

# SYMPHONIC BAND – MUSI 453

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Spring 2021  
1 Credit  
Classroom: MUB Strafford Room  
TR 5 3:40–5:00 p.m.  
Office hours: [bit.ly/GoodwinAppt](http://bit.ly/GoodwinAppt)

## Concert Dates

- LIVESTREAMED from Strafford Room with no audience. [youtube.com/unhmusic](https://youtube.com/unhmusic)
- Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 PM (w/ Wind Symphony)
- Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 PM (w/ Wind Symphony)

## Concert Dress

- **Concert Black:**
  - **Option 1 (tux):** Black dress slacks, white button-down shirt, black bow tie, black socks, black dress shoes, black tuxedo jacket, blazer, or suit coat.
  - **Option 2:** Black semi-formal dress, skirt, or dress pants and top, black socks or stockings, black dress shoes. Dress/skirt longer than knee-length while seated.
    - No yoga pants, jeans, leggings – these are not dress pants. No sneakers. No spaghetti-strap or sleeveless tops.

## Music

- To avoid contamination, recyclable cardboard folders and photocopies of music will be provided.
- Sheet music must be destroyed (recycled) following performance.

## Expectations

- Come to class prepared with your instrument in working condition and your own music.
- Bring a pencil to every rehearsal and use it to mark your music.
- Be in your seat ready to begin at 3:40 PM so we can use all of our time. If there is some reason you cannot be here on time, the director must know about it in advance.
- Return any borrowed stands to their racks and put instruments away at the end of rehearsal unless permission is granted to leave out.
- Turn off and do not use cell phones or other electronic devices in class (tuners are okay).
- Find time to practice your instrument outside of class both to develop and maintain your “chops” and to practice any parts of the music that might need “woodshedding.” Individual work will minimize teaching of parts in rehearsal and allow us to work more on ensemble issues.
- Failure to meet any or all of these expectations may negatively impact your grade.

## Attendance

- Symphonic Band is a performance-based course and is a team effort. Each member is vitally important to the success of the ensemble. As such, your attendance at each rehearsal and performance is crucial.

- Professors of other courses should not expect you to miss any portion of our class meeting time to attend events or additional sessions for their classes.
- Student organization meetings and events do not take priority over your class obligations and do not count as excused absences.
- Course conflicts may be permitted only for courses that are required for your major and cannot be taken at a non-conflicting time.
- If you are unable to be at a rehearsal, the director must know in advance when and why you will not be there. Absences are excused only if you are very sick, have an approved scheduled class conflict, or have a requirement for your major.
- Please complete the absence form linked in Canvas if you are absent for any reason.
- Work, homework, studying, papers, social events, student org commitments, etc. are NOT considered excused absences. Remember that this is a class.
- Remember: “you don’t come to rehearsal to learn *your* part, you come to rehearsal to learn *everyone else’s* part!”

## **Grading**

- Grading will be based primarily on attendance.
- Multiple unexcused tardies may be counted as unexcused absences.
- Each unexcused absence will lower your grade roughly one degree,
- Excessive absences (excused or unexcused) may result in your being removed from performance or possibly the ensemble.
- Excessive unexcused absences may lead to failure of the course.
- Performances are of such a nature that they cannot be made up. Please plan your calendar accordingly.

## **Other**

- If you need to sign out an instrument, please let the director know. You will need to see the teacher of that instrument in order to get permission, and then see Adam Gallant in M-217E to get the instrument.
- Percussionists are expected to provide basic sticks and mallets. We can provide some specialized equipment. Please see additional sheet for more information. If you would like extra help on a part, please see Prof. Goodwin or a graduate student outside of class.
- The graduate students this semester are Emily Silva, Dom DeFrancisco, Trevor Frost, and Michael O’Connor. See them for replacement parts, mutes, or other equipment and minor issues.

## **COVID-19 Related**

### **PPE**

- All present will wear masks at all times (pull up or down to drink water, if needed, or use a straw).
- Winds will use surgical masks with slit cut for mouthpieces OR cloth masks constructed to open for mouthpiece pass-through and close for full coverage. Flutes can play between mask and mouth. Musician masks will be provided by department.
- Winds will use bell covers, preferably with MERV-13 material in rehearsal. Bell covers will be provided by department.

