



Concert Ensemble

2008-2009 Handbook

Personnel

Concert Strings

Mickey Reisman, Director

Concert Winds

Alan Francis, Director

Concert Orchestra

Alan Francis, Co-Director

Mickey Reisman, Co-Director

Phone: (860) 768-4451

Email: [**concens@hartford.edu**](mailto:concens@hartford.edu)

Website: www.hartford.edu/hartt/community

Concert Ensemble

A String, Wind and Full Orchestra Ensemble

2008-2009

Mission Statement

Concert Ensemble provides a unique approach to a full orchestra experience for Junior High School aged students. This program seeks talented students in our region by audition to provide excellent performance opportunities for Hartford's talented youth instrumentalists.

About the Program

Concert Ensemble consists of a string orchestra, wind band, full orchestra and saxophone ensemble. String students participate in Concert Strings, a string orchestra ensemble, for the first hour of rehearsal. Winds, brass, and percussion students participate in Concert Winds for the first hour of rehearsal, a full wind ensemble for these types of instruments. Concert Winds then join with Concert Strings for the second hour of rehearsal, creating Concert Orchestra, to gain the experience of a full orchestra. Since saxophone is not typically part of orchestral repertoire, saxophone students participate in a saxophone ensemble during full orchestra rehearsals, culminating each semester with a saxophone ensemble performance. During years when Concert Winds is larger than needed for full orchestra, the highest scoring students, based on placement auditions, will be selected to play with the full orchestra. Students who do not participate in the full orchestra will work on other skills and/or literature.

Rehearsals

Saturdays from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. in Bliss Music Room (winds) and room 342 (strings) at the Hartt School, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117

Concerts

Concert Ensemble generally holds 2-3 concerts per year and all events are updated regularly on our school website <http://hcd.hartford.edu>. Most concerts are recorded professionally and available for purchase by families whose child participates in the ensemble. For more information, contact the ensemble manager at concens@hartford.edu.

Membership

Members of Concert Ensemble are typically in grades 7-9, although participation can be extended with approval by the directors. Participation in Concert Ensemble is based on an academic calendar, beginning in September and ending in June. Ensembles can be described as follows:

- **Concert Strings:** a string orchestra performing a rich repertoire of classical music for advanced junior high school aged string students.
- **Concert Winds:** a wind band performing a wide variety of repertoire from various genres and periods for advanced junior high school aged wind, brass and percussion students.
- **Concert Orchestra:** a full orchestra performing music from classical, romantic and 20th century periods for advanced junior high school aged wind, brass, percussion and string students.

Leadership

Leadership is provided by the Community Division, the music directors, and managers. The Music Directors for 2008-2009 include Alan Francis and Mickey Reisman. Please contact the Community Division office with questions at (860) 768-4451. Each ensemble has a manager to organize the needs of the ensemble and help answer questions of parents and students.

Performance Attire

Girls – long, black skirt or black dress pants, white shirt and black shoes

Boys – black dress pants, white shirt, black shoes, black socks and a long tie of any solid color.

Tuition and Fees

Students who take private lessons from the Hartt Community Division participate in Concert Ensemble free of charge. Students who do not take private lessons with the Hartt Community Division may register for the year and pay \$500 plus a \$25 registration fee.

Requirements

Instrumentalists who have been accepted into the Concert Ensemble must submit:

1. Registration form with appropriate tuition and fees as applicable (Hartt Community Division private lesson students exempt)
2. Concert Winds only: students must also submit a contract relating the *I Recommend* warm-up books that are lent to members for the year.

(Registration, fees, and contract must be submitted prior to the first rehearsal in September.)

The submission of a signed registration form with tuition and fees indicates agreement to the calendar and absence policy listed in this handbook. It also indicates that the student and his/her parents have read the handbook, looked at the yearly calendar, and are willing to make a commitment to the organization for the coming year. A student who does not fulfill his/her commitment to the organization may jeopardize current and future membership in the organization.

Attendance Policy

Attendance and active participation at all rehearsals /classes is crucial to the success of any organization such as The Concert Ensemble. It is expected that all members will demonstrate responsibility, punctuality, and dependability as part of their commitment to the organization. Commitment to an organization often includes making choices that are difficult. If a student knows that he/she will have to be absent from a rehearsal /class, then he/she should complete an absence form (see attached) and turn it into the manager. Excessive absence (more than twice per semester) is not acceptable and may result in dismissal. In the case of illness, members are expected to call and leave a message (860-768-4451) or email the manager at concens@hartford.edu. At the next rehearsal /class, students should fill out an absence form and turn it into the manager.

Expectations

1. Members of Concert Ensemble are expected to attend all designated rehearsal and performance dates listed on the 2008-2009 Calendar. If additional rehearsals and/or performances are required, they will be communicated well in advance. Members are not expected to attend rehearsals on religious holidays or that are in conflict with school music performances. Members with excessive absences may be dismissed from the group and will not be considered for future membership in the organization.
2. Members who miss more than two rehearsals before a concert may be asked not to perform. Members who miss performances (except in the case of illness or family emergency) will not be considered for future membership.
3. Members are responsible for all music or supplies checked out to them and must pay for anything that is lost or damaged.
4. Members are expected to demonstrate a high level of self-discipline, maturity, and professionalism at all times. They are expected to be courteous, polite, and respectful of other instrumentalists and adults. Members who cannot abide by these expectations will be dismissed from the organization.

At Rehearsals

1. Instrumentalists should plan to be in place and ready to begin with all the music and materials at the designated time for each rehearsal.
2. Each instrumentalist should always keep a **sharpened pencil** in his/her folder.
3. Instrumentalists should not ask to be excused to visit the restroom or water fountain unless it is an emergency. Drinks and restroom trips should be taken care of before rehearsal.

4. Instrumentalists should be attentive to all directions and follow them quickly. All communication with the directors and managers should occur before or after rehearsals, or at a designated break.
5. Instrumentalists are responsible for knowing assigned music when they come to a rehearsal.
6. Food and beverages may not be consumed during rehearsals, except for water.
7. Folders should be kept neat and organized. A calendar should be kept in the folder at all times.

At Performances

1. Instrumentalists should plan on being in place at the designated time.
2. Instrumentalists are required to wear the designated attire at all performances. Members who do not dress appropriately will not be allowed to perform.
3. Instrumentalists who do not attend the final rehearsal before the performance may not perform with the ensemble.

Concert Ensemble
Advance Absence Form

Name: _____ Instrument: _____

Date of Absence: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Reason for
Absence: _____

_____.

Concert Ensemble
Advance Absence Form

Name: _____ Instrument: _____

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Reason for
Absence: _____

_____.