

SYMPHONIC BAND STUDIES

SYMP-510 Symphonic Band Arranging 1

In this course, students learn how to arrange compositions for symphonic band. Students transcribe and arrange a variety of works—orchestral pieces, piano sonatas, string quartets—for small ensembles of woodwinds, brass, and percussion instruments, with an eye towards idiomatic voicings and textures. Students also analyze works commonly adapted for symphonic band. Additionally, students will apply new technologies to symphonic band arranging. At the end of the course, students will have a portfolio of four works demonstrating their ability to apply excellent orchestration practices to symphonic band arrangement.

SYMP-511 Symphonic Band Arranging 2.

In this course, students enhance skills developed and knowledge gained in Symphonic Band Arranging 1. Students will build on their prior experience arranging compositions for individual instrument families, now focusing on longer, more complex arrangements for full symphonic band. Students will develop facility with transcription and analysis, as well as enhance their understanding of ways to combine different instrumental families within the ensemble. Students will also explore the issue of source material in greater depth, evaluating a variety of compositions suitable for symphonic band arrangement. At the end of this course, students will have a portfolio for three arrangements for full symphonic band.

SYMP-520 Symphonic Band Conducting 1

In this course, students learn the techniques necessary for conducting and leading a symphonic band in rehearsal and performance. Students learn the fundamentals of conducting, including conducting gestures, score analysis and preparation, rehearsal techniques, and rhythmic accuracy. Students develop their own personal sense of performance, as well as a deeper awareness of how the conductor functions in a symphonic band context. Additionally, students explore conducting as a form of communication and consider approaches to strengthen that communication.

SYMP-521 Symphonic Band Conducting 2

In this course, students enhance knowledge learned and skills developed in Symphonic Band Conducting 1. Students refine their conducting technique with an eye towards improving ensemble intonation and rhythmic accuracy. Students also work on interpretation, developing a repertory of gestures that elicits a refined musical response from the ensemble. Students analyze scores, rehearse with ensembles, and develop a personal style of conducting. Additionally, students continue to approach conducting as a form of communication and work to strengthen communication skills.

SYMP-530 Symphonic Band History and Analysis 1

In this course, students explore the development of the symphonic band, from its origins in the Middle Ages to its present form. Students examine the symphonic band's role in European and American society as they explore the cultural context in which the symphonic band developed. Students also explore the way the symphonic band has changed over time, as well the way the tradition varies from one society to another. Students also analyze

major works from the repertory. Reading and research assignments will be supplemented by extensive listening work, both in and outside class.

SYMP-540 Contemporary Techniques in Composition 1

In this course, students explore contemporary approaches to composition, focusing on quartal and secundal harmony, polytonality, and voice leading in an extended tonal context. Using the techniques introduced in this course, students will compose works for solo instruments as well as small ensembles. Writing assignments will be supplemented by in-depth listening assignments that are designed to deepen students' understanding of contemporary harmonic practice.

SYMP-612 Symphonic Band Arranging 3

In this course, students enhance knowledge learned and skills gained in Symphonic Band Arranging 3. The course is organized as a directed study. Students meet weekly with a faculty advisor to prepare a concert of original arrangements for symphonic band. Students work with their advisor to develop a varied program for the concert, as well as to prepare scores and parts. Students strengthen skills and knowledge of transcribing and arranging. They also strengthen their ability to analyze the harmony, form and orchestration of works from the symphonic band repertory. They apply this knowledge to the development of arrangements appropriate for musicians at various skill levels. Additionally, they create, plan, organize, market, program and lead a public performance of their arrangements.

SYMP-622 Symphonic Band Conducting 3

Advanced study of conducting techniques necessary for the contemporary symphonic band conductor. The study of physical gestures for conducting, score analysis and preparation, and musical impetus.

