

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Concert Band

Music 569, course #46416

1 Unit

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:40 – 6:10 pm, George N. Parks Minuteman

Marching Band Building

Instructor

Dr. Timothy Todd Anderson.

Office: Room 209, GNiP.

Phone number: (413) 545-6061

tanderson@music.umass.edu (preferred way of contact)

Office Hours: 2 pm – 3pm, Monday -Thursday

Purpose of Class

Concert Band is a non-auditioned ensemble open to any student in the Five Colleges and the community. The only auditions are for chair-seating purposes. There is no pre-requisite to being in the ensemble. The purpose of Concert Band is to provide a quality musical experience for all students, through the wind band medium. A wide variety of literature is chosen, reflecting different genres, with a balance between art music and popular music. This music is rehearsed throughout the semester, in order to achieve acceptable levels of musicianship. The music is then performed in a public concert.

Grading of the Class

All grading in Concert Band is done on attendance. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory.

- 0 unexcused absences = A
- 1 unexcused absence = B
- 2 unexcused absences = C
- 3 unexcused absences = D
- 4 or more unexcused absences = F

Furthermore, an unexcused absence from a performance equals an F for the semester.

Examples of excused absences:

- illness
- family emergency
- religious observances
- family events such as a wedding or funeral
- mandatory academic events for another class, such as a field trip.

In order for an absence to be excused, a rehearsal excuse request must be submitted to Dr. Anderson **1 week** before the requested absence. There may be a request for proper documentation. Proper documentation is defined as a note from your professor, a doctor, or the responsible family member.

The following are examples of absences that are typically unexcused:

- unable to find a parking spot
- study/review session for another class;
- meeting/advising session with a professor
- group project meeting;
- medical appointments that could have been scheduled at another time; work.

In the event of an unplanned absence, such as an illness or a family emergency, it may not be possible to give notice before rehearsal. In such an event, the student is required to provide documentation of their absence upon return to class.

Tardiness also counts against attendance. Roll is taken at **4:40 pm** each rehearsal. Entering rehearsal after attendance has been taken counts as a tardy. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence. Every two tardies after that equals an additional unexcused absence.

In order to be counted present for a rehearsal, students will need to have their instrument in working condition and with all needed accessories (reeds, valve oil, mutes, etc.); have their music, and a pencil. Failure to have these items will lead to a student being counted tardy.

If you have a class conflict that requires you to miss any part of a rehearsal, you will need to discuss this with Dr. Anderson.

Reporting an absence

If you are tardy or late to a rehearsal, please e - mail both Dr. Anderson (tanderson@music.umass.edu) and Julia Sullivan, the personnel manager. His e-mail is ummbpersonnelmanager@gmail.com.

Required dates outside of class time

There is only one required date for attendance outside of class time:

- **Sunday, April 19th:**
 - Dress rehearsal for our concert, 9 am
 - The concert itself, 4 pm

Other dates of interest

Though not required, it is strongly encouraged you attend the performances of the Wind Ensemble and the Symphony Band. These are the other wind bands at UMass, and consist of many of your peers. A large audience is always appreciated.

The dates for the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band concerts are:

- **Friday, March 6th:** Wind Ensemble, 7:30 pm
- **Monday, March 9th:** Symphony Band, 7:30 pm
- **Thursday, April 9th:** Wind Ensemble, 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday, April 22nd:** Symphony Band, 7:30 pm

Dates of no rehearsal

- **Tuesday, February 18th:** Monday class schedule
- **Tuesday, March 17th and Thursday, March 19th:** Spring Break
- **Tuesday, April 28th:** Marching Band preview session

Concert Attire

Concert attire is “dressy.” This can be interpreted as:

- Collared shirts
- Blouses
- Sweaters
- Sports jackets/blazers
- Dresses
- Skirts
- Slacks

You do NOT need to wear concert black. Life is full of colors. A few maxims about concert attire, though:

- Jeans are NOT allowed
- Footwear must be formal, not tennis/basketball shoes or sandals.
- In general, go with a conservative/classy look, versus splashy. Let your music make the statement.

The director reserves the right to withhold from performance anyone who does not meet the above dress expectations.

Music

Each student will be issued a folder with music for the semester. Students will also receive a storage slot in the filing cabinets in The Big Room. The music is photo copied but the folders remain property of the band. At the end of each rehearsal, folders should be returned to the cabinet. At the end of the semester, all music and folders will be collected.

