

## Musa 2OR: Chamber Orchestra (EA) [AC]

Fall 2024

**Meeting Times:** Monday and Thursday: 4.15pm to 6:00pm\* **Meeting Place:** Reves Recital Hall

**Important Dates - Concerts:** September 28 & November 15

**Conductor** Dr. Alex Polyakov

**Office:** Creative Quad #103

**Office Phone:** (501) 450-1247

**E-mail:** polyakov@hendrix.edu

**Office Hours:** Monday 12-1pm, Tuesday and Thursday 12-1.30pm, and by appointment (via email).

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or any concerns, at any point over the year.

Email is generally the best way to reach out to me

### **Course Description:**

The Hendrix College Chamber Orchestra brings together students from diverse disciplines and backgrounds, uniting them through a shared passion for music. Participants engage with a rich and varied repertoire, exploring music's relevance across centuries and cultures. The orchestra focuses on individual development within a supportive group environment, encouraging members to support one another's musical growth and learn from each other's experiences.

The ensemble rehearses twice weekly and performs at least four concerts annually, offering members opportunities to showcase their talents and contribute to the Hendrix community and beyond. The orchestra is open to students and community members with suitable musical skills, who are eager to enhance their practice in an experiential learning setting.

### **Learning Goals:**

- **Master Repertoire** Study and perform masterworks of the string orchestra repertoire, focusing on musical interpretation and precision.
- **Technical Proficiency:** Develop technical, musical, and aural skills to achieve a cohesive ensemble sound.
- **Style and Articulation:** Incorporate knowledge of musical styles and articulations into performance practice.
- **Sight-Reading:** Enhance sight-reading abilities to ensure accurate and fluent music reading during rehearsals and performances.
- **Ensemble Contribution:** Understand and fulfill individual responsibilities to support the group's overall success.
- **Professional Conduct:** Exhibit professionalism and collegiality in all aspects of conduct within the ensemble.
- **Performance Readiness:** Participate in the preparation and public performances of rehearsed repertoire.
- **Musical Knowledge:** Expand understanding of musical terms and context, enriching the overall musical experience.

## **Course materials & requirements**

- Instrument in working condition with accessories (mutes, rosin, etc)
- Sheet Music & Pencil
- Regular rehearsal attendance (with minimal absences)
- Excellence-driven conduct while participating in **all** dress rehearsals and concerts

Suggested Materials: (primarily for use in the practicing space) Metronome & Tuner

## **Mission Statement (Teacher's responsibility)**

The teacher is committed to providing equal learning opportunities and a positive, practical, and effective learning environment for every student. The teacher is expected to directly contribute to students' professional and artistic growth and increase student's musical curiosity. In return, students are expected to be fully dedicated to attentive work, respecting composers' will, serving the music, and improving the community around them.

## **How to succeed in this course**

Please refer to the practicing guide & rehearsal etiquette for additional information.

**Attendance:** Consistent attendance is crucial to your success in this course. Missing rehearsals regularly (or tardiness) can negatively impact entire group. If you anticipate frequent absences, please get in touch with me to discuss possible solutions.

**Regular & Active Listening:** Enhance your musical skills by listening to world-class musicians and ensembles. YouTube is a fantastic resource for this! Additionally, I recommend attending live performances in the area. Every rehearsal of CO is an excellent opportunity to hone your listening skills - as you listen to your colleagues sound, make and suggest adjustments.

**Regular Practice:** Effective practice is essential for improvement. While results may not always be immediate, think of practice like an investment in your musical future—the more effort you put in, the greater your progress will be.

## **Practicing Requirement**

The required amount of individual practice outside of Chamber Orchestra rehearsals will vary depending on the specific material covered each day. After rehearsals, you'll be provided with details on the pieces or segments to focus on, including the desired tempos and areas needing improvement, along with suggested practice strategies. You are expected to dedicate sufficient practice time to master the assigned sections at the specified tempos. It's important to remember that as our skill levels vary, some members may need to invest more time than others to prepare adequately. A minimum of 60 minutes of personal practice per week is mandatory for participation in this course (spread out during the week, in a way that facilitates preparation for each rehearsal, making it more productive)

## **Participation policy for rehearsals and concerts**

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts. To earn full participation points for a rehearsal or concert, you must be fully present, actively engaged, and contribute positively to the group.

