

Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University Symphony Orchestra (WUSO) 2023-24
Music 1901, 2901, 3901, 4901

Conductor/Instructor: Prof. Simone Luti

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Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs):

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Course Description

Experience in the WUSO helps to prepare students for careers as performers and teachers. Students have the opportunity to develop rehearsal, performance and ensemble skills, as well as leadership abilities, while rehearsing and preparing advanced level orchestral repertoire. Repertoire is varied and challenging, requiring individual preparation between rehearsals. Throughout the course of the academic year, the WUSO will perform three programs and undertake composers' readings. Placement in this ensemble is based on a combination of students' technical and sight-reading abilities and a perceived positive, hard-working attitude. Participants are expected to audition and placements are decided by a panel of experts comprising staff and faculty of the Western University music department.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will develop musical literacy and technical skills on their instrument at a high level of proficiency.
- Students will be able to collaborate in order to create and present musically artistic events, combining individual knowledge, skills, and values with a collegial and flexible mindset.

- Students will cultivate the abilities of effective time management; task prioritization is demonstrated by maintaining a practice regimen.
- Students will perform with artistic excellence, communicating emotional and musical meaning.
- Students will develop their artistic personality and potential through informed interpretation of practical, historical, and theoretical concepts in their performances.
- Students should be able to demonstrate musical independence through self-remediation in performance.
- Students should develop the confidence to know what to add, what to ignore, and what to enhance in a musical performance.
- Students will develop focus and efficiency in problem solving through critical listening and self-reflexivity during practice time.
- Students should be able to demonstrate professionalism through performance, pedagogy, and personal initiative.

Learning Objectives

In case of an absence, you will be asked to prepare work in lieu of your missed attendance. The nature of this homework will be explained on our Owl site: it will consist in developing modules in support of the following learning objectives.

- Listening Practice: Developing listening skills relevant to understanding symphonic performances.
- Performance Study: Identifying and discussing historically important performances, orchestras, conductors, soloists, and developing an understanding of historical performance evolution.
- Orchestral Score Study: Analyzing and developing understanding of the score and its elements; structure, form, melody, harmony and rhythmic structure, various sectional relationships, themes and their variations, primary and secondary elements, etc.
- Excerpt Practice: Demonstrate knowledge of phrasing, articulation, dynamics, and rhythm related to excerpts chosen from the standard repertoire. For string players - learning skills about various bow strokes and how these are to be deployed in orchestral playing. For wind and brass players – understanding how to play soloistic passages vs. accompaniment figures.
- Rhythm Practice: Developing rhythmical skills through collectively studying specific orchestral excerpts (e.g.: Stravinsky's *Le sacre du printemps*)
- Basic Conducting Practice: Learning patterns, cuing, and basic conducting skills in order to be able to conduct small ensembles and sectionals, and better respond to conductors.
- Ensemble Practice: Working on adjusting balance, intonation, articulation, sectional blend etc. through face-to-face rehearsals, performances, and recordings

- Recording Practice: Learning skills for high-quality music recording, comparing techniques, mic spacing, practice etc.

Course Prerequisites

Please note that there are no course prerequisites for playing in the WUSO. Admission to the ensembles is based on either a live audition a recorded audition, and granted at the discretion of the conductor and the audition committee. Admitted students can enrolled in the WUSO course number corresponding to their year of study. Those students who enroll in the course stand to receive an ensemble performance credit. As this credit is required for students in the Music Faculty, preference will be given to admitting music students to the orchestra prior to non-music students.

NOTE: Non-music students require special permission from the Dean of their home faculty to enroll in the WUSO for academic credit. Unless you have written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary permission.

Rehearsals

Attendance is mandatory throughout the year for all orchestra sessions, including regular rehearsals with Professor Luti, dress rehearsals, performances, and breakout sessions with the GTA teaching team. WUSO rehearsals are not like other classes or labs, but rather like a professional service. Individual practice is expected outside of regular rehearsals. Performances are generally held outside of normal rehearsal times. Please review the concert schedule below and be sure to advise the instructor and TAs immediately should you have any conflicts.

Required Materials

- Music Stand
- Metronome
- Tuner
- Pencils with eraser
- Music (NOTE: Digital copies of scores and parts will be distributed online using OWL, or alternately via emailed PDFs. Students are expected to print copies of their parts prior to the first rehearsal. Portable tablet reading devices may also be used, provided the student has the conductor's permission, a paper copy of the music is on hand, and the use of a tablet does not inhibit the sightlines of other players in the orchestra.)

