

MUEN 358 -Fall 2026
String Chamber Music/Strings with Piano Chamber Music

Instructor Information:

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Course Description:

The String and String/Piano chamber music experience at the Case Western Reserve University has been developed with the following goals in mind:

- 1) to provide insight into, and in-depth knowledge of, the chamber music repertoire
- 2) to develop chamber music performance practice at the highest artistic level
- 3) to develop a balance of cognitive and emotional intelligence in relating to the music and to other members of the ensemble
- 4) to develop leadership skills essential to working in a small ensemble and orchestra setting
- 5) to prepare ensembles for a culminating performance

Course Registration and Assignments:

- Enrollment in this course is by audition only. Case students are not required to be music majors to audition. Auditions take place in the context of orchestra auditions during Week 1 of the fall semester. Mid-year students may join the course by auditioning for a faculty member.
- This course requires at least two semesters of concurrent enrollment in Orchestra (MUEN 385) for string players.
- All Case students wishing to participate in MUEN 358 must register for this course. Permission needs to be requested through the CIM Registrar (elliott.korth@cim.edu) before the CIM drop/add deadline at the end of Week 2.
- The course may be taken for 1 credit or may be audited for 0 credits.
- Groups will be formed and coaches assigned by the end of Week 1.
- Class size is limited to eight groups, maximum four piano groups.

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Course Guidelines and Requirements:

- Consult coach/coordinator to determine repertoire to be studied and performed. Piano chamber music groups must have approval of pianist's major instructor in advance.
- Attend orientation meeting during Week 1.
- Consult with group members to schedule weekly rehearsal times, to commence no later than Week 2.
- Schedule regular coaching sessions, to commence as early as possible.
- Participants are expected to practice their music and come prepared to rehearsals, out of courtesy to their collaborators and their coaches.
- Participate in full class master class. Saturday, October 10, 1:00-3:00pm in Harkness Chapel
- Perform in final chamber music recital at end of semester. Attendance of entire concert is mandatory.

Fall 2026 Final Concert

Saturday, November 21, 4:00-6:00pm

Harkness Chapel

Grading and Evaluation Criteria:

Preparation involves practicing your own part, working out bowing and fingerings for yourself and having bar numbers/rehearsal letters marked. This ensures that your group rehearsal times will be productive.

Participation means prioritizing rehearsals and coaching sessions in your schedule, arriving on time, quickly tuning and being ready to play in order to maximize the allotted time. Participation also means attending the entire master class and final concert in order to support your colleagues.

Performance evaluation is based not only on your final performance, but also on your gradual improvement during the 10+ weeks of the class. Remember that each group's trajectory (from first rehearsal to final concert) is profoundly affected by the level of commitment of its members.

Mid-term grades will be assigned to help students evaluate their own progress. Your coaches are always happy to answer questions and help with any concerns!



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Course Policies:

This course adheres to all policies in the CIM Handbook, specifically:

- Academic Honesty and Integrity
- FERPA
- Accessibility/Students with Disabilities
- Title IX/Sexual Harassment

(The current catalog can be found on the cim.edu website.)

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected and strongly encouraged to participate in the CIM process of student evaluations of all instruction. Evaluations are online and notices will be sent out a few weeks before the close of each semester. The evaluations are anonymous and easy to complete. Faculty will not have access to the results until after the grade submission deadline.