UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS SINFONIETTA ORCHESTRA
MULB 1805.505,
Fall Semester, 2026

Louanne Greer, Music Education Teaching Fellow
louannegreer@my.unt.edu Louanne.Greer@unt.edu
Music Building, room 232
Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-4:30, room 307 or by appointment

Course Content:

The UNT Sinfonietta Orchestra is a laboratory course designed for the development of student musicians. This course is open to music majors and non-majors who play string instruments (violin, viola, cello, bass, or harp). 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. This course may also partially fulfill an elective credit for non-music major degree plans. Please check with your department advisor for more information about your degree requirements.

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 regarding 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.
7. Students will gain an understanding of the pedagogical process for teaching orchestra in an ensemble setting.

Methods for Assessing the Expected Outcomes:

1. Rehearsals.
2. Performances.
3. Sectional rehearsals.
4. Individual playing demonstrations and part preparation tests as requested/instructed by the conductor.

Tuning:

- Tuning will begin promptly at the beginning of class. It is your responsibility to be warmed up and ready for tuning by 4:30.
- We will provide three As. The first is for cello/bass, the second is for violin/viola, and the third is for all to check.
- We will tune individually and check as a group, as needed.
- Tune only; no practicing, scales, arpeggios, excerpts, etc.
- Tune at “piano” to “mezzo-piano”

- Tune only with your group.
- 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 to facilitate this. Students can warm up in either of the practice buildings across the street from the music building.

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 Sinfonietta Orchestra rehearsals and performances*. This requirement is not limited to symphonic concerts, but also includes opera, opera gala, choral performances, recordings, and all other UNT Sinfonietta 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 is sufficient cause for a reduced grade.

Rehearsal Times and Locations:

Tuesday 4:30-5:50 PM Music Building Room 232
Thursday 4:30-6:20 PM Music Building Room 232

Rehearsal Schedule:

Rehearsal schedules for the week (and sometimes beyond) are posted in Canvas. *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.
All students are expected to be on time and ready to play at the beginning of class.

Music:

One copy of the music will be provided, and musicians are expected to keep up with their music. If you lose your music, you are responsible for printing a new copy and making sure it has all the necessary markings from previous rehearsals. ALL musicians are expected to being their music to EVERY rehearsal. Music will be available on Canvas. Extra copies of music will NOT be available during class.

All original music will be collected at the end of the concert cycle. **Fees will be assessed for music that is 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. All musicians are expected to wear **CONCERT BLACK**. Please see canvas and page 5 of this document for guidelines on concert black.

Attendance:

- Attendance at all concerts and rehearsals is required of all designated personnel unless specifically notified otherwise in writing. This includes service project performances.

- All issues regarding absences are to be handled through the Ms. Greer. Ms. Greer will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused and how to proceed. Communication is key! If you do not communicate about an absence prior to missing, it will be considered unexcused.
- Absences from **either of the last two rehearsals of any concert cycle (marked as dress rehearsals)** 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.
- Any absence not requested and approved in advance 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) potential 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 below. Students are responsible for being aware of all dates listed as course responsibilities. Potential conflicts with rehearsals or concert dates should be reported by filling out the Excused Absence Request Form *as soon as they are known*. You can find this form on the Canvas home page or at ABSENCE FORM. This form should be filled out in its entirety! Ms. Greer will then approve, *or not approve*, the absence, and the form will be quickly returned to the student via email. Excused absence forms must be filled out ***for all absence situations***.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on four criteria:

* Attendance (25%) * Performance (25%) * Playing Tests and Improvement (25%) * Professionalism (25%)

- **Attendance:** Musicians are expected to attend EVERY rehearsal and EVERY performance. All members of the ensemble are important and valuable. Unexcused absences will result in lowered grades by a letter. **Communication is key**. Make sure that you are communicating absences ahead of time for approval to avoid reduction of points.
- **Performance:** This class is designed to teach you performance skills. The performances are a critical part of the learning, and as such will be a large portion of your grade. There is not an authentic way to make up a performance if you miss it.
- **Playing Tests and Improvement:** There will be playing tests during the semester. These will be recorded and submitted on Canvas. Please use Canvas's recording studio or upload a link to a YouTube video for me. These are the only acceptable ways to turn in your test. Incremental improvement is expected throughout the semester. If you are practicing regularly, this will happen.
- **Professionalism:** Be on time, keep your phone put away, know your part before rehearsal, listen actively and pay attention to other parts, think about musical expression and phrasing, and be an active member of the process. Be respectful of the group and its members. Rehearsal is where we learn each other's parts and should not be time for sight reading or individual practice. Listen to and learn the music outside of rehearsal.

