

# STRING CHAMBER MUSIC

MUN 1460/3463/6010

FALL 2023 SYLLABUS

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MUB 125

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Office Hours: T/R 12:15pm-1:45pm,  
4:00pm-5:00pm (or by request)

## **Class Schedule**

Classes take the form of a weekly coaching for each individual group, and are scheduled according to students' and the instructor's availability. Once groups have been established and a weekly coaching time is agreed upon, it remains in effect for the remainder of the semester.

In addition to the regular coachings there are two mandatory performances on the following schedule. Students are required to perform and also attend the performances of their classmates in full.

**Tuesday, October 10th, 5:10pm** (please hold the entire evening until further notice), Room 101

**Tuesday, December 5th, 5:10pm** (please hold the entire evening until further notice), Room 101

In addition, prior to each performance, each group will receive one class period of time which will serve as a dress rehearsal. These times will be scheduled to coincide with the weekly coaching time if at all possible. If not, the groups and coach will confer to set an individual time to schedule the recital hall; t

This is also a mandatory component of the class.

## **Prerequisites**

Admission into the Chamber Music program is by audition only. Students enrolled in a studio are exempt from the audition requirement, however, students new to the chamber program must be recommended by their studio teacher. The University Orchestra audition at the beginning of each semester may be used as the Chamber Music audition. Other students must arrange an audition independently; independent auditionees must prepare one solo work, be ready to play a 3-octave scale, and may be given a sight-reading test.

## **Objectives**

Development of technical and interpretative skills as a chamber music performer in preparation for and demonstrated at mid-term and end-of-semester public concerts at the School of Music.

## **Course content**

Participants will be assigned a group and repertoire during the first week of classes. Students are expected to be prepared for each coaching session, including at minimum the coordination of at least one group rehearsal each week (outside the official instructor coaching), individual preparation of parts, and listening/study involved therein.

## **Grading**

The following guidelines will be used in assigning grades at the end of each semester:

- A. Weekly Coaching Attendance (30% of grade)
- B. Mid-term Performance (15% of grade)
- C. Final Performance (30% of grade)
- D. Preparedness for coachings (25% of grade)

Performance grades at both midterm and final performances will comprise the average of grades given by faculty in attendance.

## Attendance

- Students are expected to attend **all** weekly coachings as scheduled **and** rehearsals as set up by members of their group. The coaching schedule is sent to all participants by the end of the first week of classes; individual group rehearsals should be coordinated within each group.
- ALL students must attend the two semester performances in full (midterm and final performances of all groups enrolled).
- Requests for excused absences must be made by e-mail as soon as the necessity for absence is known, and at least 3 days prior to the requested date. This includes absences for ALL religious observances (for which you must be a practicing member).
- No-shows will result in automatic lowering of a student's grade, unless the no-show is caused by medical emergency (documentation must be provided) or by a catastrophic personal event.
- Lateness: Students must be ready to begin their coachings and rehearsals (seated, instrument and music unpacked and ready) **at** the scheduled time. Following the first instance of lateness each semester, which does not carry a penalty, any subsequent occurrence from 5 to 15 minutes will be counted as 1/3 of a no-show. Lateness of more than 15 minutes will be considered a no-show. Excuses for and consequences of lateness follow the same guidelines as those guiding excused absences.

## Professionalism, Demeanor, and Preparedness

No chamber group can function without serious individual commitment to reliability, communication, and preparedness. Please use the following guidelines as a starting point, but each group must be proactive in shaping how they rehearse, communicate, and improve over the course of the semester.

- **Written communication:** The primary form of communication outside the classroom is e-mail. Students must check and respond promptly (both to the instructor *and* their fellow group members) to messages necessitating their input, particularly those involving scheduling of rehearsals. A group text message or other chat mechanism should be used to coordinate rehearsals. An individual's failure to communicate in a way that impacts a group's ability to prepare effectively will be reflected in component (D) of the student's grade.
- **Verbal communication:** A key component of chamber groups is oral communication resulting in effective rehearsal. Rehearsals should be punctual, focused, kind, and undertaken in good faith. The joint development (together with the instructor) of effective chamber rehearsal skills will be a key focal point of the semester's work. Individuals are expected to carry themselves with grace and generosity when addressing each other, and the ultimate goal is the enhancement of everyone's musicianship and ensemble skills.
- **Materials:** Preparation **includes** bringing all necessary materials: instrument, sheet music (provided by instructor), pencils, metronome, etc.
- **Etiquette:** Students are expected to dress appropriately for all coachings, rehearsals and performances. Concert attire is mandatory for performances: Sleeves must cover the shoulders and skirts should be below the knee **when seated**. Open-toed shoes are OK, but should be dressy; no sneakers, slippers, or non-dress sandals. Cell phones must be silenced and should be left in backpacks or cases for all rehearsals, coachings, and concerts.

## Additional Items

The String Chamber Music program fully supports the University's policies on academic honesty and will not tolerate abuses of such.

Students are expected to obey the University of Florida's student code of conduct at all times.

Enrollment in this course constitutes implicit agreement to this syllabus and all policies stated herein.

### **Learning Objectives**

This course will address General Education Student Learning Objectives of the **Humanities (H)** subject area, which are available at this link:

<https://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/subject-area-objectives/>.

Student Learning Outcomes are addressed in three categories (Content, Critical Thinking, and Communication).

In the course of taking this course, students will be learn to:

1. Identify key musical concepts in the rehearsal and performance of the specific selected chamber repertoire. (H - Content)
2. Demonstrate professional standard of preparation and execution of standard chamber music practices and performance. (H - Content)
3. Identify, analyze and understand issues of chamber performance, including ensemble, intonation, rhythm, and balance, and work to improve them, both individually and in collaboration. (H - Critical Thinking)
4. Recognize, contextualize, articulate, and demonstrate the role of chamber music performance and collaborative action through music in their own lives and society as a whole. (H - Critical Thinking)
5. Develop both verbal and non-verbal rehearsal skills in the course of working with their fellow musicians to prepare the assigned repertoire together. (H - Communication)
6. Hone skills in listening and musical communication as an ensemble that have emotional impact, aesthetic appeal, and connection to an audience. (H - Communication)

### **Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **ADA Statement**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.