

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES
Musi 256/257 & Musi 456/457

Dr. Christa Garvey

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HFA #233

Objectives

To accomplish levels of achievement and proficiency in chamber music as set forth by Dr. Garvey, inclusive of various chamber music assignments: short research projects on chosen composers, assigned readings, at least one performance on the UWEC Chamber Ensembles concert, and a performance off campus, weekly coaching sessions, sight-reading sessions, and a reflective written final exam. In this course you will develop an historical consciousness of and appreciation for the arts. You will learn creative expression and creative approaches to problem solving in a group setting, connect your knowledge and skills to social and civic contexts, and develop your communication skills as performers and as members of a group.

Class Description

Class will consist of weekly coaching sessions. During class the assigned group members will work on their assignment (a selected chamber music work) with Dr. Garvey. Emphasis will be placed on group participation, rehearsal techniques, ensemble issues, and intonation work. Each group will have a leader who will be responsible for arranging two rehearsals outside of class time each week.

Group Leaders

Each group will assign a 'leader'. This person will be responsible for checking out the music, locating/making copies of the score for group members and myself, and organizing rehearsals. I also expect the group leader to communicate with me about other matters including amount of time spent in weekly rehearsals, group punctuality/participation and group attendance at scheduled rehearsals. Each group will be responsible for turning in a 'rehearsal log' that is legible and concise: This will count as part of your grade.

Grading

Attendance, participation, preparation of assignments and attitude (75%)

Two rehearsals outside of class are required each week (25%)

Thoroughness of preparation for coachings (20%)

Group participation and attitude (20%)

Discussion of any reading materials (10%)

Two successful performances of assigned repertoire during semester (25%):

One performance outside of UWEC (I will approve location) and one performance on campus

Course Topics

Besides devoting coachings to polishing repertoire for UWEC chamber ensemble recital performance and off-campus performances, the course will include but not be limited to the following subjects:

Exercises to Develop Group Accuracy

Sightreading as an Ensemble

Developing Effective Rehearsal Skills

Intonation

Developing a Group Sound

Structure

How To Find Repertoire Appropriate for Your Ensemble

Non-verbal communication

Stage Presence and Professionalism

Other topics that may be explored, depending on group interest:

Arranging Pieces for Your Ensemble

Chamber Music as a Career

Teaching Chamber Music

Anything else?

Objectives:

Chamber Music at 200 Level

You should demonstrate, in this unit, that you can play a representative spread of repertoire for your chosen ensemble and that you have gained an awareness of the overall extent and character of repertoire. In achieving this, you will need (individually and as a group) to have developed self-motivation, discipline, good time management and the ability to function as a team member (while also taking leadership initiative where appropriate). Through assessment (see below) you will demonstrate the ability to perform flexibly with other members of your group in the creation and execution of unified, well-blended and balanced performances.

Chamber Music at 400 Level

You should demonstrate, in this unit, that you can perform significant works from the repertoire of your chosen ensemble and that you are able to draw on a robust knowledge of the overall extent and character of this repertoire. In achieving this, you will have developed (individually and as a group) good interpersonal skills and the beginnings of the organizational and entrepreneurial initiative to secure external engagements. Through assessment (see below) you will demonstrate the ability to perform with a high level of rapport with your ensemble in the creation of unified, well-blended and balanced performances in which subtle nuances of ensemble playing are evident.

Assessment Criteria

Coach's Report

Broadly, I will assess the following:

- breadth of repertoire covered by the group and knowledge of overall repertoire
- motivation and discipline demonstrated by the group
- ability of the group to work towards balanced and well blended performances
- organization, motivation, discipline and interpersonal skills demonstrated by the group

Instructional Goals and Learner Outcomes:

1. Perform literature for instrumental chamber groups

Students will be exposed to standard repertoire works for this medium

Students will experience music of a higher difficulty than is often seen in standard band and orchestral works

Students will play their own individual parts and not be able to rely on others playing that same part

2. Work on the basics of performance and ensemble playing, including proper technique, ensemble playing, projection, balance, intonation, listening, and all other aspects of musical performance

Students will be able to focus on chamber-specific aspects of ensemble playing

Students will be exposed to ideas and techniques that they might not encounter
in a standard band or orchestra rehearsal setting

Text/Music: There is no text required for this course but students may be required to
purchase music for the chamber ensemble.