

Dear New, Returning, & Prospective WSU Band Students:

The following information is meant to provide you with details about participation 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 the ensemble to which you will be assigned, (Wind Symphony or Symphonic Band), as your **required primary ensemble** for fall semester. **Please note:** If you are assigned to WS (rehearsals begin Friday, Aug. 30), but also wish to play in SB (rehearsals begin Aug. 27) 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, rehearsals begin Friday, Aug. 30), you are encouraged to perform the Fall 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 (often grad performance majors elect to play in BOTH Wind Symphony and Chamber Orchestra out of an interest to gain substantive and diverse ensemble experience). Regardless, all grad music students 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 (WS rehearsals begin Friday, Aug. 30), you will need to perform the Fall 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 Tuesday, Aug. 27, 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 would prefer the higher intensity and challenge level of Wind Symphony, are welcome and encouraged to register for the Fall Band/Wind Ensemble Placement Audition ... If that's you, simply follow the same audition instructions listed above for the music majors.

WHAT TO PREPARE for the FALL 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 become 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 the candidates most strongly considered for Wind Symphony. Please also be aware that the audition will also determine WS section principals and parts assignments, as well as 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 **Creative Arts Center**, south side, lower level, **Room 087-B**), on a sign-up board that will be posted on the door no later than Thursday, August 22 ... **Audition time slots** 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 26 – Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon, Percussion

Tuesday, August 27 – Oboe, Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, Double Bass

Wednesday, August 28 – Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone

WHAT ABOUT PEP BAND? The WSU Varsity Pep Band, comprised of WSU students from all majors on campus, generates spirit and 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 School of Music Office for details @ (937) 775-2346.

WHAT ABOUT JAZZ ENSEMBLE? The WSU Jazz Ensemble 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 the School of Music Office for details @ (937) 775-2346.

MUSIC MAJORS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- 1) **Am I still required to play the Fall 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) **Am I required to play the audition on my major instrument?** Yes, of course!
- 3) **Can I also play a secondary instrument for the audition?** Yes, but you MUST also play an audition on your major instrument. If you wish to be considered for another instrument, then sign up for an additional audition time slot appropriate for that instrument.
- 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) **I'm a clarinetist ... Am I required to also play bass clarinet at my audition?** No, however, everyone is required to play their regular B-flat clarinet for this audition. Therefore, if you are also interested in playing bass clarinet, in addition to your B-flat clarinet audition you can choose to play a bass clarinet audition as well.
- 6) **I'm a saxophonist ... Which type saxophone should I play at my audition?** All saxophone majors are required to play alto saxophone for this audition. After we've heard all the auditions, we will then make logical determinations as to which personnel should play soprano, alto, tenor, baritone saxophone, etc., in either the Wind Symphony or Symphonic Band.
- 7) **Will open band auditions be held again for spring semester?** No. However, we will announce any spring semester "open spots" for Wind Symphony toward the end of fall semester, and then fill those positions on an "as-needed" basis. Presently, the Fall Band/Wind Ensemble Placement Audition is the only "open" band audition planned for this academic year. **[Note:** If necessary, the WS director reserves the right to re-audition an entire WS section, thus "opening" all chairs for that section as available for the following semester.]
- 8) **What is CHAMBER PLAYERS, and how can I join?** This group is a smaller, specialized chamber wind ensemble that performs music by composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, and many others. CP members are chosen from within the Wind Symphony member ranks. The CP typically plays pieces for 8 to 13 players, and instrumentation changes each concert cycle and each semester. Rehearsals are MWF, 1:25–2:20 pm (the hour just before WS), and the first rehearsal this fall will be on Wednesday, September 4. If you wish to be considered for CP, you can express your interest during your fall wind ens/band audition. Note: Your fall wind ensemble/band audition will also serve as your audition for Chamber Players simultaneously.

NON-MUSIC MAJORS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- 1) **As a NON-music major, is it possible for me to play in Wind Symphony?** Yes, but you must be selected via the same audition process as the music majors, i.e., the **Fall Band/Wind Ensemble Placement Audition**. Players are chosen for the WS based on their playing ability, not necessarily their academic major. If you are interested, please know you are very welcome to audition! Simply follow the same instructions for the music majors discussed in paragraph #2 of this document.
- 2) **As a NON-music major if I want to play in Symphonic Band, am I required to play any kind of audition?** Technically, no ... Just register for MUE 2660 and attend the first class meeting with your instrument. There, you'll be asked to play a few short, easy passages to determine part assignments best suited for you. If you have any further questions about participation in SB, please contact the SB director, Dr. Shelley Jagow, at shelley.jagow@wright.edu.
- 3) **When does Symphonic Band meet?** The Symphonic Band meets Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00–3:30 pm, in the CAC building, Room 190 (rehearsals begin Tuesday, Aug. 27).
- 4) **When does WIND SYMPHONY meet?** Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 2:30–4:00, in CAC, Rm. 190 (rehearsals begin Friday, August 30).
- 5) **When does CHAMBER PLAYERS meet?** Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 1:25–2:20, in CAC, Rm. 190 (rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 4).
- 6) **Finally, where can I DOWNLOAD the Fall 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, print, and prepare your audition music. Please bring your own audition music with you to your live audition.**

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,

Dr. David M. Booth

Director of Bands / Professor of Music

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