## Equipment

- Students will use their own portable music stand. A handful of department stands may be available for percussion or other unique situations but will be disinfected before and after use.
- Students will disinfect their chairs before and after each rehearsal using university-provided cleaning supplies.
- No wind instruments will be shared. In necessary situations a thorough disinfecting process (following guidelines) will be completed before changing students.
- Percussion equipment for concert ensembles will be stored in room 237 of the MUB (directly off of the Strafford Room).
- Percussionists must use their own set of sticks/mallets.
- If percussion equipment that comes in contact with hands must be shared, gloves will be worn or the equipment will be disinfected by the student before the next student comes in contact. In cases where cleaning supplies could damage the instrument, students will thoroughly wash hands immediately before and after use and not touch their face or possibly contaminated surfaces in between.
- No sheet music will be shared. Photocopies will be used for all music and destroyed following performance. Recyclable cardboard folders will be used instead of reusable folders.
- Students will be encouraged to disinfect their equipment (following guidelines provided by various music organizations) before and after each use.
- Students will set up, transport, and break down their own equipment.
- Wind instrumentalists will face same direction while playing.
- Brass players must have something to empty water keys into/onto that is both absorbent and does not allow water to pass through onto the floor (e.g. a “puppy pad” or a plastic container with paper towels in it). Must be disposed of/taken with you following rehearsal.

## Other

- Wind players will be spaced at least 8’ apart. Percussion players will be spaced at least 6’ apart.
- All performances will be live-streamed with no live audience. PPE and distancing will be utilized as in rehearsals.
- For additional safety and following the recommendations of the researchers at Colorado and Maryland, rehearsals will be held for approximately 30 minutes at a time. The rooms will then be cleared for the period of time needed for one full air exchange (3 ACH=20 minutes) to avoid buildup of aerosols, then rehearsal will resume.
- When possible, separate doors will be used for ingress and egress (patio doors for exit).

## Modes of Operation

If the university moves to Orange or Red, students will at first receive assignments to practice and prepare specific portions of the literature for the upcoming concert. If it becomes clear that the university is unlikely to return to Yellow, then the course modality will change to a format using online modules. Please know that we are aware that the workload for these modules should be reflective of the one credit nature of the course.

Students may elect to participate in the modules offered for wind symphony, symphonic band, or symphony orchestra, regardless of which course they are enrolled in. Students may also elect to change “tracks” in between the Special Topic and Repertoire portions. All course requirements will be completed on or before November 20th, after which there will be an optional session about the basics of choosing orchestral bowings (see below). Following are the general plans for each ensemble:

### **Special Topic (first three weeks of online)**

- Symphony Orchestra – Orchestral Leadership and Membership – We will discuss the various roles and responsibilities of the leaders and members of orchestras in public school, youth symphony, community/amateur, and professional settings. This will be mostly discussion-based with brief readings or small group research projects.
- Wind Symphony – Brief History of the Wind Band and Pillars of the Repertoire – We will discuss the evolution of the wind band as a viable artistic medium and examine pivotal compositions in this development. There will be one lecture/discussion each week and small reading and listening assignments.
- Symphonic Band – Intonation for the Performer and Conductor – We will discuss pitch tendencies for various instruments as well as in various harmonic and melodic contexts. There will be a small amount of reading and lecture/discussion as well as activities to develop and strengthen the ear. Wind players will have the option to complete a pitch tendency chart for their instrument.

### **Repertoire (variable, depending on how many weeks are left in the semester)**

- Symphony Orchestra – Orchestral Repertoire
- Wind Symphony – High School Band Repertoire
- Symphonic Band – Middle School Band Repertoire
- You will be required to create a listening log or participate in online discussion threads as part of the repertoire sessions. Each will involve some participation in synchronous meetings as well as a small amount of outside listening.

### **Optional Session (TBD)**

A Primer on Orchestral Bowings – Well-chosen bowings can make the difference between consistent results and musical chaos, and published bowings are not always dependable. Participants will learn some simple principles and ideas that guide the ongoing process of selecting orchestral bowings.