Other Policies:

- **Electronic device policy.** Except in the case of 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 result in immediate dismissal from the ensemble and failure of the course.
- 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 Sinfonietta Orchestra, remains with the College of Music's Sinfonietta Orchestra*. Therefore, any absence because of rehearsal or performance in other area ensembles must be approved by the Assistant Director of Orchestral Studies to be excused. An **absence request form** must be completed and submitted **at least two weeks** prior to the anticipated absence. 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. 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 Assistant Director of Orchestral Studies 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.

- 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 for that absence to be "excused". For the absence to be excused, students must submit *one* of the two following documents to Ms. Greer 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 Absence 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 (playing tests):

Part preparation test due dates can be found on the rehearsal schedule. 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 Canvas**, by sending a link to the posted video on the **assignment** assigned.

It is the responsibility of the student, not the TA or the professor, to observe (in the syllabus and posted schedules) when part tests occur.

UNT SINFONIETTA ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

FALL, 2026 Rehearsal & Performance Schedule

[Schedule subject to change] Please check Canvas each week to be sure you know what you are expected to prepare.

	TUESDAY 4:30-5:50 PM		THURSDAY 4:30-6:20 PM	
August	18	Syllabus/Expectations/Auditions	20	Rehearsal
	25	Rehearsal	27	Rehearsal
September	1	Rehearsal	3	Rehearsal
	8	Rehearsal	10	Rehearsal
	15	Rehearsal	17	Rehearsal
	22	Rehearsal	24	Rehearsal
	29	Rehearsal	1 (Oct)	NO CLASS (NAfME CONFERENCE)
October	6	Rehearsal	8	Rehearsal
	13	Rehearsal	15	Rehearsal
	20	Rehearsal; Parts test on Canvas	22	Rehearsal
	27	Rehearsal	29	Rehearsal
November	3	Rehearsal	5	Rehearsal
	10	**Dress Rehearsal 1**	12	**Dress Rehearsal 2**
	17	**CONCERT – 5:00 Recital Hall**	19	Reflection/Final Rehearsal
	24	THANKSGIVING BREAK	26	THANKSGIVING BREAK
December	1	No class/juries	3	No class/juries
	7-11	FINAL EXAM WEEK		

November 17 – Concert in Recital Hall at 5:00

Call time is 4:00 in room 232. We will move to the stage after warm-up. Please come to rehearsal dressed in your concert black. We will tune at 4:55 for a 5:00 start time.

Use of Generative AI (GenAI)

In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools like [insert tool(s) here, e.g., Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini] is not permitted. While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the Student Academic Integrity policy.

A Guide to "Concert Black"

What is Concert Black?

Completely black formal/semi-formal attire. The intention is not to remove all individuality, but to avoid anything that will visually detract from the musical performance.

*Audience members **see** you before they **hear** you.*

Musicians may choose from the following:

1. Top
    a. Solid black dress shirt (collar, button-down, long or half sleeves), sweater, or blouse. **Must cover midriffs/backs/shoulders and undergarments.**
    Note: If wearing an undershirt, it must also be black.
2. Bottom
    a. Black dress pants or skirt (knee length or longer).
3. One piece
    a. Dress (knee-length or longer, accompanied with opaque black tights or hose).
    b. Jumpsuit.
    Note: If your dress or jumpsuit has short sleeves, pair it with a blazer or sweater.
4. Footwear
    a. Black dress shoes.
    Note: Heels are optional, but not *recommended*.
    b. Black socks or stockings (minimally calf-height).
5. Accessories
    a. Black belts (not dark brown).
    b. Small jewelry (that *will not make noise* when moving).
    Note: Avoid bright colored pieces or anything that may detract attention.

What is **NOT** Concert Black?

- "Mostly" black with white stripes, polka dots, etc.
- Outfits with glitter, sequins, and otherwise shiny material (like leather pants/leggings)
- Faded black (you will be under stage lights - this *will* stand out)
- Jeans, sweats, yoga pants, skirts above the knee, shorts
- Little black dress
- Polos, t-shirts, non-formal tank tops, cold shoulder, off the shoulder, or spaghetti straps
- Flip-flops, sandals, sneakers, or open-toed shoes
- White socks, **ankle socks**, colorful socks, or bare feet

Examples and outfit inspiration can be found on Canvas.

University Required Syllabus Statements

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)

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 2025
See: Fall 2025 Registration Information
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html

Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2025
See: Final Exam Schedule

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