UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
MULB 1805.500, 5172.500
Fall Semester, 2026

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MPAC 137

[DRAFT OF 6/30/26]

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Course Content:

The UNT Symphony Orchestra is a laboratory course designed for the development of the professional performer and the professional educator. Through this course the student will experience new repertoire, improve musicianship, and learn ensemble discipline in a collaborative setting. The goal of this organization, in rehearsal and performance, is to achieve the highest degree possible of learning and performance. It is the responsibility of the conductor and the performers to be prepared for each rehearsal. It is only through careful preparation that the goals of this organization can be accomplished.

Course Purpose:

This course partially fulfills the ensemble requirement for degree programs within the College of Music.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Student will have mastered a variety of ensemble techniques leading to an ability to perform at a professional level in the orchestral setting.
2. Student will learn how to listen and respond in an ensemble setting with regard to a number of musical issues such as balance, color, articulation, style, intonation, intensity, etc.
3. Student will have gained insight into the physical and mental technique and discipline necessary to continue improving musical technique and expression over time.
4. Student will have gained knowledge of the orchestral repertoire regularly performed in this ensemble and should have experienced a balanced cross section of that repertoire.
5. Student will have gained experience, musical maturity and comfort in a live performance setting.
6. Student should recognize the relationship between the theory and history of music and the performance thereof.

Methods for Assessing the Expected Outcomes:

Grades are assessed as follows: 50% Part preparation tests, 50% instructor's assessment of overall performance, improvement as ensemble performer, etc.

In addition, one letter grade reduction is applied for each unexcused absence. Arriving at rehearsal late two times (unexcused) equals on unexcused absence and will result in a grade deduction of one letter grade.

Missing, or being late to, a performance for any reason other than serious illness (or pre-arranged excused absence) triggers an automatic failing grade in the course. Serious illness (the student) or family emergencies are the only reasons for granting an excused absence from a performance.

Tuning:

- Four A's:
  (1) Brass, (2) Woodwinds, (3) Low Strings, (4) High Strings.
  [Violas, watch principal to see with which group you should tune.]
- Tune only; no scales, arpeggios, excerpts, etc.
- Tune at "piano" to "mezzo-piano".
- Tune only with your group. The 4th A is not a tutti A, it is for high strings only.
  When your group is finished tuning, please do not play again until the downbeat.
- Please do not talk during the tuning process.
- These principles of disciplined tuning apply equally to rehearsals and concerts.

Course Requirements:
Student musicians are expected to come to each rehearsal physically prepared to play at the published start of class *with their individual music prepared*. Students should plan on arriving early in order to facilitate this.

PREPARATION FOR REHEARSAL.
An orchestra rehearsal is a period for work on the interpretation of the music and the development of the ensemble. It is not any individual's personal practice time. Student musicians are expected to arrive at every rehearsal (including sectionals) *thoroughly* prepared on the repertoire for that rehearsal. Thorough preparation for rehearsal includes the following:

(1) *Complete*, individual ability to perform every note, dynamic, articulation, (and bowing) at a reasonable performance tempo.

(2) General overall knowledge of the sound and content of the work suitable to understand one's place in the whole. (Those unfamiliar with a particular work will want to consult a score and/or listen to a recording to achieve this.)

These preparation requirements apply to *all UNT Symphony rehearsals and performances*. This requirement is not limited to symphonic concerts, but also includes opera, gala, choral performances, recordings, and all other UNT Symphony Orchestra projects or assignments, both on and off campus. Sight-reading and/or insufficient preparation for rehearsal are unacceptable and will not be tolerated and *are sufficient cause for a reduced grade*.

Rehearsal Times and Locations:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. Winspear Hall (unless otherwise posted)

Music:
Every musician will be assigned a folder (strings: original "performance" folder outside, practice copies inside) and will be responsible financially for both the folder and its contents. After a folder is distributed **it is the sole responsibility of the musician**. **The librarian *will not* pick up folders after rehearsal or re-distribute them before rehearsal**.

Outside strings that must miss a rehearsal *for any reason* are responsible to be certain that their folder (performance folder) is at rehearsal for use by their stand partner. Failure by the outside player missing rehearsal (even excused) to have the "performance" folder at rehearsal will result in a lowered grade. When an outside player is missing at rehearsal (for any reason) the Orchestra Studies Artistic Assistant TA [AATA] will check to be certain that the outside folder on the stand. If the inside player has been forced to use the inside part for rehearsal the AATA will so note in the roster, possibly resulting in a lowered grade for the outside player. If the outside player has missed rehearsal for unexpected reasons (*sudden* illness, etc.), and it has been, therefore, impossible to provide the performance folder for rehearsal, that student should contact the AATA as soon as possible after the incident to explain the details. *Even when the two parts are identical (i.e., both are copies), the folder issued to the outside player is the performance folder and is the only one to be used on the stand in rehearsals and performances.*

Fees will be assessed for music or folders that are lost or damaged due to excessive marking or mishandling. A grade of "incomplete" will be registered for any student whose music or folder is damaged or not returned.

