

Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University Chamber (Opera) Orchestra 2023-2024, Winter semester
Music 9565b

Time: As per attached schedule

Conductor/Instructor: Prof. Simone Luti
Office: TC10
Office hours: by appointment
Email: sluti@uwo.ca

Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs)

Menelaos Menelaou, mmenelao@uwo.ca
Yanet Campbell Secades, ycampbel@uwo.ca
Ludmilla Kraneck, lkraneck@uwo.ca

Course Description

Experience in the chamber orchestra 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 operatic repertoire. Repertoire is varied and challenging, requiring individual preparation between rehearsals. Throughout the course of the academic year, the orchestra will perform **Britten's Albert Herring**. Placement in this ensemble is based on a combination of students' technical, musical 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.

Course Prerequisites

Admission to the ensembles is based on audition, and granted at the discretion of the conductor and the audition committee. Admitted students enrolled in course number corresponding to their year of study, as well as the production to which they've been assigned (Fall or Winter). 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.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or 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 prerequisites.

Rehearsals

Attendance is mandatory throughout the year for all scheduled orchestra sessions, including regular rehearsals with Professor Luti, dress rehearsals, performances, and breakout sessions with the GTA teaching team (See below). Orchestra rehearsals are not like other classes or labs, but rather like a professional service. Individual practice is expected outside of regular rehearsals.

The chamber orchestra rehearses on a condensed timeline relative to other university ensembles. The first four rehearsals of each production will be conducted without singers and will be fairly spaced out – once every two weeks. These orchestra-only rehearsals will be followed by the “sitzprobe” rehearsals the weekend before the production goes up, in which the cast sings through their parts without staging. In the week leading up to the performances, the cast and orchestra will rehearse together in Paul Davenport Theatre. Please refer to the attached schedule (at the end of the course outline) for specific dates and times of rehearsals and performances for the fall and winter productions. **Students who have a pre-existing conflict with any of the dates in the attached schedule should advise the instructor (Prof. Simone Luti) and GTAs as soon as possible.**

Important: While every effort will be made to adhere to the rehearsal schedule, please be aware that changes may occur depending upon the progress of the ensemble. Changes to the rehearsal schedule will be announced at the end of rehearsal and/or communicated via email and OWL. Please check your emails regularly.

Required Materials

- Metronome
- Tuner
- Pencils with eraser
- Music Stand
- 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 for winter 2023-24

Britten's Albert Herring

Concert Attire

Concert Black

Grading scale

A 80 – 100%
B 70 – 79%
C 60 – 69%
F 00 – 59%

In addition to attendance, other factors affecting the grading include:

1. Attendance and punctuality to all rehearsals. Students are expected to be in place for tuning right on time.
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 2022-2023 academic year the chamber orchestra teaching team will be maintaining OWL Project Sites 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 chamber orchestra OWL project sites via their individual OWL accounts.

All players will have received an email notification about being granted access to the project site for the production in which they're involved – please notify a member of the teaching team if you did not receive this notification email. To access the project 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 the opera production listed under the Projects heading – click on the link to be taken to the chamber orchestra project site.

As in the past, email will be the primary means by which the teaching team communicates with the orchestras. Please ensure that you are checking your UWO email regularly for updates and announcements. These communications will also be posted to the OWL Project Sites. 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 teaching team, please notify us immediately at your next in-person/virtual session so that we may remedy the situation.**

Statement on Academic Offences

“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 https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf”

Statement on Health and Wellness

“Students who are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”
<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>

Statement on Medical Accommodation (adapted from the Senate policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness–Undergraduate Students:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf)

“The Graduate Program in Music recognizes that a student’s ability to fulfill academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by illness or injury. To ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s course grade shall be granted only in cases where there is documentation indicating that the student could not reasonably be expected to meet the academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the office of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies), not to the course instructor.”

Students with special learning needs or other circumstances are asked to inform the instructor as soon as possible so that necessary accommodations can be considered.

Accessible Education Western

“Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program. Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate

documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.”

Statement on 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.”

Religious Accommodation

When scheduling of course requirements conflicts with religious holidays that require absence from the University or that prohibit or require certain activities on the part of the student, the student will not be penalized for absence because of religious reasons. If a suitable arrangement involving a graduate course cannot be worked out between the student and instructor involved, they should consult the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies).

Further information can be found here:

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

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.

Chamber orchestra schedule winter semester, 2023-24

Albert Herring performances

Mar 7th	Performance #1	7.30-10 (arrival time at 7)	PDT
Mar 8th	Performance #2	7.30-10 (arrival time at 7)	PDT
Mar 9th	Performance #3	2-4.30 (arrival time at 1.30)	PDT
Mar 10th	Performance #4	2-4.30 (arrival time at 1.30)	PDT

