Why Chamber Music?

Although most school programs offer training that prepares students for solo and orchestral performance careers, few schools offer degrees in chamber music performance. As any well-rounded musician will tell you, ensemble playing is extremely important. Playing in a chamber music group allows students to delve into the very essence of music, with implications in harmony, analysis, and music history. It also offers the unique and intimate opportunity to combine different instrumental or vocal timbres. Finally, playing with their chamber music colleagues will help students develop and maintain a strong sense of responsibility and professionalism.

This handbook will help you understand how chamber music is organized at UWM and will give you suggestions on how to get the most out of it. The faculty expects a full commitment from all students who are about to embark on professional careers in music.

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I. Introduction

Collaborative music making is an essential part of study and performance at UWM. Most every student pursuing an instrumental or vocal track are required to take part in Chamber Music and Ensembles at some point in their degree program. Thursday has become a fixed day for UWM chamber music performances: Chamber Music Milwaukee and the Institute of Chamber Music (ICM) concerts.

We want all students to be enrolled in chamber music groups. UWM Faculty include accomplished chamber musicians who have won competitions and enjoy active chamber music careers. The Fine Arts Quartet is UWM's prestigious resident ensemble. In addition to being coached by our expert chamber faculty, students have the opportunity to play for world-famous artists and ensembles such as Lynn Harrell, Rachel Barton Pine, the Pacifica Quartet, the Isasi Quartet, and members of the Kronos Quartet.

For all instrumentalists, in addition to traditional groups, we offer a Music Collegium. Pianists can earn chamber music credits by performing in mixed, two-piano duos, or by accompanying instrumental or vocal studio accompanying ensembles. For singers, the vocal area offers performance classes that include Opera Studio, Musical Theater, and various workshops.

Before the semester begins, the chamber music coordinator places students into groups and assigns a coach. In collaboration with studio teachers and their coaches, students can select repertoire. They are also encouraged to submit requests concerning ensemble personnel, repertoire, and coach. Groups that wish to continue studying together can also request to stay together for more than one semester.

Performance is a crucial component of the chamber music program. A final performance is required of each group. Each semester, the chamber music coordinator will schedule a chamber music convocation and recital. It is also important for all students to attend the four ICM concerts (2 per semester). Students are also encouraged to seek performance opportunities outside of the UWM community.

II. Who should Register for Chamber Music and Ensembles?

- All undergraduate and graduate students: the number of semesters required may vary according to areas.

- All undergraduate pianists starting their junior year

- All graduate students

- All ICM students

If you are not required to take chamber music but would like to participate, please contact Dr. Zinck in room 441. He will put your name on a waiting list and will try to find a group for you.

III. Procedures and Guidelines

Procedures

Students enrolled in chamber music are placed in groups by the chamber music coordinator in
consultation with studio teachers. Group and coach assignments are posted (on the orchestra bulletin board) on the 1st floor in the first two weeks of the semester, and students are also notified by email.

All chamber music coaches have their own lab number so make sure you register for the appropriate course and lab numbers.

At the end of each semester, students may submit requests (groups, repertoire, coach) to the chamber music coordinator (bzinck@uwm.edu). Groups who wish to continue studying together may also send a written request. All requests are considered and groups are made considering all requests. However, final decisions are made by the chamber music coordinator according to departmental policies and needs.

Guidelines

These guidelines will help you establish the work habits that will allow you to achieve your goals and succeed in the program.

- Read the Handbook

- Check your inbox and look for emails with Chamber Music headings. Check the orchestra bulletin board on the 1st floor of the Music Building. Be sure to contact your chamber music coordinator (bzinck@uwm.edu) and provide your current phone number and email. If you do not see your name on the list, it is your responsibility to contact the chamber music contact person.

- Get in touch with the members of your group immediately. Meet to discuss repertoire/rehearsal/coaching time schedule. Prepare for your first coaching session.

- Get in touch with your coach to discuss coaching time and repertoire. The coaches' contact info is available in the Music Office.

- Purchase scores or use a library copy and practice your own part. Do not use copies for the entire semester.

- Do not cancel a coaching because one member cannot attend.

- All coachings will begin the second week of classes.