Concert Dress:
The purpose of a dress code is to provide a professional atmosphere for our orchestra members and to present a professional and respectable image to our faculty, patrons, and community.

MEN:
Black Tuxedo
Black Bow Tie
Black Cummerbund or Tuxedo Vest
White Tuxedo Shirt
Black Socks – plain, no patterns
Black Dress Shoes – polished

Concert Dress (con't)

WOMEN:
- Long Black
- Conservative Sleeves – no shorter than one inch above the elbow
- Conservative Neckline – front and back
- Long Skirt or dress – no shorter than the lower calf [halfway between knee and floor]
- Long Pant – full length with wide leg width
- NO TAPERED PANT OR DRESS SHORTS
- Black Hose – plain, no patterns
- Black Dress Shoes – closed toe and heel, polished

Please Note:
- Clothes must be loose fitting – not skintight
- Shear fabrics should be lined with a solid black lining
- White blouse under black jacket is acceptable

Attendance and Grading Policy:

• Attendance at all concerts and rehearsals is required of all designated personnel unless specifically notified otherwise in writing. This includes, but is not limited to, operas, choral works, opera gala, and other special performances. [*All musicians* assigned to opera productions play *all* rehearsals and performances. There is *not* a rotation system.]

• All issues regarding absences (excused or not), scheduling, etc., for *opera, choral, or any other performances not purely orchestral* are to be handled through the Department of Orchestral Studies office *in the same manner as at all other times.* These subjects are *never* to be dealt with directly with opera conductor or any other conductor other than the Director of Orchestral Studies, the Assistant Director of Orchestral Studies, or the Personnel Manager TA.

• Absences from **either of the last two rehearsals of any concert cycle** are not permitted under any circumstances. An unexcused absence from such a rehearsal, or a concert, may result in dismissal from the ensemble and/or a failing grade. *These, and all other dates for which excused absences are not permitted, are indicated in the syllabus.*

• Any absence not requested and approved in advance (other than illness, etc.) is considered an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences will result in (1) the grade being lowered one letter grade for each unexcused absence and/or (2) dismissal from the ensemble and a failing grade.

• Make up or other re-scheduled **applied lessons** scheduled by the instructor and/or student during ensemble rehearsals **will not be excused** either as pre-arranged absence or after the fact. Applied lessons should never be scheduled during ensemble rehearsals.

• Regular attendance is expected at all rehearsals and concerts, **including those that may directly precede a vacation or other school break**. Absence on such dates will **not** be excused.

• **Students are graded not only on attendance, but primarily on preparation of music and improvement as ensemble musicians.**

• **Excused absences.** The schedule for the term is provided on pages 5 and 6. Students are responsible for being aware of all dates listed as course responsibilities. Potential conflicts with rehearsals should be reported by filling out the Excused Absence Request Form online *as soon as they are known*. The Absence Request Form can be found on the UNT Orchestral Studies Website (https://orchestra.music.unt.edu) under Student Information. This online form should be filled out in its entirety. The student will receive an email receipt of the form sent to UNT Orchestral Studies faculty. The DOA will then approve, not approve, or request more information about the absence. All decisions and communication about absence requests will be done via email. It is the student's responsibility to respond to staff emails regarding absence requests in a timely manner. Absence request forms must be filled out *for all absence situations*; this *includes* when students are asked to play with outside groups that are conducted by UNT faculty; the policy is no different in that situation.
Excused absences are never allowed during the final two rehearsals before a performance or other dates marked with asterisks in the syllabus.

• While the Orchestral Studies Department recognizes the importance of participation by students in community and regional orchestras, *the primary responsibility of the student, while enrolled in the Symphony Orchestra, remains with the College of Music's Symphony Orchestra*. Therefore, any absence because of rehearsal or performance in outside ensembles must be approved by the DOS in order to be excused. An **absence request form** must be completed and submitted **at least two weeks** prior to the anticipated absence. Any musician (other than section strings) receiving permission for an excused absence (for any reason) is responsible for securing an appropriate, prepared substitute for the rehearsal. Students should **never** accept an engagement or make other commitments in conflict with orchestra activities before securing an approved absence in writing. Contracts signed for professional work before the beginning of the academic year do **not** automatically demand an approved absence and are subject to the same constraints and criteria as any other request.

