



Instrumental Audition Information Fall 2018

Large Ensemble

Large Ensemble encompasses SFCM Orchestra, New Music Ensemble, Baroque Ensemble, Opera Orchestra, readings, and other special projects. This season, SFCM Orchestra will be conducted by a roster of illustrious guests with deep experience as conductors and educators. They are James Ross, Christopher Rountree, Steven Schick, Edwin Outwater, and Christian Reif. In addition, students will have an opportunity during Winter Term to perform side-by-side with the Berkeley Symphony, guest conducted by Martin West, Music Director of the SF Ballet Orchestra. New Music Ensemble, which will have exciting projects in both the fall and spring semesters, will be led Nicole Paiement. 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 so that faculty and staff may determine your assignments to various projects throughout the year.

The 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](#)
- [String Audition Excerpts](#)
- 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

Strings

New string students who would like to be considered to be part of a chamber music group this year are required to audition for the Chamber Music for Piano and Strings class. Returning string students who have never taken Chamber Music for Piano and Strings at SFCM must also audition. **Auditions will take place on September 4 and sign-ups will occur during Orientation.** Please prepare 5 to 7 minutes of music from concerto, sonata, and/or solo Bach repertoire. There will be no piano accompaniment for this audition.

Piano

Chamber Music piano students will audition on August 31 and sign-ups will occur during Orientation. 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.

Winds and Brass

Chamber Music winds and brass 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](#)
 - [String Audition Excerpts](#)
 - 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.
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Historical Plucked Strings (Lute, Baroque, Guitar)

Guitarists interested in studying on early plucked strings (lute, baroque, guitar) should contact Richard Savino at richard.savino@sfcu.edu. Priority will be given to juniors, seniors and graduate students. While not required a working knowledge of French and Italian tablature systems is highly recommended. Auditions will be held on Thursday, August 30 at 5 PM.

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 masterworks 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 on December 9, at 7:30 PM, dress at 5:30 PM
 - A spring concert TBD
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Hire SFCM / Conservatory Connect

Hire SFCM 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 Hire SFCM program are automatically accepted into the Conservatory Connect 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 Conservatory Connect visits each semester on a pass/fail basis and will be eligible for paid Hire SFCM gigs.

Hire SFCM is an optional program. Returning students will receive an email from the program director to sign-up for an audition time on August 28, 29, or 30. 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/bassists/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. Students must be available for the Conservatory Connect Class (Community Performance Workshop) every Wednesday from 9-11:50 AM.