

Fall 2009 Ensemble Placement Auditions

Dear incoming and returning students:

We are delighted to have the opportunity to meet you and hear you perform again at the upcoming ensemble (large and small) placement auditions. Ensemble auditions occur once for the entire academic year; there are no auditions between fall and winter semesters. The auditions will take place on both Thursday, August 20 (all woodwinds and brass) and Friday, August 21 (all percussion and strings). The location of the auditions will be determined and posted that week (August 17). Carefully read **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS** below. The scheduled block for each instrument is as follows:

Thursday, August 20

9:00 am until 11:00 am Flutes

11:00 am until 1:20 pm Clarinets

1:20 pm until 2:00 pm LUNCH BREAK

2:00 pm until 3:00 pm Saxophones

3:00 pm until 4:00 pm Oboes and Bassoons

4:00 pm until 4:30 pm Horns

4:30 pm until 5:30 pm Trumpets

5:30 pm until 6:30 pm Trombones

6:30 pm until 7:30 pm Tuba and Euphonium

7:30 pm until 8:30 pm Possible extended time for additional auditions if necessary

Friday, August 21

9:00 am until 11:00 am All Percussion

2:00 pm until 4:00 pm All Violins

4:00 pm until 5:00 pm Viola

5:00 pm until 6:30 pm Violoncello

6:30 pm until 7:30 pm Double Bass

7:30 pm until 8:30 pm Possible extended time for additional auditions if necessary

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS:

1. If you are an incoming undergraduate/graduate student who has a curricular requirement to perform in an ensemble or are (by virtue of receiving a talent award/scholarship/graduate assistantship from the Conservatory) required to participate in an ensemble, you must be available to perform an audition on the above listed dates and at the above listed times. If you are not able to participate in these auditions, you may forfeit your chance of being considered for any of the small and large instrumental ensembles at the Conservatory. You must notify either Professor Jan Wagner at jwagner@su.edu or Dr. Emily Threinen at ethreine@su.edu immediately. *No ensemble auditions will take place after the above dates and only special and emergency cases will be considered for a later audition by the auditioning faculty.*
2. Please prepare all of the excerpts that have been posted for your particular instrument as indicated. If you happen to play another instrument in your instrument family and would like to be considered for assignments in those instruments (i.e. flutists who also play piccolo, clarinetists who also play bass clarinet) please prepare excerpts for both instruments.

3. The ensemble placement auditions are “blind”; that is to say, you will be performing your audition behind a screen in order to ensure anonymity to the auditioning faculty. This process is designed for fairness to all auditioning and to create an experience that is akin to the audition process of orchestras and bands in the “real world”. We would like to expose you to this experience during your formative years at Shenandoah Conservatory.

4. The day of your respective audition please go to Armstrong Building and sign-up for the first available slot during the times assigned for your instrument group. A graduate student assistant will be there to help you. Please do not contact any of the instrumental faculty or the Conservatory office staff in order to secure a slot as one graduate student assistant has the sign-up sheet.

5. Be sure to arrive at least 10-15 minutes before your assigned time in order to unpack your instrument, warm-up, and tune. You will NOT be allowed to do this inside of the audition location. Signs will be posted in the Armstrong Building indicating where you may leave your belongings and have the opportunity to warm up. There will be several graduate student assistants who will be available the day of the auditions to help you and to answer any questions you may have.

6. During your audition (in the room/hall), please DO NOT engage in conversation with the auditioning faculty. Just perform the excerpts as indicated. The auditioning faculty reserves the right to stop you from performing the excerpt(s) in their entirety. If you happen to speak during your audition and/or your identity is revealed, you may be asked to leave the audition and return at another time.

7. Prepare the audition excerpts well and appropriately. That is to say, if you are unfamiliar with an excerpt and its context within the works from which they were taken, listen to a recording in order to get a feeling for an approximate tempo and expression. These auditions are highly competitive and your performance of these excerpts will be used to determine both your ensemble placement (large and or small) and your seating/part assignments in that particular ensemble(s). You can access a recording of all of the works from which these excerpts are taken by visiting: www.naxosmusiclibrary.com. Username and Password are both “Shenandoah”.

8. Audition results will be posted by the end of the weekend on Sunday, August 23. The ensemble directors will contact you via email, for your placement. Classes and most ensemble rehearsals begin on Monday, August 24.

Please do not hesitate to contact either Professor Jan Wagner at jwagner@su.edu or Dr. Emily Threinen at ethreine@su.edu should you have any questions about the audition process and the audition repertoire. Good luck at your auditions and, on behalf of the entire Instrumental Faculty at Shenandoah Conservatory, we send you best wishes for an exciting and productive year at Shenandoah University!

Jan Wagner, Chair, Instrumental Division, Shenandoah Conservatory