Attendance and Grading Policy (cont'd)

- Excused absences, even via the proper approval process, *are limited* in the following ways:
  (1) A maximum of *two excused* absences per concert cycle are permitted. These two potential excused absences are reduced by any illness or other absences. (e.g., if a student requires one illness absence they may not *also* take two unexcused absences in that cycle, only one.
  (2) No more than six absences (combination of all factors, excused, illness, recital, etc.) are allowed in any given semester.

- Recitals. Students are free to request an excused absence from rehearsal when their recital occurs *after a symphony rehearsal on the same day*. However, such requests are subject to the same conditions as other requests: they must be submitted in writing in a timely manner and are subject to the same possibility of denial as all other requests when not presented properly and/or too many other excused absences have already been granted for the same rehearsal.

In order to keep all rehearsals productive for all students, **limitations are placed on the number of students that will be allowed excused absences on the same day**; this applies to the orchestra overall and to any given section**. When the DOS determines that the number of excused absences approved (on any given day) have reached the maximum that still allows for productive rehearsal, then all future requests (regardless of timing or reason, except for emergencies) will be denied, and students submitting such requests will be expected to attend that rehearsal as usual.**

- **Electronic device policy.** Except for emergency situations, NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES such as phones, pagers, etc., are to be TOUCHED, used, or consulted in any way during a rehearsal or performance. Violation of this policy, IN ANY WAY, NO MATTER HOW MINOR, can and WILL result in immediate dismissal from the ensemble and failure of the course.
- The professional habit of **arriving early for rehearsal is expected** of every musician. At the very minimum, rehearsals must begin on time with everyone present. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each rehearsal. Anyone not present when attendance is taken will be considered tardy or, depending upon later arrival, absent and unexcused. If a student arrives late it is *the responsibility of the student* to see the Personnel Manager TA at break or after rehearsal to make certain that the Personnel Manager TA has changed "absent" to "late" when the student arrived. The Personnel Manager TA will make every effort to make such changes if a student arrives late, but it is *the student's responsibility* to make certain that their arrival was noted. Changes to the attendance roster cannot be made retroactively during or after the grading process.
- **Playing injuries and other illnesses not requiring bed rest**. If a student has a playing injury requiring rest from that day's rehearsal, or if a student has an illness that will make playing impossible *but does not require bed rest or absence from classes generally*, the student is *required* to attend rehearsal as usual. In such circumstances the student may sit either in the orchestra or in the first several rows of the "house", having their part (or a practice part) in their hands, following rehearsal carefully and marking all issues discussed during rehearsal as usual. In this circumstance, no other work is to be done during this time, and the electronic device policy still fully applies.
- **All absences due to illness** (not pre-arranged/pre-excused) will require a supporting document in order for that absence to be "excused". For the absence to be excused, students must submit *one* of the two following documents to the personnel manager TA at the earliest possible time following the illness. [This document must be turned in *not later* than the beginning of the next rehearsal attended by that student.] Documents: (1) A signed, dated note from the physician or clinic visited by the student for that illness. (2) A completed and signed "Illness absence" form found on the UNT Orchestral Studies Website (https://orchestra.music.unt.edu) under Student Information. This online form must be *completely* filled out and signed by the student. The "illness absence" form specifies that the student was too ill or otherwise indisposed to execute his/her regular schedule on that day, and did not attend any classes, rehearsals, lessons, coachings, etc., on that day. Regarding turning in and signing the "illness absence" form, students are advised to read the "Academic Integrity" section below.

These policies apply equally to ALL STUDENTS, including those students participating in major ensembles to satisfy scholarship or other non-curricular requirements.

Part preparation tests:

Part preparation tests due dates can be found on the rehearsal schedule [pages 5-6].

A list of the required excerpts will be posted approximately 72 hours before the due date/time. By no later than the due date/time, selected students must deliver a **video recording** of their performance of the excerpts **to the personnel manager TA**, by sending a link to the posted video (see personnel manager's email address on page 1). This is a required activity, as with a test in any other course, and cannot be turned in late or overlooked. See "Methods for Assessing Outcomes" for more details on the overall grading value of part preparation tests.

Part test videos must be delivered via link to youtube. No other format is acceptable.

