

## **Dear New, Returning, and Prospective WSU Band Students:**

The following information is meant to provide you with details about how to participate in WSU Bands, and about the upcoming **Fall Band/Wind Ensemble Placement Audition**. **Please read ALL of the following info CAREFULLY!!!**

**MUSIC MAJORS (Undergraduate):** All full-time undergraduate BM degree-track music majors, and first or second-year BA music majors (whose major instrument is a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument) are required to prepare and perform the **Fall Band/Wind Ensemble Placement Audition**. After the audition, the Director of Bands, in consultation with your studio teacher, will determine which band you will be assigned to, (Wind Symphony or Symphonic Band), as your **required primary ensemble** for fall semester. **Please note:** If you are assigned to WS, but also wish to play in SB as an elective choice, you are entirely welcome and encouraged to do so. **On the School of Music (SoM) website, just click the link for your instrument to download and print your audition music.**

**GRADUATE MUSIC STUDENTS:** If you are a graduate music student and wish to play in Wind Symphony, (meets MWF, 2:30-4:00), you are encouraged to perform the Fall 2017 Band/Wind Ensemble Placement Audition. If you are a graduate PERFORMANCE major, please be aware that playing in either Wind Symphony or Chamber Orchestra can fulfill the ensemble requirement on your MM degree checklist. Ideally, grad performance majors should participate in the ensemble(s) recommended by their studio teacher (it is not uncommon for grad performance majors to electively play in BOTH Wind Symphony and Chamber Orchestra out of an interest to gain substantive and diverse ensemble experiences). Regardless, all grad music majors are welcome to audition for WS, a very musically rewarding, high caliber ensemble. **On the SoM website, just click the link for your instrument to download and print your audition music.**

**MUSIC MINORS, NON-MUSIC MAJORS & PART-TIME WSU STUDENTS:** WSU students who are music minors, part-time students, or NON-music majors (students from other majors from across campus) all are welcome and invited to join one of our bands. If you wish to play in Wind Symphony, you will need to perform the Fall 2017 Band/Wind Ensemble Placement Audition. However, you can play in Symphonic Band without having to play this particular audition — just enroll in MUE 2660, and attend the first meeting on Tue., August 29<sup>th</sup>, where you will be asked to play a short, easy musical passage, which will be used to determine part assignments in Symphonic Band. **Important:** Non-music majors who are advanced players, and who prefer the higher intensity and challenge level of Wind Symphony, are welcome and encouraged to register for the Fall 2017 Band/Wind Ensemble Placement Audition... if that's you, simply follow the same instructions listed above for the music majors.

**WHAT TO PREPARE for the FALL 2017 BAND/WIND ENSEMBLE PLACEMENT AUDITION:** Here, on the SoM website, **please find and click the appropriate link for your instrument, then download and print your audition music.** **Note:** Please prepare as many excerpts as possible, but if some are too difficult please don't be overly discouraged—these are meant to test the limits of even the best players! Just prepare as many as you can, and all if possible! Please remember, however, that those who play all the excerpts at a high level of musical excellence will be those most strongly considered for Wind Symphony. Be aware also that the audition will be used to determine WS section principals and parts assignments, and eligibility for Chamber Players.

**HOW TO SCHEDULE YOUR WSU BAND AUDITION.** You can sign-up for your audition time on Dr. Booth's office door, (located in the CAC, newly-renovated lower level, just off the hallway nearest the School of Music main office), on a sign-up board that will be posted no later than Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Slots will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. You will need to sign up for an audition time listed during the timeframe for your instrument. While specific time slots are still being determined, the "day schedule" for each of the various sections will be as follows:

**Monday, August 28** – Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon, Percussion

**Tuesday, August 29** – Oboe, Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, Double Bass

**Wednesday, August 30** – Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone

**WHAT ABOUT PEP BAND?** The Varsity Pep Band, comprised of WSU students from all majors on campus, generates spirit and musical excitement for WSU Basketball games and other sporting events and campus activities. Special auditions will be held for interested WSU students. If that's you, please contact the Varsity Pep Band Director, Ms. Elizabeth Procopio, for further details at: [procopio.2@wright.edu](mailto:procopio.2@wright.edu) .