In this course, students enhance knowledge gained and skills developed in Symphonic Band Conducting 2. Students master advanced conducting techniques necessary for the contemporary symphonic band conductor. They achieve a personal sense of performance as they also develop wide knowledge of the symphonic band tradition. Students learn the music structure from different repertoires of symphonic band compositions. They develop ear abilities that enable them to recognize, memorize and reproduce a wide variety of musical materials. They analyze a symphonic band composition and convey the necessary gestures of musical performance to the musicians. Students explore the most recent trends in conducting the symphonic band. They synthesize the notation features of the symphonic band. They also strengthen their skills in conceiving of conducting as a communication between the conductor and the performers. Students develop distinct artistic personalities that enhance their conducting style. They learn additional strategies to adapt to various entourages and creative challenges. Additionally, they prepare for professional careers in conducting.

SYMP-650 Symphonic Band History and Analysis 2

This course provides students advanced private study of comparative music research in the symphonic band literature. In this course, students enhance knowledge learned and skills gained in Symphonic Band History and Analysis 1 and Symphonic Band Music in Spain. Students explore the musical structure of diverse repertoire works for symphonic band. Students also examine the social conditions and cultural context in which music was created

and performed. Students will develop strong research skills. Likewise, they will develop skills in music criticism and analysis. They will evaluate music from many different periods and cultures, and will communicate their analyses on paper and orally.

SYMP-636 Symphonic Band Music of Spain

In this course, students explore the symphonic band tradition in Spain, tracing its evolution from the sixteenth century to the present. They analyze the way symphonic bands have changed over time. They also examine the ways that the symphonic band has shaped and is shaped by Spanish society. Students explore major works by Spanish composers, placing them in historical and social context. Students analyze, critique, and contextualize Spanish symphonic band repertory.

SYMP-641 Contemporary Techniques in Composition 2

In this course, students enhance knowledge gained and skills developed in Contemporary Techniques in Composition 1. They explore contemporary compositional practice, with special attention to rhythm and serial techniques. Students also explore other important compositional approaches, including indeterminacy, minimalism, and non-serialized atonality. They also learn alternatives to traditional notation (i.e. graphic scores). Writing assignments will be supplemented by in-depth listening assignments that are designed to deepen students' understanding of contemporary harmonic and rhythmic practice.

SYMP-660 Symphonic Band Composition

In this course, students compose original music for symphonic band. They evaluate the most important repertoires from the symphonic band musical tradition as well as from others. Students synthesize the sound and syntax aspects, as well as different sound and music structures. They also analyze a musical work in all aspects and levels. Students apply new technologies to music creation in a variety of situations and formats, including collaboration with other artistic disciplines. Students synthesize their knowledge of the instruments of the symphonic band—the main characteristics of instrumentation as well as their combinations in orchestration. Students communicate their theoretical thoughts, analyses, aesthetics and criticism. Students will learn to adapt to different entourages and multiple creative challenges. They will also be prepared to develop their own professional careers as symphonic band composers.

SYMP-695 Culminating Experience

Masters of Music—Symphonic Band Studies students are required to complete a culminating experience. This experience will vary based on the student's area of specialization.

- Arranging Track students will develop a culminating experience that focuses on Symphonic Band arranging.
- Conducting Track students will develop a culminating experience that focuses on Symphonic Band conducting.
- History and Analysis Track students will develop a culminating experience that researches a unique challenge, concept or area of study in the history and analysis of symphonic band
- Composition Track students will develop a culminating experience in which they compose original Symphonic Band music.

The student will work in consultation with his/her faculty advisor and/or the Symphonic

Band Studies Department Chair to develop his/her unique project. The goal is to complete original work at a professional level. A faculty committee composed of the advisor and two other faculty will evaluate the final project that results from the culminating experience. The three-person faculty team will serve as the examining committee. The culminating experiences in the Arranging, Conducting and Composition Tracks require students to present a concert or music they have arranged, conducted and/or composed, respectively. The culminating experience in History and Analysis requires a thesis that is defended before the examining committee.