



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
Fred Fox School of Music

Arizona Symphony Orchestra
UA Philharmonic Orchestra

Thomas Cockrell, Director of Orchestral Activities

UA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

MUS 200P / MUS 400P / MUS 500P

Syllabus Spring 2020

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Office hours by appointment

The UA Philharmonic Orchestra is a large conducted ensemble, a-course designed to nurture performers, educators and those non majors and community members seeking to perform orchestral music at the collegiate level. Admission to the course and ensemble is by audition; only musicians who are prepared to commit practice time, energy, and focus to the ensemble will be admitted. In this course the student will experience new repertoire, improve musicianship, and learn ensemble discipline in a collaborative setting. The goal of this organization is to achieve the highest degree possible of learning and performance. It is the responsibility of the conductors and the performers to be prepared for each rehearsal. It is only through rigorous personal and ensemble preparation that the goals can be accomplished. This course partially fulfills the ensemble requirement for degree programs within the Fred Fox School of Music.

Course objectives and expected learning outcomes, fully achieved over several semesters of enrollment:

1. The student will have mastered a variety of ensemble techniques leading to an ability to perform as a member of an orchestra at a collegiate level.

2. The student will have learned how to listen and respond in an ensemble setting with regard to a number of musical issues such as balance, blend, color, articulation, style, intonation, etc.
3. The student will have gained insight into the physical and mental techniques and discipline necessary to continue improving musical technique and expression over time.
4. The student will have gained knowledge and experienced a balanced cross section of the orchestral repertoire.
5. The student will have gained experience, musical maturity and comfort in a live performance setting.

Methods for assessing the expected outcomes

1. Evaluation of preparation and mastery of materials and methods in full rehearsals, sectional rehearsals and performances.
2. Self reflective tools and other assignments, if assigned.

Spring 2020 7:30 P.M. in Crowder Hall. Warm up rehearsal at 6:00 arrange your schedule to be present and ready at that time.

Friday February 28 (*not 5/29 as in a previous version of syllabus*)

Saturday May 2, program shared with the Arizona Symphony

Rehearsals Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7:30 sharp - 9:30 P.M.. Location: Room 232, School of Music. Dress rehearsals are the rehearsals previous to the concert. A required warm-up rehearsal begins at 6:00 before a concert. Sectional rehearsals will be in other rooms in the FFSOM.

Master schedule

Please refer to the master calendar for 2019-20 which is posted on the UA Orchestras bulletin board outside Music 168. It reflects the most up-to-date semester schedule which is subject to minor changes made with adequate notice.

Concert dress

Women: floor-length dresses, black skirts or black pants, long-sleeved black blouses, black hose, black shoes. No décolletage, bare midriff, bare shoulders or low neck lines, distracting jewelry, flip-flops, etc. Men: Black tuxedo (not tails or suit), white shirt, black bow tie, black socks and polished black shoes.

Seating

Seating and part assignments are made on a concert-by-concert basis and are at the discretion of Dr. Cockrell and the conductors, sometimes in consultation with the studio faculty.

Assessment and grading

There are no midterm or final exams. The final semester grade is determined by two factors:

1. mastery of the materials including individual parts, musical integration into and contribution to the orchestra, as demonstrated in full and sectional rehearsals and performances (60%), and
2. your attendance record (40%). Consistent attendance, that is attending every rehearsal, is essential to the communal and individual progress and the success of the ensemble.

Students registered at the 200 level are expected to participate as ensemble musicians, applying techniques and knowledge as they are developed in the ensemble as well as in concurrent music courses such as applied study, theory and history. Students registered at the 400 level are expected to provide musical leadership including but not limited to application of techniques and style mastered in MUSI courses, performance practice and historical perspective learned in history courses, aural skills and analysis as learned in theory courses. Graduate students in the ensembles who register for 500 level credit are expected to provide ensemble leadership including but not limited to serving as principals, section leaders, mentors and soloists.

