Carroll University
Chamber Orchestra

MUS 191-A Chamber Orchestra
Spring Semester 2017

Mon/Thu, 6:00 PM - 7:50 PM
Location: Music Department (Shattuck 122 - Performance)

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor/Conductor: Dr. Alexander Mandl
Office hours: Monday and Thursday 5:30-6:00PM by appointment
Adjunct office Shattuck
Email: amandl@carrollu.edu
Phone: 414-403-9137

Course Description
The Chamber Orchestra is a class where musicians who come together to learn and properly perform classical music repertoire of the chamber orchestra genre. The Chamber Orchestra is comprised mostly of strings and complemented by woodwinds, brass, and timpani, as needed. Musicians come together to learn and properly perform the classical chamber orchestra repertoire ranging from early Baroque to Contemporary.
Prerequisite: placement audition and approval of conductor.

The course goals are:
1) to provide for the best possible learning and performing of chamber orchestra repertoire in a setting of mutual respect and common effort; 2) to provide for the enhancement and synthesis of musical skills, concepts, etiquette and ideas in a creative learning environment; 3) to provide for the opportunity of performances for all to experience the joy of good musical accomplishments 4) to develop professional and lifelong learning through music; and 5) to contribute to the cultural life of the music department, the university, and the community.

Performances:

Spring concerts* are scheduled for: SUNDAY APRIL 23, 4:00pm at Carroll University's Shattuck Auditorium and repeated at Wisconsin Lutheran College's Schwan Hall also on Sunday April 23, at 7:30pm!*Carroll University Chamber Orchestra and Wisconsin Lutheran College Chamber Ensemble will perform joint concerts on the date(s) listed.

- The orchestra is expected to perform on Carroll U's Christmas Concerts. Date/time/reertoire TBD in a reasonable timetable.

Rehearsals: The Chamber Orchestra rehearses on M/TH from 6:00-7:50PM at Shattuck Auditorium(M) and the Recital Hall(TH). Rehearsals start on time, end on time, and we
hope to have a good time. **DRESS REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY** - unless determined by the Music Director/Conductor. Due to hall availability and other pertinent logistics, dress rehearsals may be scheduled on day/time(s) other than class days. (Dress rehearsals for all joint Carroll Chamber Orchestra performances are TBD and will be announced ASAP – no later than 45 days prior to performances.)

- **Joint dress rehearsals are scheduled for:** Monday 4/17/17 at 6:30PM – CU Shattuck, Wednesday 4/19/17 at 6:30PM – WLC Schwan Hall and Thursday 4/20/17 at 7:00PM – location TBD. (At the discretion of the Music Director Regular class-time rehearsals may be reasonably adjusted in the weeks of dress rehearsals or prior. Addition/Cancelation or dress rehearsals is at the discretion of the Music Director/facilities coordinator)

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLO’s)**

*The student will…*

1. Demonstrate improvement in technical ability on the instrument studied.
2. Explore a wide selection of chamber orchestra musical literature, with an emphasis on the principle eras, genres, and cultural sources of orchestra practice.
3. Develop, express and integrate preparation, chamber music skills and team work.
4. Express artistic and musical intent through performances.
5. Enhance essential musicianship skills, sight-reading, and orchestra etiquette.

**Repertoire:** The varied repertoire is chosen by the conductor to conform as much as possible to the instrumentation and size of class enrollees, as well as to provide for creative and challenging programming that seeks to broaden the performers abilities and knowledge.

**Seating and part assignments:** Seating and part assignments are based on short auditions held at the beginning of the semester, demeanor and progress/preparedness during rehearsals, and orchestration. Part assignments are at the discretion of the conductor. **NO SEATING IS FINAL UNTIL AFTER THE DRESS REHEARSAL!**

**Music and Folders:** All original music is to be returned upon demand in as close to new condition as possible. Loss or damage of any part(s) or folder, and the subsequent cost of its replacement, will be the sole responsibility of the person(s) to whom it was originally assigned. The Conductor/Librarian has broad discretionary authority to enforce this policy. You may be assigned to download and print music in electronic format. Each player is responsible for assembling his/her own book.

**Duties of Ensemble Members:** (this is the fine print.)

a) Musicians shall be **fully prepared with their learned parts** in their seats at a minimum of five minutes before the scheduled class/rehearsal starting time. Tuning shall occur at the scheduled class starting time. The clock in the rehearsal room will keep official time for rehearsals (unless broken or inaccurate). You may tune prior to the official A = 441 to speed up the tuning process.
b) If a musician is tardy for a rehearsal, the musician must communicate to the Professor/Conductor, prior or immediately after the rehearsal verbally and by email, the reason for tardiness. The conductor will determine whether the tardiness is excused or unexcused (in agreement with the university's attendance policy). Students are tardy if not in position to tune when the first tuning note is sounded (for the repertoire one is scheduled to play) or by the first announcement, whichever is first.

c) Musicians shall be present at all rehearsals for which their participation is expected. Absences shall be identified as excused or unexcused as follows:

1) Excused absences shall include the following, if proper notice is given to the conductor as soon as reasonably possible under the circumstances: illness, death in the family, religious observances, and university approved events or testing.

2) Unexcused absences shall be those for which the musician fails to give proper notice, or is absent without suitable explanation.

d) Students may leave a rehearsal early with prior approval or medical necessity.

e) **Proper notice of absence or tardiness must be conveyed verbally to the professor ASAP, and recorded via email to the Professor.**

f) All parts must be covered at every rehearsal.

g) Any member of the ensemble who is absent for an excessive number of rehearsals, whether excused or unexcused, may be denied the right to perform that concert at the discretion of the conductor.

h) An unexcused absence from a *performance* will automatically lower the student’s grade to an F = fail!

i) When it is possible to distribute music in sufficient time before the first rehearsal, it is the player’s responsibility to have his or her part learned before the first rehearsal (this includes transpositions).

j) If you have a question about your part during a rehearsal and you are not the principal player, direct your question to the principal, not to the conductor.

k) Principal players have additional responsibilities such as leading sectional rehearsals, putting bowings in parts (strings), making part assignments (in some cases), being responsible for the performance of the section, and other duties that may be assigned by the conductor.

