



VirginiaTech[®] Concert Bands & Orchestra

Invent the Future[®]

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
School of Performing Arts & Cinema | Department of Music

INFORMATION FOR INCOMING
WIND AND PERCUSSION PLAYERS

Congratulations on your decision to attend Virginia Tech and your interest in keeping music an important part of your life! Our music department offers a wide range of performance opportunities, whether you hope to be a professional musician or simply want to continue playing for your own personal growth and enjoyment. All brass, woodwind, and percussion players participate in **unified auditions** for the **Symphonic Wind Ensemble** and **Symphony Band**. Students interested in the **New River Valley Symphony Orchestra** may also audition for the **wind and percussion sections** orchestra at the same time by selecting one of the designated time slots. All string players should schedule their auditions separately with Prof. Glazebrook (wjglaze@vt.edu). The following Q&A covers some of the basics:

Q. What kind of students play in the ensembles?

A. Outstanding musicians from all classes and academic departments are welcome to audition for the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band — you don't have to be a music major or an upperclassman to participate! Our members play well, work hard, and enjoy making great music in a professional and engaging atmosphere. While the Symphonic Wind Ensemble has a greater proportion of music majors, many exceptional non-majors who perform at a high level audition successfully for and become strong contributors to the ensemble. And due to limited positions in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, several music majors play in the Symphony Band.

Q. How often do the ensembles perform?

A. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band present two shared concerts on campus in the fall semester. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble also performs at the annual Band-a-Rama with the Jazz Ensemble and Marching Virginians. During the spring semester, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band perform twice again, and we also offer the Campus Band, which rehearses Monday nights and performs one concert in late April.

Q. Where and when do the ensembles rehearse?

A. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble rehearses in 243 Squires on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2:30–4:30 p.m. The Symphony Band rehearses in 243 Squires on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30–4:45 p.m. If you have an unavoidable class conflict, we'll do our best to find a reasonable solution!

Q. What kind of music do the ensembles play?

A. Repertory ranges from masterworks for concert band and wind ensemble to contemporary pieces by some of the most exciting composers writing for the medium today, with a balance between technical challenges and expressive demands. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble generally plays more challenging works and rehearses more rigorously than the Symphony Band, but both ensembles offer outstanding musical opportunities.

Q. How do I audition for the ensembles?

A. Unified auditions will be held during the first week of classes. Sign-up sheets with exact dates and times are posted outside 242-N Squires during the week of August 14. If you are not available during the available audition times for your instrument, e-mail Prof. Cross immediately at tjcross@vt.edu. We will find a time for you to audition! Each five-to-seven-minute audition includes your prepared solo or etude, downloadable excerpts, scales, and some sight reading. Excerpts can be downloaded from www.music.vt.edu/ensembles/bands.

Q. What if I am only interested in the Symphony Band? Do I need to learn the excerpts?

A. Excerpts are required only for students who wish to be considered for the Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Students who wish to be considered only for the Symphony Band need bring only a prepared solo or etude, in addition to scales (chromatic and major scales with no more than three sharps or flats in concert pitch) and sight reading.

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to welcoming you to campus, hearing you play, and helping you find the best way to stay involved in music at Virginia Tech!