All students begin the semester with an "A." Each unexcused absence from a rehearsal will lower your grade by one letter. Two tardies or (early departures) are considered equal to one unexcused absence. Four unexcused absences may cause dismissal with a failing grade. Missing a dress rehearsal might exclude the musician from being able to participate in the concert, at the discretion of the conductor(s) and Dr. Cockrell. A missed concert will result in a failing grade for the class. Therefore, missing a dress rehearsal might also constitute a failing grade.

Absence policy

The UA Philharmonic is a class-participation, performance-oriented course. It is expected that each member will attend all rehearsals and performances and master his/her individual parts. Courtesy requires that the conductor/s for each concert be notified of all absences in advance. Only in this manner can an absence be considered excused. Last minute absences should be communicated in an email or text message to the conductors before the rehearsal begins. Students who miss class due to illness or emergency are required to bring documentation from their healthcare provider or other relevant, professional third parties. Failure to submit third-party documentation will result in an unexcused absence. Absence from dress rehearsals and concerts will result in a failing grade. Absences for reasons other than the above and frequent lateness will lower your grade.

If a student has a playing injury requiring rest from that day's rehearsal, or if a student has an illness that will make playing impossible but does not require bed rest or absence from classes generally, the student is required to attend the rehearsal as usual. In such circumstances the student may sit either in the orchestra or to the side having their part (or a practice part) in their hands, following rehearsal carefully and marking all issues discussed during rehearsal as usual. In this circumstance, no other work is to be done during this time, and the electronic device policy (below) still fully applies.

Additional absences will be approved in advanced by the conductors, in consultation with Dr. Cockrell for significant family, educational and professional development opportunities (workshops, professional and graduate school auditions, etc.). Such events can be approved on occasion, with plenty of advance notice. Any of these events should be approved before the beginning of the semester. If you request an excused absence only a few days before the event takes place, it may not be possible to be excused at that time. A gig will never qualify for an excused absence.

Extracurricular commitments

Students are highly recommended not undertake contracts with outside performing organizations, gigs, commitments to fraternal organizations or private activities which might conflict with UA Philharmonic obligations as determined at the beginning of the school year and each semester.

Lateness policy

The professional habit of arriving early for rehearsal is expected of every musician. Lateness, absence and less than collegial demeanor are detrimental to the *esprit de corps* and the making of music together. Being late will have a negative effect on your grade. Attendance is taken at 7:30 P.M. (conductor's cell phone time). All musicians should be in their places and warmed up at least five minutes before the start of each rehearsal and after the break, which lasts only five minutes. Late arrival of more than fifteen minutes will be considered an absence. If circumstances prevent you from honoring this policy fully, please let the conductor/s know your problem. If an unexpected tardy or absence occurs, it is your responsibility to see the conductor or otherwise your tardiness or absence will be considered unexcused.

Documenting absence and lateness

It is the student's responsibility to request excuses, and document absences/lateness. Requests for excused absences must be made online using the **online absence request** form only:

<https://orchestra.music.arizona.edu/absence-request>

Unless due to sudden illness, you should make your request at least one day before the rehearsal. Only the conductors can approve an excuse or an absence, and the likelihood of approval goes up considerably the earlier the request is made.

Musical preparation and professionalism

In order for the orchestra to function at its optimal level and to maximize each student's experience, significant amounts of practice outside of rehearsal are necessary. Failure to prepare your music discourages other members of the ensemble. The conductor reserves the right to check on a one-to-one basis with any player whenever necessary, and/or to elect to replace an unprepared player before the scheduled performance. Such replacement/reseating will affect the replaced player's grade. It is expected that students arrive at rehearsals well prepared. Those obviously not prepared should not expect, nor will receive, the optimum grade and might be asked to play for the conductors

privately in order to catch up.

If you appear to be unprepared for rehearsal, or appear to be in need of additional help, the conductor may ask you for a private hearing. The conductor reserves the right to schedule hearing times outside of rehearsal for all or some orchestra members or ask individual stands to play a given passage during rehearsals at any point during the semester.

