

Thanks for your interest in concert bands, wind ensembles, and orchestra at Virginia Tech. **Please read the following information carefully!** We have **unified auditions** for the **Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Symphony Band, and wind and percussion sections** of the **New River Valley Symphony Orchestra**. Auditions occur during the first week of classes; sign-up sheets with exact dates and times are posted outside 242-N Squires, along with copies of a form you need to fill out and bring to your audition. (String players should schedule their auditions separately with Prof. Glazebrook.)

If you have a conflict with the available time slots, please contact Prof. Cross (tjcross@vt.edu) and/or Prof. Glazebrook (wjglaze@vt.edu) immediately, and we will schedule your audition separately. We will find a time for you to audition!

Each five-to-seven-minute audition includes the following:

I. SOLO OR ETUDE(S) OF YOUR CHOICE

Prepare approximately two minutes of unaccompanied material that demonstrates your technical and expressive abilities. This could include excerpts from a concerto or solo work from the standard repertory of your instrument, exercises from an etude book, orchestral excerpts, or a combination of all three.

II. MAJOR and CHROMATIC SCALES

You may be asked to play major scales with no more than three sharps or flats in concert pitch — ascending and descending two octaves in eighth notes at a metronome marking between 108 and 120 beats per minute — as well as a chromatic scale covering the range of your instrument.

III. EXCERPTS

These short excerpts (available at www.music.vt.edu/ensembles/bands) come from works that have been programmed for the fall semester. Most are solos or technically challenging first parts. Not everyone who successfully auditions will play all of the excerpts perfectly, but they provide a consistent basis for evaluation and allow you to show the level of preparation you might bring to the first rehearsal of a concert cycle. Students who wish to be considered only for Symphony Band do **not** need to prepare the excerpts.

IV. SIGHT READING

Percussionists should prepare material for snare drum, timpani, and mallets; there are no excerpts for percussion. Students interested in playing bass clarinet should audition on B-flat soprano clarinet, students interested in playing tenor or baritone saxophone should audition on alto saxophone; if you play **only** bass clarinet or tenor sax, please contact Prof. Cross.

Please be warmed up and ready to play at your scheduled audition time. No need to dress up!

Audition results will be posted outside 242-N Squires no later than Friday, 26 August. The first Symphonic Wind Ensemble meeting will be Friday, 26 August, at 2:30 p.m. in 243 Squires. The first Symphony Band rehearsal will be Tuesday, 30 August, from 3:30–4:45 p.m. in 243 Squires. The first New River Valley Symphony Orchestra rehearsal will be Tuesday, 30 August, at 7:30 p.m. in 243 Squires.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. E-mail (tjcross@vt.edu) is probably best, and I will also be in and out of the office between now and the beginning of school. I look forward to hearing you play soon. Happy practicing!

Prof. Travis J. Cross
Assistant Professor of Music
Wind Ensemble Conductor