Split orchestras:

Each Fall semester the Symphony Orchestra rehearses and performs during a portion of the semester divided into two parts, opera orchestra and chamber orchestra. Personnel specifics for these split orchestras are posted in MPAC and on the Orchestral Studies board in MU. Students can understand their exact rehearsal and performance responsibilities by consulting, first, these lists and, second, the schedule on page 6 of the syllabus. Once split orchestra assignments are made they are considered to be final. If, however, a student wishes to request to be moved from one portion of the orchestra to the other, this may be considered under the following circumstances. (1) The change is being requested in order to make possible for the student a particular performance opportunity, or to remove time constraint obstacles regarding a degree recital, AND (2) the student has already secured the willing participation of a musician assigned to the other half of the orchestra with whom s/he can switch assignments. In the case of section strings, students requesting to exchange assignments should be, as much as possible, of similar experience and technical expertise.

Rehearsal schedules:

It is the responsibility of all students to check this schedule regularly for important information, as well as updates and changes to the schedule. Failure to consult the schedule is not an excuse for failing to appear at required rehearsals, etc. Rehearsal schedules are posted for the convenience of the students. However, students should *under no circumstances* make commitments during any part of scheduled rehearsals, as schedules are subject to change.

Rehearsal schedules are posted **on Canvas**. The schedule will usually be available on Friday (for the following week) but will always be posted by Sunday at the latest.

UNT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FALL 2026 Schedule of performances and other outside of class time requirements.

[Always check the weekly posted schedule.]

August	17	First orchestra meeting
	22 [Saturday]	Rehearsals 10:00am-12:30pm and 2:00-4:30pm
	25 [Tuesday]	Part test due 11:59pm
September	8 [Tuesday]	Rehearsal 7:00-10:00pm **
	9	Rehearsal 2:30-5:00pm **
		7:30 Concert – Call time 7:00
		Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6
		Webern Im Sommerwind
		Tchaikovsky 1812 Overture
	15 [Tuesday]	Part test due 11:59pm
October	5	Rehearsal 2:30-4:20pm **
	7	Rehearsal 2:30-5:00pm **
		7:30 Concert – Call time 7:00
		Bernstein Symphony No. 1
		Beethoven Symphony No. 3
	17	Part test due 11:59pm
	28	Rehearsal 2:30-4:20pm **
	29 [Thursday]	Rehearsal 7:00-10:00pm **
	30	**8:00 Concert – Call time 7:30**
		John Williams concert
November	16	Rehearsal 2:30-4:20pm **
	18	Rehearsal 2:30-4:20pm **
		7:30 Concert – Call time 7:00 [joint concert with Concert Orchestra]
		Brahms Tragic Overture
		Mozart Symphony No. 36
	20	Rehearsal 2:30-4:20pm [full orchestra/Petruchka]
		[Early departure for Thanksgiving break will NOT be approved as an excused absence.]
	30	Rehearsal 2:30-4:20pm [full orchestra/Petruchka]
December	1	Rehearsal 2:30-4:20pm [full orchestra/composition readings]

** **No excused absences for these rehearsals.**

IMPORTANT DATES for SPRING SEMESTER 2027

January 11	First day of UNT classes
January 16 (Saturday)	Conducting workshop sessions
January 17 (Sunday)	Conducting workshop sessions
February 10	7:30 performance
March 3	7:30 performance
April 19 & 20	Rehearsal 7:00pm to 10:00pm
April 21	7:30pm performance (w/ Grand Chorus)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.
See: Academic Integrity
LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003

STUDENT BEHAVIOR
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.
See: Student Code of Conduct
Link: https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT
Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.
See: Eagle Connect
LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.
See: ODA
LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

DIVERSITY AND BELONGING
UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities.

Health and Safety Information
Students can access information about health and safety at: https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness

Registration Information for Students
See: Registration Information
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/students

Academic Calendar, Fall 2024
See: Fall 2024 Academic Calendar
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/fall-2024-academic-calendar.pdf

Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2024
See above

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates
A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.
See: Financial Aid
LINK: http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap

Graduates
A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the

published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.
See: Financial Aid
LINK: http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS
Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.
See: FERPA
Link: http://ferpa.unt.edu/

COUNSELING AND TESTING
UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:
See: Counseling and Testing
Link: http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:
See: Mental Health Resources
Link: https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources

ADD/DROP POLICY
Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.
Drop Information: https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html

STUDENT RESOURCES
The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:
See: Student Resources
Link: https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources

CARE TEAM
The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.
See: Care Team
Link: https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team