Large Ensemble Information for Instrumental Music Majors

1. Requirements for degree programs in Music

All Wind, Percussion, and String music majors are required to be registered for a large instrumental ensemble each semester of full-time residence. For purposes of satisfying this requirement, the following ensembles qualify as Large Ensembles:

Jazz Band 1 (maximum of 2 total credit hours toward degree requirements)
Orchestra
Wind Ensemble
Symphonic Band
Marching Band

These ensembles are open to all university students, by audition. Ensemble participants receive one (1) credit for each ensemble, up to a total of sixteen (16) over a four-year period. A maximum of two ensemble credits per semester will be allowed. A maximum of 7-8 credit hours may be counted toward the minimum requirements for the degree.

2. Large Ensemble Rehearsal Times

Jazz Band I and II: 1:00 – 2:50 Tuesdays and Thursdays
Jazz Band III 6:00 – 7:15 Tuesdays and Thursdays
Marching Band: 6:30 – 8:30 MW eve, 3:00 – 4:30 F
Orchestra: 3:10 – 5:00 Mondays and Wednesdays, F 3:00-4:50 sectionals
Wind Ensemble: 1:00 – 2:50 Mondays and Wednesdays
Symphonic Band: 3:30 – 5:15 Tuesdays and Thursdays

3. Concert Ensemble Auditions (Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble)

Required Auditions will occur on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (strings only) preceding the beginning of classes each semester. Students will be assigned to ensembles on the basis of their demonstrated musical abilities at the time of their audition. Every effort will be given to providing a balanced and varied ensemble experience for students during their tenure at Northern Iowa. Each student must audition each semester even if he/she may wish to perform only in the Marching Band or Jazz Band One.

**Strings:** String students will perform a solo/etude of their choice and required excerpts as listed on the Auditions page.

**Winds and Percussion:** Each student is asked to prepare the excerpts found on the auditions page. Students will perform the excerpts and also be asked to sightread. The audition will take 5 minutes.

For questions about the posted excerpts, please email your studio teacher.
Auditions will be heard by a panel of music faculty which includes conductors of the large ensembles and members of the studio faculty.

The audition schedule, which includes the time you are to perform your audition, will be posted on the Ensemble Auditions webpage no later than August 1, 2017.

It is the student's responsibility to check the audition schedule on the website and ensure that they are present for these auditions. If you are not on the list with an audition time, please contact the Music Office at 319-273-2025 to be connected to the appropriate faculty member.

If the scheduled time assigned for you presents an unsolvable difficulty, please call 319-273-2025 and leave a message. It will NOT be possible to hear wind/percussion auditions on the Sunday after scheduled audition times. Except in very unusual or emergency situations, it is expected that each student will be present for their designated audition time.

4. Jazz Auditions

Wind majors who play traditional jazz wind instruments (saxophone, trumpet, trombone) will be assigned a time to audition for jazz bands (big band and combo). Students who do not wish to audition for a jazz band are asked to contact Professor Chris Merz at least one week prior to auditions. Auditions are held each fall on the Friday and Saturday preceding the beginning of classes. These are scheduled concurrently with the other large ensembles. Jazz ensemble rosters are set for the full academic year. Spring auditions are held only to fill vacancies left by players with scheduling conflicts in the second semester. Students not majoring in, but wishing to audition on, saxophone, trumpet or trombone may request an audition time by contacting Professor Chris Merz via e-mail one week prior to auditions. Chris.Merz@uni.edu

Rhythm section auditions (piano, guitar, bass, drum set, percussion) are held in the evening of the first day of classes (Monday), beginning at 7 PM. There are no assigned times for these auditions. Students will be heard in the order in which they arrive.

Jazz band auditions will consist of sight reading and improvisation. Rhythm section auditions will also include demonstration of instrument-appropriate rhythm section techniques such as constructing walking basslines, comping, and performance of various grooves and tempi. Students will audition for a panel of jazz faculty members and their teaching assistant(s). Returning students have the option of assembling their own combos. A group spokesperson must submit a roster (names, instruments, e-mail addresses) to Professor Merz via e-mail by the first day of classes. Other students expressing a desire to participate in a combo will be placed according to ability and available resources (coaching staff and rhythm section players being two of the most common limiting factors).
It is important that auditions be completed in a timely manner so that there is sufficient time to make part assignments, prepare folders, etc. for the beginning of the semester.

Important Notice

Failure to appear for assigned auditions at designated times (or failure to prepare for the audition as prescribed elsewhere in this document) may result in one or more of the following actions (to be determined by faculty in the Large Ensemble Division):

1. The student will NOT be assigned to an ensemble for that semester. This action may result in removing the student from the official designation as a music major. This could, in turn, require an additional semester to complete the degree program.

2. If the recipient of a music scholarship, the student may lose scholarship funding for the designated semester.

All music majors are expected to be familiar with School of Music policies and procedures . . . including the above policy of ensemble auditions and placement.