**WHAT ABOUT JAZZ ENSEMBLE?** The WSU Jazz Ensemble, directed by Dr. Brian Cashwell, is comprised of both music and non-music majors. A separate audition will be held for all interested students. If that's you, please contact Dr. Cashwell for details @ (937) 775-2346, or Email at: [brian.cashwell@wright.edu](mailto:brian.cashwell@wright.edu).

## **MUSIC MAJORS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

- 1) **Am I still required to play the Fall 2017 Band/Wind Ensemble Placement Audition, even if I don't want to be in Wind Symphony?** YES. If you're a full-time undergraduate music major (woodwind, brass, or percussion), you must audition. Please carefully RE-READ paragraph 2 of this document!
- 2) **Do I have to play an audition on my major instrument?** Yes, of course!
- 3) **Can I play an audition on a secondary instrument?** Yes, but you **MUST** play an audition on your major instrument first. If you wish to be considered for another instrument, then sign up for an additional audition time.
- 4) **I'm a flutist. Am I required to also play piccolo at my audition?** It is **VERY** strongly recommended that you audition on both flute and piccolo, especially if you wish to be seriously considered for Wind Symphony. At the audition, you **MUST** play flute (you can't just play piccolo and not flute also). If you don't own your own piccolo, please borrow or rent one.
- 5) **Will there be any other "School of Music wide" band auditions held this academic year?** Not likely. We will announce any spring semester "open spots" for Wind Symphony at the end of fall semester, and then fill those positions on an "as-needed" basis. Presently, the Fall 2017 Band/Wind Ensemble Placement Audition is the only "School of Music wide" band audition planned for the 2017-2018 academic year.
- 6) **What is CHAMBER PLAYERS, and how can I get involved?** This group is a chamber wind ensemble that performs music by composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, and many others. CP members are usually chosen from within the WS ranks. The CP typically plays pieces that call for 8 to 13 players, and instrumentation needs change each concert cycle and each semester. Rehearsals are MWF, 1:25–2:20 pm (meets just before WS). If you are interested in CP, you will be able to indicate your interest at your fall wind ens/band audition.

## **NON-MUSIC MAJORS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

- 1) **As a NON-music major do I have to play an audition to be in Symphonic Band?** Technically, no ... Just register for MUE 2660, and go to the first class. But, at that first class meeting you'll be asked to play a couple short, easy passages to determine part assignments best suited for you. For further info, contact our Symphonic Band director, Dr. Shelley Jagow, at [shelley.jagow@wright.edu](mailto:shelley.jagow@wright.edu).
- 2) **When does Symphonic Band meet?** The Symphonic Band meets Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:30 pm, in the CAC building, Room 190.
- 3) **As a NON-music major, can I be in Wind Symphony?** Yes, but to be selected you must audition the same as the music majors at the **Fall 2017 Band/Wind Ensemble Placement Audition**. If interested, you are welcome to audition! Just follow the same instructions for the music majors discussed in paragraph #2 of this document.
- 4) **When does WIND SYMPHONY meet?** Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 2:30–4:00, in CAC, Rm. 190.
- 5) **When does CHAMBER PLAYERS meet?** Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 1:25–2:20, in CAC, Rm. 190.
- 6) **Finally, where can I DOWNLOAD the Fall 2017 Band/Wind Ensemble Placement music and instructions?** Here, on the School of Music website, on the Bands homepage, **please find and click the appropriate link for your instrument, then download and print your audition music.**

I hope the above information answers all questions. But, should you have any additional concerns, please feel free to contact me. In the meantime, we look forward to yet another musically rewarding year with WSU Bands, and to hearing the upcoming auditions! Until then, I remain ...

Musically yours,



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