University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire Concert Bands and Orchestral Winds
Audition Information – Fall Semester 2020

This document contains important information about auditions for concert bands and orchestra at UWEC for Fall Semester 2020. Auditions are open to all enrolled students at UWEC regardless of major. Read the information below thoughtfully and contact Director of Concert Bands Dr. John R. Stewart by email at stewajo@uwec.edu with questions about the process.

FALL SEMESTER 2020 CONCERT BANDS STRUCTURE/FORMAT

To honor our fundamental commitment to the health, well-being, and safety of all involved in ensemble music making, the structure of large ensembles has been modified this semester. The modifications follow months of discussion in which the needs of musicians who gather in person to make music have been balanced with the most reliable scientific evidence available regarding COVID – 19. Modifications to the size of the ensembles, instrumentation, variety of music making settings, and performance experiences have been implemented. Additionally, strict adherence to all protocols established by our university and the Department of Music and Theatre Arts have been incorporated, and include the identified maximum number of musicians allowed in each given rehearsal space, the maximum length of any single rehearsal, and balancing in-person and virtual learning experiences.

All ensembles at UWEC are credit-bearing courses. Ensemble rehearsal days and times for Fall Semester 2020 are as follows:

- Wind Symphony M/W from 2-3:50pm and F from 3-3:50pm
- Symphony Band T/R from 2-3:15pm and F from 2-2:50pm
- University Band M from 4-5:50pm

- University Orchestra: Observation of health and safety protocols make it impossible for full orchestra music making this semester. Instead all Wind, Brass, and Percussion who audition will be placed into one of the bands.

View this important video message from Director of Concert Bands Dr. John R. Stewart to learn more details about large ensemble music making during Fall Semester 2020.

AUDITION PROTOCOL

- Auditions for Fall 2020 will be video recorded by each auditionee, and submitted for evaluation according to the process outlined below. Auditions will be evaluated by ensemble directors and studio faculty members. Recordings are due as follows:
  - Winds and Brass – Tuesday, September 1st by 5pm
  - Percussion – Friday, September 4th by 12pm
- All students auditioning for ensembles need to complete the online registration, which can be accessed here.
The required audition materials/excerpts for all woodwind and brass instruments can be found here.

All woodwind and brass students majoring in music are expected to prepare audition materials for Wind Symphony and/or Symphony Band. It is not permissible for a music major to only register for University Band.

UWEC has decided to observe the safety guidelines and best practices outlined in the Percussive Arts Society’s publication *Managing COVID-19 Protocols in Administering Performance Curriculum*. One of the central best practices is not sharing sticks, mallets, and/or trap equipment between musicians. As a result, we may be unable to accommodate non-music major percussionists in large ensembles this semester. Percussionists with questions should contact Dr. Crowell at croweljw@uwec.edu

**REQUIRED MUSICAL EXCERPTS**

The required audition materials/excerpts for all woodwind and brass instruments can be found here. Should you encounter issues with downloading materials, please contact Director of Concert Bands Dr. John R. Stewart via email at stewajo@uwec.edu Dr. Stewart generally responds to email between Monday and Friday.

**WIND SYMPHONY and SYMPHONY BAND**
Prepare the following:
- a. Two octave chromatic scale (note alterations below)
  - a. Flutes three octaves starting on C
  - b. Saxophones full ranges from Bb to palm key F#
- b. Prepared etude/solo of your choice (1 minute maximum)
- c. All etudes and excerpts in the order they appear in the pdf document

**UNIVERSITY BAND**
There is no audition requirement for University Band. Students interested in being part of the University Band should register for the course. All registered students will be contacted via email near the start of the semester. Questions can be directed to Director of Concert Bands Dr. John R. Stewart via email at stewajo@uwec.edu, or the conductor of University Band Dr. Randal Dickerson dickerrc@uwec.edu

**AUDITION RECORDING TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN – EQUIPMENT CHECK**
- Use whatever video recording device you have available (video camera, phone, tablet, computer, etc.), but select a device that particularly captures the highest quality audio.
- When positioning the camera, be sure that we can see you clearly in the video.
- Before recording, test the audio level and picture quality of both the device and microphone.
THE ACTUAL RECORDING

- The audition video recording should be one continuous take, with no pauses or edits in any way.
- Begin the video with a short personal introduction in which you share:
  o Your first and last name
  o Year is school this semester (i.e. 1st year student, 2nd year student, etc.)
  o Your declared major (i.e. “music education,” “music performance,” “nursing,” etc.)
  o Your hometown (i.e. “Eau Claire, WI,” “Minneapolis, MN,” “Chicago, IL,” etc.)
  o The ensemble for which you are auditioning (Wind Symphony or Symphony Band)
- Following your personal introduction, proceed to the scales, etude/solo, and excerpts, performing them in the order in which they appear in the pdf document. You may take some time between excerpts, but do not stop or pause the recording. Allow the recorder to capture the time you take between excerpts.

FINALIZING AND UPLOADING YOUR VIDEO

- View your completed video in its entirety to ensure that it includes all of the required components and your finest quality performance of the required excerpts.
- Auditions should be posted as an unlisted video on YouTube or uploaded to a file sharing network such as Dropbox. Below are links to instructional videos that can help with this process:
  - Uploading videos to YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klVWGHtRTuE
  - Upload and share files using dropbox https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f27A-RT6lEg

- Copy and paste the URL (Sharable link) to your audition video into the appropriate field on the audition registration form found here. If uploading to YouTube, make sure the video is unlisted NOT private
- Links and registration form must be received by the following dates and times:
  o Winds and Brass – Tuesday, September 1st by 5pm
  o Percussion – Friday, September 4th by 12pm

AUDITION RESULTS AND QUESTIONS

No ensemble rehearsals take place the first two days of classes. Woodwind and Brass students who complete and submit an audition for fall semester large ensembles will receive an email notification on or before 12pm on Friday, September 4, 2020. Should you not receive an email by that time, please contact Director of Concert Bands, Dr. John R. Stewart via email at stewajo@uwec.edu.

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