

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

Course Outline

1996-97

MU 1410/MU 2410 Wind Ensemble 3 UT Full Year

Instructor: Derek J. Tuba B.Mus., M.Mus., Artist Diploma
Office and Phone: L116, 539-2014
Office hours: Tuesday, 1:30-2:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Rehearsal Times: Thursdays 7:00 - 9:50 p.m., room L107. All musicians are expected to be ready to tune at 7:00; that is, one should have reeds moistened, music, mutes and pencils present, etc. Extra rehearsals are only infrequently necessary; these will be scheduled far enough in advance to allow for convenient planning.

Course Description: the Wind Ensemble is a performance focused training ensemble. Through instruction, application in rehearsals and public performance the student will gain the knowledge and experience of the skills and protocol required of performers in professional music ensembles.

Course Objectives: Wind Ensemble students will be exposed to the traditional and contemporary body of literature of the modern wind ensemble. As a result of participation and observance in rehearsals and with personal practice and reflection it is expected that all students who complete the course will become more accomplished ensemble performers. In the process the student will develop a greater sense of 'inner pulse', technical facility, tone development, and an increased sight-reading facility.

Evaluation: 40% Weekly performance in the Wind Ensemble
30% First-term individual testing & assignments
30% Second-term individual testing & assignments

NOTE: Attendance Policy for Wind Ensemble

It is required that students attend all rehearsals as their performance will be evaluated in an ongoing manner. All performers are essential to the ensemble whole if we are to achieve a high standard of performance. Attendance at Wind Ensemble rehearsals and concerts is not optional. If the student cannot attend the rehearsal due to medical reasons it is common professional courtesy to notify the conductor (not a classmate) in advance of the rehearsal and to provide the ensemble director with an official (written) medical excuse. If it is not possible to provide the musical director with advance notice of an absence, as may be the case in extreme circumstances, the student is to see the instructor upon returning to Grande Prairie Regional College & provide an official (written) medical excuse. It is expected that the student will arrange to have their complete folder of music at the rehearsal.

*******If a student is absent for any other reason their grade will be affected negatively.** (The student will lose marks for every unexcused absence.)

Students are to be seated by 6:50 p.m. and to be warmed up in preparation for the start of the rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Guided Listening Units
- 2) Performed Wind Ensemble repertoire (two tests/term)
- 3) Attendance
- 4) Written critical evaluation of one wind ensemble concert to be handed in prior to or at the last rehearsal of each term.
- 5) Assist the Music Director with various administrative duties related to the GPRC Wind Ensemble.
- 6) Professional development & conduct.
- 7) Mastery of the part - students are expected to be prepared. It would not be unusual that mastery of the part could require 1-3+ hours of personal practice per week.

Concert Schedule: 4-6 public performances through the full session. Scheduled concerts at this time include: Fall concert November 22 (Friday), Band Christmas December 5 (Thursday). I will provide you with as much advance notice of all other concerts as is possible.

Concert Dress: Concert dress is black. Men: black pants and jacket, white shirt and straight tie with black socks. Women: black and black with dark stockings. Men may choose to add a splash of colour to their ties.

Member Responsibilities:

- 1) Preparedness; arrive in plenty of time to warm up, be in your place, and be ready to play at the appointed starting time with reeds, mutes, instruments, pencils, music, etc.. This is a professional courtesy to other ensemble members to arrive late is disrespectful.
- 2) Technical mastery of the part; students are expected to be prepared. It would not be unusual that mastery of the part could require 1-3+ hours of personal practice per week. Students are required to practice individual parts with metronome. Students are expected to be able to perform their parts at the marked tempo indications (unless otherwise indicated by the conductor) within three rehearsals of sight-reading each work.
- 3) To develop progressively better personal intonation in order that ensemble rehearsals can focus upon ensemble intonation concerns rather than personal. When intonation problems arise during a rehearsal the players, not the conductor, are expected to try to resolve the problem. If after trying the player is unable to accomplish this then ask the conductor for help.
- 4) a. Membership in any of the GPRC Ensembles is a commitment to be taken seriously. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. It is not acceptable to skip a rehearsal because you have an upcoming project or exam in another class.
b. Unavoidable absences or delays must be brought to the attention of the music director in advance of the rehearsal. Call 539-2014 if I am not available leave a message on the answering machine.
c. Arrange to have your music delivered to the rehearsal.
- 5) Keeping count during rests.

- 6) Rehearsal of the music - be prepared to stop and restart quickly. When the conductor signals the ensemble to tacet, tacet, do not try to finish the phrase. Learn by listening when the conductor is giving instruction to another section check if this applies to your section (part). Talking in rehearsal prevents those involved and the players surrounding from listening to the conductor and therefore talking in rehearsals is discouraged.
- 7) Unless the conductor indicates otherwise, stylistic and technical matters are up to section leaders. Players should try to match intonation and timbre as a section to blend into the ensemble.
- 8) "Don't take your troubles to the band!" (D. Spera) Be professional at all times. I will demand 100% at all times - if one rehearsal you can give 60% and another 115% do so but give all that you have in you.
- 9) "If you cannot say anything positive do not say anything at all." The key to happiness: "Only compete with yourself." (D. Spera)

Alberta Wind Symphony

The Alberta Wind Symphony, an Alberta collegiate honour band yearly sponsored by the Alberta Band Association, will meet in Edmonton under the leadership of Gary Green, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands at the University of Miami, beginning on Wednesday evening, October 23 to Saturday, October 26. All students of the Wind Ensemble are eligible for consideration, but before you submit your name you will have to check with instructors to be certain that you have received permission in advance to miss the affected courses. I will be willing to write a note of explanation to any instructor who would like one. I will be asking for names of students who are interested & cleared in participating in the Alberta Wind Symphony in a few weeks.