Preparation

You need to have your music and a pencil at every session. Participants are expected to learn their parts prior to any group rehearsal so that rehearsal time can be spent as productively as possible. Listening to the works being played while viewing a full score is highly valuable and recommended.

While it is understood that this is a student ensemble, a professional attitude and approach is expected.

Music Folders

Your music can be picked up from the Choral / Band / Orchestral (CBO) Collection, located on the main floor of Talbot College (T.C. 134). Folders will be available before your first rehearsal, unless otherwise instructed by your ensemble director.

You are responsible for the music signed out to you. Use pencil marks only and please avoid damaging your music to prevent potential fees. Please erase all unnecessary markings on your parts/copies before you return them to the library.

If, at any time, you need to switch parts with someone, please email or visit us in the Music Library, so that we can reassign the part(s) to the appropriate account.

You can return music to the CBO or the Music Library (T.C. 234) by the appropriate due date, as indicated on your folder. If you are finished with your music and wish to return it at an earlier date, please do so.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at muscbo@uwo.ca.

Repertoire and concert dates for 2023-2024

Saturday October 28th , 7.30 pm, PDT

Williams, Harry Potter, The Sorcerer's stone suite
Prokofiev, Peter and the wolf
Saint-Saëns, Danse macabre

Friday, December 8th , 7.30 pm, PDT

Corelli, concerto per la notte di Natale, Op 6 n 8
Saint-Saëns, Piano concert in G op 22, featuring Songlee Kim
Beethoven, Symphony n 7 in A Major, op 92

Friday, February 16th, 12.30pm, PDT

Prokofiev, Romeo and Juliet suite, excerpts

Haydn, Symphony n 94, Surprise

Wagner, Wesendonck lieder (n 1-3-4-5), featuring Daryn Nowlin

Saturday, March 30th, 2 pm, PDT

Ponce, Concierto del sur, for guitar and orchestra, featuring Madeline Hall

Kodály, Háry János suite

Dvorak, symphony in G major op 88, n 8

Concert Attire

Concert Black

Grading Scheme

This course is marked on a Pass or Sat. A satisfactory grade will consist of :

1. Attendance and punctuality to all rehearsals. Students are expected to be in place for tuning at 3.30 pm.
2. Preparation. Students are expected to arrive prepared to all rehearsals with their parts learnt as well as a general understanding of the pieces rehearsed for each rehearsal.
3. Demonstration of improvement throughout the rehearsal process. This requires additional individual practice time
4. Demonstration of a positive attitude towards colleagues
5. Demonstration of professional demeanor at all times during rehearsals and performances i.e. no personal use of phones/tablets, etc
6. Active and Engaged participation to all rehearsals and performances

Online Learning Resources

For the duration of the 2023-24 academic year the WUSO teaching team will be maintaining an OWL Project Site to coordinate communications, distribute music, enable file-sharing, as well as provide access to VoiceThread and other resources related to virtual learning. All members of the orchestra will be given access to the WUSO Project site via their OWL account.

All players will have received an email notification about being granted access to the project site – please notify a member of the WUSO teaching team if you did not receive this notification email. To access the site, simply go to the OWL log-in page (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>) and type in your Western ID and password, and then go to the Sites portal (The “Sites” icon looks like a waffle-iron in the upper-right-hand corner of the interface). In the Sites portal, you should see “Western Symphonic Orchestra” listed under the Projects heading – click on the link to be taken to the WUSO Project site.

As in the past, email will be the primary means by which the WUSO teaching team communicates with the orchestra. Please ensure that you are checking your UWO email regularly for updates and announcements. These communications will also be posted to the OWL Project Site. If you prefer to receive messages at a non-UWO email address, it is your responsibility to arrange that with the teaching team. If you are not receiving communications from the WUSO teaching team, please notify us immediately at your next in-person/virtual session so that we may remedy the situation.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%): Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education ([Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)).

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), of the student’s Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness at the following website for further details regarding various requirements and procedures for the supporting

documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic consideration should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%): In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, please refer to the paragraph above, Learning Objectives. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

Academic Offences: Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health & Wellness: Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in Thames Hall room 2170. Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in Thames Hall 2170 or to click on the big green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students work with Accessible Education which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays (other than statutory holidays), and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. The Diversity Calendar from the Canadian Centre for

Diversity and Inclusion provides information on multifaith, multicultural and diversity related holidays and observances and links to resources for more information.

<https://www.edi.uwo.ca/resources/2816-2023-Diversity-Calendar-PDF.pdf>

Contingency Plan: Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience), the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence: Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

Electronic Devices in Classrooms: The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.