Sectional rehearsals are scheduled to assist your assimilation of the music and its challenges. In order to assist some students to focus further their attention on specific difficulties in the repertoire, assignments with performance exams may be made at the conductor's discretion. After initial marking by the orchestral assistants and principals, the timely copying of bowings and changes are the responsibility of the players and section leaders. Students will be held to high standards of preparation, commitment and demeanor.

UA orchestral library and rental materials

Each member is assigned music and a folder or envelope. To preserve the orchestral library and expensive rental parts, *all music must be kept in this folder/envelope*. Members are responsible for all music until it is collected *in the folder* at the final performance of each program. Charges for missing or damaged parts and folders will be the responsibility of the player. You will be assessed the full amount, plus postage & handling fee for each piece of music that is damaged or lost from your folder. Rental music parts could be as high as \$100.00 each. Should the folder or envelope itself be lost or damaged, you will be assessed a \$5.00 fee. Fees will be assessed for music that is lost or damaged due to excessive marking or mishandling. Please respect and care for these expensive orchestral materials.

Concentration, participation and distractions

The use of cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc. during rehearsal is a distraction to you, the conductor and your colleagues. They are to be turned off (not just silenced) and stowed away. There is a zero tolerance policy on the use of devices during any rehearsal, at any time, for any reason unless sanctioned by the conductor (e.g., following PDF score on a tablet, etc.). Likewise, textbooks and other reading materials may not be used during rehearsals. Some of the most important learning that can take place during these rehearsals is concentrating when you are not playing.

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

The University of Arizona policies, revised March 2019

1. The UA policy regarding **absences for any sincerely held religious belief**, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable, <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>. Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of

Students (or Dean Designee) will be honored (i.e., Dean's Excuses).

2. **Classroom Behavior:** *"The aim of education is the intellectual, personal, social, and ethical development of the individual. The educational process is ideally conducted in an environment that encourages reasoned discourse, intellectual honesty, openness to constructive change and respect for the rights of all individuals. Self discipline and a respect for the rights of others in the university community are necessary for the fulfillment of such goals."* From The Student Code of Conduct.

Threatening behavior is prohibited. "Threatening behavior" means any statement, communication, conduct, or gesture, including those in written form, directed toward any member of the University community that causes a reasonable apprehension of physical harm to a person or property. A student can be guilty of threatening behavior even if the person who is the object of the threat does not observe or receive it, so long as a reasonable person would interpret the maker's statement, communication, conduct, or gesture as a serious expression of intent to physically harm.

3. **Accessibility and Accommodations:** At the University of Arizona we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268, <https://drc.arizona.edu/>) to establish reasonable accommodations.

To request a disability-related accommodation to this attendance policy, please contact the Disability Resource Center at (520) 621-3268 or drc-info@email.arizona.edu. If you are experiencing unexpected barriers to your success in your courses, the Dean of Students Office is a central support resource for all students and may be helpful. The Dean of Students Office is located in the Robert L. Nugent Building, room 100, or call 520-621-7057.

4. **Academic Integrity:** Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog.

See: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>

"Integrity is expected of every student in all academic work. The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student's submitted work must be the student's own. This principle is furthered by the student Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures established by ABOR Policies 5-308-5-403, all provisions of which apply to all University of Arizona students." From The Code of Academic Integrity.

5. **Non-discrimination and Anti-harassment:** The University of Arizona is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination. In support of this commitment, the University prohibits discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, based on a protected classification, including race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information. The University encourages anyone who believes he or she has been the subject of discrimination to report the matter immediately as described in the section, "Reporting Discrimination,

Harassment, or Retaliation” found at the link provided below. All members of the University community are responsible for participating in creating a campus environment free from all forms of prohibited discrimination and for cooperating with University officials who investigate allegations of policy violations. <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>