If you are in need of music, please contact the band librarians:

library.ummb@gmail.com

Lockers

There are a limited number of lockers available in the George N. Parks Minuteman Marching Band Building. These are intended for instrument storage and are

provided free of charge. Students desiring a locker should contact Julia Sullivan, the Personnel Manager for the Marching Band. Her e-mail is ummbpersonnelmanager@gmail.com.

Please be aware: the Minuteman Marching Band is not responsible for personal items stored in student lockers.

Instruments

Between the inventory of the Minuteman Band and the Department of Music and Dance, there are a small number of winds instruments available for those who do not own their own. If you are in need of an instrument, please check with equipment manager John Murray (ummb.equipment@gmail.com). You are responsible for your own accessories, such as reeds and valve oil.

Percussionists are expected to provide their own sticks/mallets. They will perform on the Minuteman Marching Band front ensemble instruments. These high quality instruments are made available due to the work of Prof. Thomas P. Hannum. It is because of his national reputation that we have access to such instruments.

Building access/rules

The George N. Parks Minuteman Marching Band Building was built with the purpose of providing a home to band members. As a member of the Concert Band, you have access to this building; please feel free to use the open areas for studying/socializing. You may use the Big Room and the locker rooms for your own practice, if you like. The Building is unlocked from 8 am – 9:30 pm most weekdays. Because you are in this band, you will be given Ucard access to the building, which allows you in at all hours.

Food/drink is only allowed in certain areas of the Building. No food/drink outside of water is allowed in the rehearsal areas. Only water in a covered container is allowed in The Big Room.

Rehearsal expectations

The rehearsal is not where you come to learn your parts. That is done outside of the rehearsal, through individual practice. The rehearsal is where the ensemble sound is developed and refined. In order for rehearsals to be effective, students should come with their music prepared and with their attention focused. We only 2 hours of rehearsal a week, so every minute is valuable. The more prepared you are for each rehearsal, the farther we can go as an ensemble.

Each section is expected to hold at least ONE sectional during the semester. This needs to be outside of the Tuesday/Thursday, 4:40 – 6:10 rehearsal time. Organizing sectionals are the responsibility of the principal player for each section. Section leaders can work with Dr. Anderson to schedule their sectional in the Parks Band Building.

Texting is not allowed during rehearsals. Students in violation of this will be asked to leave the rehearsal and will be marked absent. There should be no talking when the conductor is rehearsing the music. Downtime will always be given between each piece. Students who cannot rehearse in such a fashion will be asked to leave. Questions will often be asked of the ensemble; please feel free to contribute your answers.

Chair auditions

Membership in the Concert Band is open to any student in the Five Colleges and the community. There is no audition to join the group; everyone is accepted. There are auditions for chair placement. These determine who the section leaders are, and in the case of sections with multiple parts (clarinets, French horns, trumpets, etc), determine part assignment. The audition music consists of scales and excerpts from the music we will be playing. Auditions will be held during the first rehearsal.

Audition music can be found at

http://www.umass.edu/music/ensembles_wind.php#concertband

Anyone who does not audition will be assigned last chair in their respective section.

Guest conductors

There are three guest conductors this semester. James Minnix, Jose Ignacio Blesa-Lull and Britney Alcine will be conducting us. James and Jose are both second year students in the Master in Wind Conducting program. Conducting the Concert Band is an important part of their educational process. They already work with the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band; working with the Concert Bands helps round out their experience.

Britney is in the Orchestral Conducting program, but has plenty of band experience. She worked with the marching band this past fall and has conducted the Hoop Band. Conducting the Concert Band will be an important experience for her.

It is expected that all guest conductors receive the same level of respect as Dr. Anderson. In the past, guest conductors have achieved great musical results with the Concert Band.

Repertoire for Spring, 2020

The **tentative** concert repertoire for the semester is:

- *The Circus Bee March* – Henry Fillmore
- *A Festival Prelude* - Alfred Reed. James Minnix, conductor
- *Cordilleras de Los Andes* – Arie Malando, arr. Kees Vak. Jose Ignacio Blesa-Lull, conductor
- *English Folk Song Suite* – Ralph Vaughan Williams
- *Fortress* – Frank Ticheli. Britney Alcine, conductor
- *Mark Twain Portrait* – Jerome Kern, arr. TTA. Prof. William Hite, narrator
- *Tiger Rag* (possible encore)