The course conductor does not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences, as any absence affects the ensemble equally and it can be challenging to fairly judge the reasons for missing rehearsals.

You are allowed up to three absences during the two rehearsal cycles leading up to the November performance without affecting your grade. However, for each rehearsal missed, you are required to compensate with additional personal practice time—50% of the missed rehearsal time (e.g., an additional 30 minutes for a missed 60-minute rehearsal).

Frequent absences, regular tardiness, or lack of preparation will lead to a lower grade. Clear expectations for preparation will be provided at the end of each rehearsal.

If you miss two consecutive rehearsals within a cycle, please discuss a catch-up plan with the conductor as soon as possible. Each situation will be addressed individually to determine the best way to make up for missed participation.

If an absence from a concert occurs, expect your grade to drop by at least one letter unless due to illness or unavoidable circumstances, in which case an alternative assignment may be provided.

The Chamber Orchestra thrives on your consistent involvement. Remember, we are a musical family whose success and well-being depend on everyone's participation.

If you are feeling unwell—especially with symptoms that could be related to COVID-19—please prioritize health and stay home. Missed rehearsals due to illness can be compensated for through additional assignments (that can involve those listed below, or project/presentation that may be more specific to your musical interest or aspiration).

In the case of overlapping Hendrix activities, such as other ensemble rehearsals or athletic practices occurring at the same time as Chamber Orchestra rehearsals, the conductor will work with your coach/conductor/professor to arrange a schedule for you.

## Course Components & Grading

The course includes several graded components (assignments or activities), each contributing differently to your final grade:

- 10% Video from Practice Room (4)**- Once a month - Video from Practice room
- Or**
- 10% Mistake mapping (2)** in the middle of each cycle, for up to 2 pieces per cycle
- 10% Weekly Reflections (14)**
- 10% Pre-concert mock play-through - 10 days before performance, video submission (2)**
- 30% Rehearsal participation & preparation (weekly practicing)**
- - - Rehearsal attendance** (its effect on the grade is mentioned above)
- 20% Dress Rehearsals**
- 20% Concerts**
- 10% Attending WE/Choir (2)** (bonus activity, that is highly recommended)

**Total - 110%**

### Video from Practice room (practice lab, 4)

Once a month - students will submit their practicing presentations (3-5 minute videos) to be digitally shared with their peers in the orchestra. This activity allows students to exchange with each other their findings, struggles, and practical successes.

### Mistake Mapping (2)

Students will create a "mistake map" after practicing a piece, where they note down parts where they frequently make mistakes. This activity not only helps in recognizing recurring issues but also in formulating strategies to address them, turning mistakes into specific learning sessions.

### Weekly Reflections (Google Form, 14)

At the end of each week (after Thursday rehearsal), students will write a short reflection about their wins, losses, some things that made them feel more confident in music making, and some things that made them feel more nervous. Forms are anonymous. Depending on the level of preparation of every individual student - 2 submissions out of 14 may be skipped, but not consecutively).

### Pre-Concert mock play-through (2)

Approximately 10 days before the performance, students are required to submit a video recording of them playing through their part of the entire piece (up to 2 pieces per concert) from start to finish, in the performance tempo. This activity will facilitate preparation, and will allow students to create an individual mental environment of a dress rehearsal, while still leaving a bit of time for personal as well as group improvement.

## Schedule Overview

<b>Fall Family Weekend Concert</b>
7 Regular Rehearsals + Dress Rehearsal (during normal rehearsal time) Aug 29, Sep 5, 9 12, 16, 19, 23, <b>26 (dress)</b> Sep 19 - Pre Concert Mock Play Through
<b>Saturday, September 28, 9:30am: Concert, Staples Auditorium</b> Call time: 9:00am
<b>November Concert</b>
13 Regular Rehearsals + Dress Rehearsal (during normal rehearsal time) Sep 30, Oct 3, 7, 10, 14, 21, 24, 28, 31, Nov 4, 7, 11, <b>14 (dress)</b> Nov 4 - Pre Concert Mock Play Through
<b>Friday, November 15, 7:30pm: Concert, Reves Recital Hall</b> Call time: 7:00pm
<b>The remainder of the Semester</b>
5 rehearsals - Nov 18, 21, 25, Dec 2, 5
<b>Preparation for the 2nd Semester Performances (waltz night)</b>

