



Instrumental Audition Information Fall 2017

Large Ensemble

Large Ensemble encompasses Conservatory Orchestra, New Music Ensemble, Baroque Ensemble, recording sessions with the TAC department, and other special projects. This season, Conservatory Orchestra will be conducted by Eric Dudley, as well as two guest conductors from the San Francisco Symphony, Edwin Outwater and Christian Reif. New Music Ensemble will be led by a variety of conductors, including Nicole Paiement, Alan Pierson, Christopher Rountree, and others. Corey Jamason will lead all Historical Performance projects, together with Elisabeth Reed.

All instrumentalists should register for ENS 200 Large Ensemble, to ensure you take this required course. At the beginning of classes this fall, all students (both new and returning) will participate in seating auditions for all Large Ensemble projects to that faculty and staff may determine your assignments to various projects throughout the year.

The Production & Ensembles Department will email you with your specific audition date, time, and location. This audition will occur during the first week of classes, after Orientation has ended.

- [Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion Audition Excerpts PDF file](#)
- [String Audition Excerpts PDF file](#)
- All students need to have 2-3 minutes of a standard concerto or sonata prepared to assist with small ensemble and chamber placement. There will be no piano accompaniment.

Chamber Music

Chamber Music winds, brass, and strings faculty will sit in the Large Ensemble auditions to listen to students that are also involved in the Chamber Music program.

- [Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion Audition Excerpts PDF file](#)
- [String Audition Excerpts PDF file](#)
- All students need to have 2-3 minutes of a standard concerto or sonata prepared to assist with small ensemble and chamber placement. There will be no piano accompaniment.

Chamber Music piano students will audition on August 23. Chamber Music pianists may perform whatever they wish to perform at the audition. Returning students that have already participated in the Chamber Music class within the last year do not need to audition.

Conservatory Chorus

The Conservatory Chorus, led by renowned choral conductor Ragnar Bohlin, offers valuable vocal ensemble experience to all students (both voice and non-voice). Rehearsing once a week in both semesters, the chorus performs a range of repertoire, from choral master works to music by living composers. Two credits (two semesters) of Conservatory Chorus are required for all undergraduates.

This year, the Conservatory Chorus projects will include:

- A Holiday Concert in December
- A collaboration in March with the California Symphony in two performances of Mozart's *Requiem* and Arvo Pärt's *Te Deum* at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, CA. **Soloists for this program will be selected by audition from among those who enroll for the year-long chorus class.**
- An April workshop of a work-in-progress by composer Julia Wolfe, which calls for Women's' Chorus and Orchestra.

Music to Go / Community Service Program

Music to Go gives Conservatory students a taste of the performing musician's life, providing the opportunities they need to succeed. Musicians are always in demand to perform at private functions throughout the year, running the gamut from weddings to corporate celebrations or graduations. Students accepted into the Music to Go program are automatically accepted into the Community Service class, which takes live music into schools, hospitals, retirement homes, children's facilities, and other places where people of limited means and mobility are seldom reached. Those accepted will be required to complete four Community Service visits each semester on a pass/fail basis, and will be eligible for paid Music to Go gigs.

Music to Go is an optional program. Returning students will receive an email from the program director to sign-up for an audition time on August 21, 22, or 23. New students eligible for the program will be able to sign-up for an audition time during Orientation. The audition is not open to freshmen, sophomores, classical-only double bass players, classical-only percussionists, or harpists/bassist/percussionists who lack access to a car.

Audition Requirements: Students should prepare any solo of choice or two contrasting solos. Sight-reading may be required for instrumentalists. An accompanist will be provided for vocalists only, and vocalists should bring sheet music if using the accompanist. If a style other than classical is available (jazz, Latin, musical theater, pop/rock, fiddling, singing pianist, singing guitarist, other) please prepare one of your selections in this style as well. Students who play the accordion, sitar, bagpipes, or other instruments not listed on the audition sign-up are encouraged to apply.