

MUSIC 141/241 CHAMBER ENSEMBLES – FALL 2025

Heather Buchman (Brass, Coordinator)	hbuchman@hamilton.edu
Cornelia Brewster (Flutes)	cbrewster2@wtcny.rr.com
Stephanie Carbone (Saxophones)	scarbonesax@gmail.com
Allan Kolsky (Clarinets)	el.al@verizon.net
Michael Cirmo (Percussion)	mcirmo@hamilton.edu
Elena Nezhdanova (Piano Duets)	enezhdan@hamilton.edu
Edgar Tumajyan (Hamstrings)	etumajya@aol.com

REHEARSALS

All groups will have a one hour weekly coaching session. Small ensembles are also expected to have one additional regular rehearsal per week.

MASTERCLASSES AND VISITING ARTISTS

Occasionally visiting chamber ensembles on the Performing Arts series give masterclasses. All students in chamber ensembles are expected to attend the masterclasses for their instrument family, as well as the performances of all visiting chamber ensembles.

PERFORMANCES

Wednesday, December 10 7:30p Chamber Music Concert

All chamber groups are also expected to give one additional performance during the semester. Possibilities for this include preconcert music in Wellin Lobby, music before Faculty Meetings (first Tuesday of the month at 4-4:10 pm) – or organize your own performance on campus.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

Participation in Chamber Ensembles emphasizes the College's Educational Goals of

Analytic Discernment – the ability to analyze sound in terms of intonation, balance, blend, rhythm, and other musical variables, and use that information in practice and rehearsal

Aesthetic Discernment – developing an ‘ear’ for the distinct styles and affects in of each of the works we are performing; becoming familiar with the sound world of each composer

Disciplinary Practice – understanding and applying the focused, sustained, methodical effort over time necessary to develop a high level of skill in playing your instrument, of playing in an ensemble

Communication and Expression – the ability to convey affect and character through musical means.

GRADES

are based on (1) Attendance, (2) Consistency of music preparation, (3) Development of ensemble skills (watching, listening, counting, rhythm, intonation), (4) General conscientiousness and professionalism.

ATTENDANCE

is one of the main factors for your grade:

- After one rehearsal missed, each additional rehearsal missed is a reduction of 1/3 letter grade.
- Lateness or leaving early may count as a partial absence.
- A single missed dress rehearsal will result in a deduction of a full letter grade.
- A missed concert will result in a deduction of two letter grades.

Academic and extracurricular activities outside normal class hours (lectures, exams, class presentations, review sessions) are not automatically excused. Your prior commitment is to the regularly scheduled rehearsal time and any additional times listed in the syllabus.

How to handle this? Let your professor know of the conflict with another class, and request that other arrangements be made for you to take the exam.

Notify the chamber coach as early as possible if you are unable to come to rehearsal, including if you are not feeling well – at least ½ hour before start of rehearsal.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

Everyone in the ensemble is called on to help create a respectful and productive working atmosphere in rehearsal. Common sense and general thoughtfulness apply. In particular:

- Please be considerate of the rehearsal – no talking or extraneous playing, particularly during tuning notes.
- No food, drinks, or cell phones are allowed in rehearsal.
- If you have a long rest or a tacet movement, stay nearby. No walking out, except to deal with a problem with your instrument, or if it's a true emergency.
- Pick up whatever you bring with you onstage.

GENERAL HEALTH & HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

With Covid and other viruses endemic, it is important to protect everyone's health by following best public health practices. Following [CDC guidelines](#):

- **If you have respiratory virus symptoms, let the director know promptly, and don't come to rehearsal.**
- You can resume normal activities once your symptoms are improving and you've been fever-free – without the aid of fever-reducing medications – for at least 24 hours.
- For five days after you resume normal activities, take extra precautions, including wearing a well-fitting mask and maintaining distance from others, etc.
- If symptoms or fever return, you should start back at square one: staying home and away from others until you've been improving and fever-free for at least 24 hours.
- Brass players – use paper towels or a cloth towel for condensation at all times when playing. Do not empty spit valves on the floor.

SHEET MUSIC

Music is to be marked in pencil only, and to be kept in good condition. Take good care of your music – don't subject it to excess wear and tear, water damage, or fold or mark it with ink. Any damaged or lost parts must be paid for at replacement cost.

LESSONS AND PRACTICE

- All chamber ensemble members are encouraged to take private lessons! Lesson scholarships are available to ensemble members who need financial assistance: email hbuchman@hamilton.edu.
- Chamber ensemble members are expected to learn your music through consistent practice outside of rehearsal over the semester.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

Ensemble members are expected to attend three concerts per semester, normally in Wellin Hall and sponsored by the Performing Arts at Hamilton. Be sure to have your attendance recorded by student workers at the ticket office. Students taking private lessons will not be required to attend additional concerts above the requirement for lessons. Some recommended performances this semester:

Friday, September 5	7:30p	Faculty Concert
Friday, September 12	7:30p	Art Under Pressure: Music of Shostkovich & Weinberg
Friday, September 19	7:30p	HC Performing Arts: The Sebastians (early music group)
Friday, November 14	7:30p	HC Performing Arts: Jupiter String Quartet
Friday, December 5	7:30p	HC Jazz Ensemble
Saturday, December 6	7:30p	HC Choir
Friday, December 12	7:30p	HC Orchestra