### Dress for Concert

Concert Black = some combination of the following (all black)

- NEW: school-appropriate socks/stockings in the color of your choice!
- Solid black dress pants or skirt/dress that goes below the knee
- Solid black dress shirt/dressy top (with sleeves)

### Creative Quad (CQ) Notes

- **Practice Rooms:** Located on the first floor of the CQ in the Music Wing.
- **Card Access:** All students enrolled in MUSI and MUSA courses should have ID card access to the practice room wing – specifically, via the door facing the SLTC – of the CQ from 6am-midnight, 7 days per week. If your ID card does not work, please let Dr. Renshaw know.

### Additional Information

- **Hendrix-Owned Instruments:** These are available for checkout free of charge.

- **Odyssey Credit:** You can receive pre-approved Odyssey credit [Artistic Creativity] for Wind Ensemble by participating in two semesters.
- **Course Credit:** You can receive one course credit for four semesters of Wind Ensemble.

## Policies and Statements

- **Academic Accommodations:** It is the policy of Hendrix College to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Students should contact Julie Brown in the Office of Academic Success (501.505.2954; [brownj@hendrix.edu](mailto:brownj@hendrix.edu)) to begin the accommodation process. Any student seeking accommodation in relation to a recognized disability should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course.
- **Academic Integrity:** Hendrix College is committed to high standards of honesty and fairness in academic pursuits. Such standards are central to the process of intellectual inquiry, the development of character, and the preservation of the integrity of the community. It is required that all instances of academic dishonesty be reported to the Committee on Academic Integrity. Please familiarize yourself with the [college's statement of Academic Integrity](#).
- **Career Services:** The skills you will nurture through this course are important to future employers. While you may find opportunities during the semester to grow in all six Career Competencies, the learning goals of this course most closely relate to the following competencies: critical thinking, professionalism, communication and teamwork. You can learn more about Hendrix Career Competencies [here](#). For assistance in communicating these skills to future internship sites, employers, and/or graduate and professional schools, the [Office of Career Services](#) is happy to assist.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Hendrix College values a diverse learning environment as outlined in the College's Statement on Diversity. All members of this community are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of the community. If you believe you have been the subject of discrimination please contact the Dean of Students Office (Donna Eddleman, [Eddleman@hendrix.edu](mailto:Eddleman@hendrix.edu), 501-450-1222, or the Title IX Coordinator (Jennifer Fulbright, [JenniferFulbrighttitleix@hendrix.edu](mailto:JenniferFulbrighttitleix@hendrix.edu), 501-505-2901). For more information, see the [Hendrix Non-Discrimination Policies](#).
  - In Wind Ensemble, you will see a commitment to diversity and inclusion in a number of ways – perhaps most clearly through our repertoire. Dr. Renshaw aims to create concert programs that include composers from diverse backgrounds so that we may connect with a variety of perspectives and musical styles.
- **Health Accommodations:** Hendrix recognizes that many students face mental and/or physical health challenges. If your health status will impact attendance or assignments, please communicate with the professor as soon as possible. If you would like to implement academic accommodations, contact Julie Brown in the office of Academic Success ([brownj@hendrix.edu](mailto:brownj@hendrix.edu)). To maintain optimal health, please utilize campus resources like the [Hendrix Medical Clinic](#) or [Counseling Services](#) (501-450-1448). Your health and wellbeing are important.
- **Title IX:** All faculty and staff at Hendrix College are designated as a “Responsible Employee” and are mandated reporters required to report sexual misconduct of any kind to the Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Jennifer Fulbright at [fulbright@hendrix.edu](mailto:fulbright@hendrix.edu) or 501-505-2901. Hendrix cares about the safety of our employees and students and has created this notice because interpersonal violence and sex discrimination in all forms are unacceptable. Hendrix is committed to holding perpetrators accountable and keeping reporting parties safe. Students’ privacy is of utmost

importance and Hendrix will strive to protect your privacy to the extent possible while complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, as well as Hendrix policy.