

MUS-1801: SPECIAL TOPICS IN COMMUNITY MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: MUS-1801 : Special Topics in Community Music Ensemble

Academic Term:

Spring 2026

Subject Code

MUS - Music

Course Number:

1801

Title:

Special Topics in Community Music Ensemble

Catalog Description:

Performance of traditional and contemporary ensemble literature for musicians in the community. Public performance required. May be repeated for credit.

Credit Hour(s):

1

Lecture Hour(s):

0

Lab Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

Departmental Approval - Audition/Assessment.

Outcomes

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Not Applicable: No Essential Learning Outcomes mapped. This course does not require application-level assignments that demonstrate mastery in any of the Essential Learning Outcomes.

Objective(s):

1. Demonstrate performance skills which reflect thorough study and rehearsal of selected ensemble music.
2. Demonstrate good ensemble playing with correct balance, blend, texture, articulation and phrasing, intonation, tone quality, and awareness of instrumental timbres.
3. Demonstrate solid musicianship of aesthetic and musical values in a performance.
4. Describe and demonstrate differences in the styles of music performed.
5. Describe and demonstrate self-discipline and studious approach necessary to successfully perform the genres of all selected performed music.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Results of initial audition
2. Improvement from point of audition
3. Performance skills during rehearsal and in concert
4. Concert critiques of the group performances

Course Content Outline:

1. Sight-reading skills
 - a. Score scanning
 - b. Form
 - c. Key
 - d. Rhythmic patterns and motives
 - e. Reading difficult sections and staying in time with others
 - f. Melody vs. Harmony
2. Instrumental ensemble music in various styles
 - a. Classical
 - b. Pop
 - c. Jazz
 - d. Rock
3. Musicianship
 - a. Intonation and critical listening ensemble blend, and balance appropriate to the style of music
4. Performance interpretation including rhythmic performance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation appropriate to the style of music
5. Importance of regularity and self-discipline in the development of music performance skills
6. Musicality and technical facility through the performance of selected ensemble literature

Religious Accommodation

Before reviewing the course schedule, students should carefully review the following religious accommodation policy and other required instructional policies:

Religious Accommodation:

Students seeking an accommodation for absences permitted under Ohio's Testing Your Faith Act must provide the instructor with written notice of the specific dates for which the student requires an accommodation and must do so not later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of instruction. Please submit requests for accommodations at this link: <https://portal2.tri-c.edu/ReligiousAccommodation/ReligiousAccommodationForm>. Students with questions about their religious accommodations under Ohio's Testing Your Faith Act may contact the College's Office of General Counsel and Legal Services by phone at 216.987.4856 or via email at legal@tri-c.edu.

Other Required Instructional Policies:

<https://www.tri-c.edu/student-resources/curriculum/documents/syllabus-part-b.pdf>

Weekly Schedule

| | Topics |
|---------|---|
| Week 1 | Introduction; rep discussions; sight reading initial repertoire; discussion of roles within the ensemble and practice expectations; tuning and intonation |
| Week 2 | Performance of rep; focus on challenging passages; |
| Week 3 | New repertoire; work on blending and technique |
| Week 4 | Continued work on new repertoire |
| Week 5 | Continued work on new repertoire |
| Week 6 | Continued work on new repertoire |
| Week 7 | Sight reading of potential new material; discussions of performance practice; listening |
| Week 8 | New repertoire; work on blending and technique |
| Week 9 | Continued work on new repertoire |
| Week 10 | Continued work on new repertoire |
| Week 11 | Sight reading of potential new material; discussions of performance practice; listening |
| Week 12 | Rep practice; technical discussions and demonstration |
| Week 13 | Detail work on rep for second concert performance |
| Week 14 | Discussion/review for concert performance; sectional practice; listening |

Week 15 Prep for concert performance

Week 16 Performance; Wrap up

The Course Schedule is subject to change due to pedagogical needs, instructor discretion, parts of term, and unexpected events.

Required/Recommended Readings

Readings may be selected from the following supplemental materials:

<https://nafme.org/>

<https://www.wasbe.online/>

<https://www.makemusic.com/blog/>

Resources for the Instructor

Tom Verrier and Robin Fountain. *The Ensemble Musician; Six Principles for a More Rewarding Life in Music*. Gia Publications, 2020.

Abram Loft. *How to Succeed in an Ensemble*. Amadeus, 2003.

Additional Resources for the Instructor

<https://nafme.org/>

<https://www.wasbe.online/>

<https://www.makemusic.com/blog/>

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