

Chamber
MUSC 162
Last Updated: Spring 2022

Prerequisites: None.

Course Description

Participation in Chamber is a central component of the music program. Regular weekly rehearsals both with and without coaching develop each member into a well-rounded musician who is able to work collaboratively with their peers in a professional and fluent manner. Coaches will place emphasis on group participation, ensemble issues, and rehearsal techniques. Groups are exposed to a wide range of chamber music literature from all periods and for different combinations of orchestral instruments, culminating in performances both on- and off-campus each semester.

Course Goals/ Student Learning Outcomes

By the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Sustain solid fundamental skills throughout the course in order to develop a high level of technical competence, discipline, and clarity in ensemble repertoire.
2. Demonstrate commitment and a collaborative spirit in both supervised and unsupervised rehearsals.
3. Gain a broader understanding and knowledge of the general chamber music repertoire from all time periods.
4. Perform in a variety of ensembles both on-and off-campus throughout the semester.

Repertoire and Materials

1. Groups should discuss their specific program repertoire with their instructor and decide upon it by the second week of the semester.
2. Repertoire choices must adhere to the Repertoire Requirements manual.
3. Students should bring a copy of their music for their instructor to every lesson as well.
4. The coach may assign additional classwork as necessary.

Group Formation

Students enrolled in Chamber for the upcoming semester should form and submit their group's information through the [Chamber Group Request Form](#) on the Mahanaim website before the end of the current semester. The Office of Academic Affairs will then

either approve the group and schedule a chamber coach or will make adjustments as necessary based on instrument availability, scheduling, etc.

Rehearsals and Coaching Sessions

Each chamber group will have a total of **15** scheduled coaching sessions per semester, or one session per week (excluding week 1). The Office of Academic Affairs will post all scheduled coaching sessions with their times and locations on the bulletin before the second week of the semester. Groups should make sure everyone is aware of the times and locations. Coaching sessions are expected to last 50 minutes, while the group should have a minimum of four hours of practice per week.

Required Practice and Preparation Guidelines

1. Technical Study
 1. Clean intonation
 2. Work on making a good balance of sounds among members.
 3. Work on keeping the same tempo with each other.
 4. The group should follow the flow and direction of the music as one.
2. Musicianship
 1. Whenever rehearsing, groups should play as if it were a real concert.
 2. Students must keep in mind that the musician's role is to think about what the composer wants to show through their music and then express this message through their playing.
 3. Collaboration and teamwork are key to producing a fluent sound as a chamber group.
3. Preparation
 1. It is expected that you learn your part to the best of your ability and rehearse as a group at least once before your first coaching.
 2. Members must also learn and recognize the entire score of the music that they are learning, so practice with the score.

Exams

1. Final Jury
 - a. The final will be held on the last week of the semester before their chamber coach. Groups should prepare a copy of the score for the faculty.
2. Grading Criteria for the Final Jury
 - a. **Technique**
 - i. Clear intonation

- ii. Proper execution of articulation
- iii. Effective and proper balance of dynamics for each part
- iv. Excellent tone quality
- v. Harmony of sound
- vi. Precise rhythm and tempo
- vii. Careful listening

b. Musicality

- i. Good phrase shape
- ii. Understanding the character of the music
- iii. Sufficient expressiveness
- iv. Proper interpretation
- v. Passion

c. Performance Factor

- i. A proper level of repertoire
- ii. Mastery of the music
- iii. Effective collaboration with ensemble or piano
- iv. Resonates with the audience

d. Attitude

- i. Stage manner
- ii. Confidence
- iii. Professional performance posture
- iv. Sheet music prepared

Performances

1. Final Performance - Chamber Concert

- a. The Chamber Concert will be scheduled by the Office of Academic Affairs. Groups that wish to perform must audition by the date given by the Academic Affairs office. Groups that do not perform in the concert must still attend the concert as a part of their attendance grade.

Final Grade Calculation

Attendance (Coaching/Performance)	20%
Practice and Preparation	30%
Final Performance	<u>50%</u>
 TOTAL	 100%

Grade Scale

4.0	95-100%	A
3.7	90-94%	A-
3.3	87-89%	B+
3.0	83-86%	B
2.7	80-82%	B-
2.3	77-79%	C+
2.0	73-76%	C
1.7	70-72%	C-
1.0	66-69%	D+
1.0	60-65%	D
0.0	Below 60%	F/ Fail
P/ NP		Pass/No-Pass
I		Incomplete

Attendance Policy

For coaching sessions, students are allowed **1 excused absence per semester** without effect on their grade. Any more absences will have a detrimental effect on the rest of the ensemble and will count against the student. If a student should miss a session due to an emergency (i.e. health, family-related, etc.) or a school-sponsored event, they must both give up to 24 hours prior notice and provide documentation of the emergency by the next lesson. Documentation for last-minute emergencies may be provided by the next coaching session. Make-up coaching rehearsals will not be scheduled for the sake of one student. Should the entire chamber need to reschedule coaching due to outside circumstances, they should consult with their coach. Any unexcused absence or excused absence beyond what is allowed will result in a 5% reduction to the student's final grade. Please see the school catalog for a detailed definition of excused absences and emergencies.

Academic Support:

The **Academic Excellence Center** or **AEC** is your "one-stop" academic center that supports your co-curricular learning. The physical location of the AEC (the Mahanaim Library) contains all academic services, support, and resources, located in a single area where you can study, collaborate and create. The AEC offers the following services:

- **Writing Center**, which aims to guide you to become a proficient writer who is able to effectively understand and use standard American English.
- **Peer Tutoring**; through meaningful collaborative work experiences, peer tutors will assist you in critical thinking, time management, and cultivating resiliency and successful habits. Peer Tutoring is for anyone, even if you are passing your classes, you can seek additional support if you would like. Students who have previously failed the course or are failing their first few assignments and quizzes will be required to have peer tutoring.
- **Mahanaim Library** currently has an extensive selection of drama, art history, music history & scores, Spanish, public speaking, theology, and English literature books. As our collection grows, the library is striving to add books that explore the topics of philosophy, psychology, cognitive science, as well as data and computing. You can check out items using your Mahanaim ID, or you can access course reserves in the library.

Visit us in the AEC (in the Mahanaim Library) or email aec@mahanaim.com for services.

Disability Services:

The Disability Services Coordinator is ready to provide equal opportunities to students with disabilities who would like to request accommodations in order to perform and accomplish their coursework successfully. Reasonable requests that do not pose an undue burden for the school will be accommodated including test-taking and note-taking accommodations. Other requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Sollip Kim, at sollip.kim@mahanaim.com.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Mahanaim insists on academic honesty and integrity. Unless the assignment explicitly is a group project, all of the work in an assignment must be done individually. Proper citations on writing assignments and presentations must be used, whether it is a quotation, paraphrase, summary, idea, concept, statistic, picture, or anything else copied from any source other than your own immediate knowledge. A listing of books

and articles at the end of an essay is not sufficient in crediting the original writer/contributor of the information. Credits through other means include a parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes, accompanied by a bibliography.

Plagiarism is defined as passing or stealing another's ideas and words as one's own, with no credit given to the source. This is considered literary theft and will not be tolerated in an academic setting. It is your responsibility to understand and follow the rules governing plagiarism, fraud, and cheating. The full text of the policy is found in the Student's Handbook.