**Grading Policy:** Grades for Chamber Orchestra are based upon attendance, preparation, demeanor, class participation, performance, collegiality, and criteria above; if applicable.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
<th>SLO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 95-100%</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 90-94.99%</td>
<td>Concert participation/Final</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B 85-89.99%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BC 80-84.99%</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C 70-79.99%</td>
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<td>D 60-69.99%</td>
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<td>F 0-59.99%</td>
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Unless otherwise waived by the Music Director, after one unexcused absence (or its equivalent) a student’s grade will be lowered to the next grade increment. Two unexcused tardies = one unexcused absence 2=1, and four excused absences = one unexcused absence.

The following table shows a **partial requirement** for each grade level – it does not guarantee the equivalent grade, since other criteria mentioned above also affects your grade!
0 unexcused absences = A
1 unexcused absence = AB
2 unexcused absences = B
3 unexcused absences = BC, etc…

N.B. Since besides the above criteria there are no tests or quizzes to objectively quantify one's grade, if one is unsure of one's standing in the course, please ask your instructor!

**Concert Attire**
All musicians shall be properly attired at all concerts. Except as otherwise specified by the conductor, proper concert attire shall be as follows:

WOMEN: Floor length black formal attire including the following: long black skirt or black formal slacks; black long-sleeved top or white long-sleeved top with long-sleeved black jacket or sweater; no low-cut necklines in front or back; black hose, black shoes, and no excessive ornaments or jewelry.

MEN: Black tuxedo jacket, black pants, white shirt, black bow tie, black shoes and black socks.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

*What do I do if I am unexpectedly late for a rehearsal?*
Enter the rehearsal room as quietly as you can. After the rehearsal tell the conductor why you were late so (s)he can decide whether the tardy is excused or unexcused. Email your explanation to the professor.

*What if another professor routinely runs late in a class or a lesson causing me to be tardy on a regular basis?*
It is your responsibility and the responsibility of professors (including conductors!) to keep track of time, so that you are not late for other commitments. **Punctuality is respect for the time of others.** I will be happy to talk to any professor about this.

*Am I expected to be at a rehearsal if the ensemble is rehearsing a piece or movement that I don’t play in?*
Unless specified by the conductor, YES! Your attendance is required. Enjoy and learn from your colleagues.

*What does “Call Time” for a performance mean?*
This is the time at which you are expected to arrive before a performance. It is normally 30 minutes before the start of the concert. It is a time for individual warm-up and preparation.

*May I warm up on stage before a concert?*
Yes, if the hall protocol allows. If so, you should do it in a dignified and professional manner. All members of the ensemble (except the concertmaster) who perform on the first number must be on stage by five minutes before the schedule starting time of the concert.

*Should I remain on stage if I don’t play in a particular piece?*
Unless told otherwise, you may leave the stage when you are not performing.

*I’m a string player and I share music with my stand partner. Who is responsible for the music?*
The outside player (odd numbered chair).

*I feel pain when I play, what should I do?*
Repetitive Stress Injuries (RSI): Your participation and ensemble, and in fact your career as a musician, depends on taking good care of yourself. Many musicians have experienced painful and career-threatening muscular injuries due, in part, to the repetitive nature of instrumental playing. In fact, 75% of all professional string players have had a muscular injury serious enough to affect their playing at some point in their career. There are certain things you can do to prevent repetitive stress injuries.

• Begin by thinking of yourself as an athlete. You are demanding that the smaller muscles of your body do work that is just as punishing as what an athlete demands of larger muscles. Furthermore, smaller muscles are less resilient than large ones.
• Warm up muscles and tendons with gentle stretching exercises before playing. Warm up properly on your instrument before playing demanding passages and difficult techniques. Stretch after playing as well.
• Take frequent breaks. Spread out your practicing and playing during the day.
• Use proper technique. Poor technique and poor posture lead to improper use of muscles and tendons.
• Keep muscles warm as much as possible. If the muscles are cold, allow them to warm up before stretching and playing.
• Get plenty of rest.
• Drink plenty of water.
• Avoid caffeine. Caffeine constricts blood vessels and decreases blood circulation. If you do drink a cup of coffee or a can of soda, drink an equal amount of water to help flush the caffeine out of your muscles.

If you do experience RSI, do not ignore it and hope that it will go away; you may need to seek medical help, and notify your conductor and applied teacher.

Right to modify course:

“The instructor and the University reserve the right to modify, amend, or change the syllabus (course requirements, grading policy, etc.) as the curriculum and/or program require(s).”

Disabilities accommodation:

“Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations or any student considering obtaining documentation should make an appointment with Ms. Martha Bledsoe, Director of Services for Students with Disabilities, no later than the first week of class. She can be reached by calling 262-524-7335 or contacting her via email at mbledsoe@carrollu.edu.”

Statement of due notification of Carroll University integrity policy:

“The Carroll University Academic Integrity Policy is located in your student handbook (http://www.carrollu.edu/campuslife/pdfs/handbook.pdf). I encourage you to familiarize yourself with it. If a student violates this policy in any way, I reserve the right to impose a sanction of failure on the assignment/assessment or failure in the course. If you have questions about appropriate citations, please ask.”

HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER!