and misplaced folios will incur a mandatory charge of \$10.00 for replacement.
2. Pencil
3. Instrument and all related accessories.
4. Concert Dress: Formal black: Tuxedos, black suits, black pants/skirts/dresses. White shirts are acceptable. Please plan to dress professionally and not in a way that may distract from the performance.
- 5.

#### **ABSENCE POLICY:**

The nature of a collaborative performance ensemble requires **complete and mandatory** attendance at all rehearsals to ensure thorough preparation as every member is acting as a solo performer for his/her part of the music. It is essential to the success of the ensemble that all members are present for every session. Consequently, every individual is highly valued and is an irreplaceable member of the team. As such, the following attendance policies are in place:

1. Up to two (2) regular rehearsal absences will be considered excused. Permission for an absence does not need to be requested and it is up to the student to keep track of their personal absences. **Attendance will be taken at 7:05 PM at each regular rehearsal.** Arrival after attendance will be considered tardy. Three (3) tardies will equal an unexcused absence. Your attendance may be checked for accuracy at any time with our teaching assistants.
  - a. 0-2 Absences: A
  - b. 3-4 Absences: B
  - c. 5-6 Absences: C
  - d. 7-8 Absences: D
  - e. 9+ Absences (or failure to attend a performance): F
2. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure his or her attendance is recorded accurately



- every performance and rehearsal. Please check with our TA's should you have questions.
3. The student should plan to bank their absences in case of sickness or other extenuating circumstances that which cannot be planned in advance. ALL absences after two will be considered unexcused, regardless of reason.
  4. Each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the final course grade by one full letter.
  5. Dress rehearsals, soundchecks, and concerts are MANDATORY.
    - a. Absence from a dress rehearsal automatically reduces the grade by one letter.
    - b. Absence from a concert automatically earns an "F" for the course.
  6. An absence for a scheduled performance will result in a failing grade for the course.
  7. Students who miss a significant amount of rehearsal time may be suspended from performances at the discretion of the Director in order to protect the integrity of the musical product.

### **GRADING & EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

There will be three primary considerations for grading: Preparation, Participation, and Performance. Each member is expected to be responsible, respectful, and to contribute a positive work ethic to the ensemble. Preparation and Participation account for 60% of your grade and Performance accounts for the other 40%.

**Preparation:** Ensemble members are expected to practice their individual music parts away from regularly scheduled rehearsals. This includes, but is not limited to: correct fingering/sticking patterns, marking in breath marks, ensuring appropriate articulation, listing measure numbers, working to maintain excellent tone production, utilizing study recordings, and performing with good intonation. Course meeting times will be dedicated to ensemble issues and not individual part issues. Some sectional rehearsals may be held to assist with learning difficult passages, however, members should plan individual or small group practice time on a regular basis, particularly if holding a leadership position in the ensemble. **Consistently demonstrating unpreparedness in rehearsal will affect your grade.** For each concert cycle, you will be expected to record an assigned excerpt from the concert repertoire for a grade.

**Participation:** All rehearsals and performances are required for all members of the Symphonic Winds. In addition, a commitment to service is necessary to keep things running smoothly. The rehearsal and performance schedule is posted for the entire academic year such that no member is surprised by posted dates. Not attending rehearsals will affect your grade.

**Performance:** Performances are considered your exam in this course, so your positive participation is extremely important! Not attending the performance will elicit a failing grade in this course.



### **SCHOOL-OWNED MUSIC FOLIO:**

CWRU Bands will provide a black, embossed music folio to each member of the ensemble:

1. Music folios are to be kept in good condition.
2. Music folios not returned by the end of the semester will incur a \$10.00 fee on your student account.
3. Music folios are to be utilized at all concerts for a uniform and professional appearance. Paper folios will not be permitted.

### **SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS:**

CWRU may provide specialty or color instruments to some ensemble members without charge. Students are responsible for any university-owned instruments assigned to them and must adhere to the following policies:

1. Please report any damage immediately upon receipt of the instrument. Instruments will be inspected upon their return and students will be billed for any damaged that may have occurred during the semester.
2. Proper storage of all instruments is required of all ensemble members. Instruments are to be placed in storage lockers with locks or in designated areas. Instruments should never be left out in rehearsal spaces.
3. Instrument must be placed in cases for storage and carrying at all times. Never bring your instrument to rehearsals or performances without the proper case.
4. Proper care and maintenance of all instruments is the responsibility of the student. Please keep valves well-oiled, slides greased and operative, pads in good condition, and post screws sufficiently tightened. Keep a supply of reeds, valve oil, and other maintenance supplies in your case.
5. The University is not responsible for loss or damage of student-owned instruments.
6. **Percussionists are expected to setup and fully store all utilized equipment each rehearsal, dress rehearsal, soundcheck, and concert. Members of the percussion section are also expected to help with equipment moves to and from the performing venues.**

### **LESSONS**

Any ensemble member is highly encouraged to seek professional lessons to further learn their instrument. There are many ways in which this may be accomplished, please see Dr. Scherber for guidance in this manner.

### **PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

You are a representative of yourself, your University, the Director, and the Department of Music. You are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that earns the respect of your colleagues, peers, fans, and university administration. Should you find yourself questioning the professionalism of your pending actions, it is best to not choose those actions.

### **MANDATORY STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

All students are expected to adhere to the standards of intellectual honesty consistent with the University Statement of Ethics. Any work submitted by a student must represent his or her own



efforts. Any student engaging in cheating, plagiarism, or any other acts of academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action.

The term “cheating” includes, but is not limited to, (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; or (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member or staff of the university.

The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

If you engage in academic dishonesty related to this class, you will receive a failing grade on the assignment or test, and a failing grade in the course. In addition, the case will be referred to the Academic Integrity Board for appropriate disciplinary action.

#### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with the Coordinator Disability Services (368-5230) and notify the instructor of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

#### **SEMESTER OUTLINE:**

Please see the provided performance calendar for up to date information related to dress rehearsals and performances. The performance calendar is a direct extension of this syllabus and should be treated as such.

*The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and semester outline during the semester. This will be done in a timely manner and distributed so students will be aware of the modification.*