

## **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.**

**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 319-273-2024 to be connected to the appropriate faculty member.**

**If the scheduled time assigned for you presents an unsolvable difficulty, please call 319-273-2024 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**

Large jazz ensemble participation (Jazz Band I, II or III) is **REQUIRED** for students in the BA Jazz Studies degree track. These ensembles satisfy the large ensemble requirement in each semester for students in this track. In addition, jazz ensembles (big bands and combos) are open to **ANY** UNI student, by audition.

Jazz auditions for the various wind instruments will consist of sight-reading and improvisation. Improvisation is required of all students wishing to be considered for combos. Students wishing to be considered for large jazz ensembles only (big bands) are strongly encouraged (but not required) to improvise in their audition. Choice of tune is up to the individual. You are strongly encouraged to bring your own play along device (phone, tablet, or computer) to the audition, preset for your desired tempo (iReal Pro, for example, is a perfectly acceptable play along app to use). Auditions will be held the Thursday and Friday prior to the first day of classes.

Jazz auditions for rhythm section instruments (piano, bass, drum set, guitar, and vibraphone) will be held on the Saturday prior to the first day of classes, and will consist of two parts. In the morning, each student will audition individually. These auditions will consist of demonstration of a variety of grooves and/or techniques specific to their instrument, as well as sight-reading and improvisation. In the afternoon, all rhythm section auditioners will meet in the Jazz Studio, where they will audition in ad hoc rhythm sections organized on the spot. This will enable the jazz faculty to experiment with various combinations of players to determine the best “fit” for each player.

Regardless of major, ALL students wishing to audition must complete the [Jazz Ensemble Audition Information Form](#) and [sign up for an audition time](#) in the appropriate area, by instrument. Best of luck, and we are looking forward to hearing you!

**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.