- The Music Office can let you into rooms reserved for chamber music. Make sure you leave the office or Recital Hall clean when you leave and put away stands and piano if necessary.

- Schedule rehearsals that work for all members. Arrive at your rehearsals on time and well prepared. You are expected to rehearse a minimum of two hours weekly. Study the full score, listen to many recordings, and share your ideas - stay engaged.

- Attendance - Good attendance constitutes a part of your grade. Communicate with your colleagues and coach if you are running late for a rehearsal or coaching.

- Absences - An absence from a coaching is acceptable if it is a personal emergency. When possible,
contact your coach at least 24 hours beforehand. Faculty may reschedule a coaching if their schedule permits.
If an event or illness causes you to have to drop the class, it is your responsibility to find a substitute or arrange for make up lessons. With the permission of your coach, it might be possible for the other members of the group to study different repertoire.

- Each member of the group should have a score that includes measure numbers. Bring a score to your coachings.

- Your coaches will inform you of their grading policies. Poor preparation and lack of involvement will be reflected in your final grade.

- You are expected to be respectful and courteous with your colleagues and coach.

- Personnel conflicts - Chamber music is about sharing musical ideas. You need to be respectful of different sensibilities. You might argue a musical point but the discussion should not become a personal attack. You are at UWM to learn and deepen your musical knowledge and experience music-making in its many forms. If you cannot resolve a conflict, do not let the situation get out of hand and contact Dr. Zinck in room 441.

- Concert attendance - Support music making at UWM. It is important for your musical education to attend faculty, studio, vocal area, orchestra, and wind ensemble concerts. You can learn a great deal by attending performances.

- Make sure you register for the appropriate course and lab numbers. If you are not sure of the correct numbers, ask your coach or Music Office. Register in a timely fashion to avoid late registration fees. Dr. Noonan and Prof. Gloria Hansen can offer additional course planning information (tpnoonan@uwm.edu and gloriajh@uwm.edu).

IV. The Programs

1. Coaches

The chamber music faculty at UWM (all full-time faculty) are some of the most distinguished artists in their fields. They have earned their degrees from prestigious institutions, have won international competitions, and enjoy active performing careers as soloists and chamber musicians. In addition, special master classes can be arranged with members of the Fine Arts Quartet, UWM artists in residence. Faculty biographies are available on the Peck School of the Arts Music Department Webpage (www4.uwm.edu).

2. Repertoire

Before your first coaching, discuss with colleagues and coaches what pieces you would like to study. Your coach will assist you in selecting appropriate repertoire that match all the abilities of all players.

3. Types of Groups

- Strings, woodwinds, brass, or vocal small ensembles (duets, trios, quartets, etc.)
- Mixed ensembles:
  Strings and piano
  String, woodwinds, piano
  Woodwinds and piano
  String, piano and voice
  Strings, woodwinds, harp
  Strings and guitar
  - Trombone or Trumpet Choir
  - Percussion, Guitar, and Sax Ensembles
  - 4-hands or 2 pianos

4. Performance opportunities

- Each semester, the chamber music coordinator will schedule a chamber music convocation and a recital. Additional performance opportunities may be scheduled by coaches and area heads. It is your responsibility to communicate to the concert organizers your repertoire and personnel two weeks prior to the concert dates. Please include composer's name and dates, name and numbers of movements, name and instrument of each player.
- ICM students are required to perform 4 concerts per academic year. All program notes for ICM concerts need to be submitted to Dr. Noonan (tpnoonan@uwm.edu) for editing and corrections two weeks prior to each performance.

5. ICM

- The Leonard Sorkin International Institute of Chamber Music is unique two-year program that enables students to concentrate on chamber music studies. Students enrolled in ICM can pursue a certificate or a MM degree in chamber music and music performance.

- Applications are typically accepted every two years and the audition requirements are available on the PSOA Music Department webpage. The ICM committee reviews all application materials and selects outstanding candidates or groups that show talent and the necessary commitment to pursuing a career in chamber music.
  All instrumentalists and vocalists can apply to the ICM program.

- Full tuition and stipends are available on a limited basis. Please consult with your studio teachers and ICM Director for availability.

- ICM students are placed in conventional or mixed groups, and select with the ICM director thematic repertoire for the full academic year.

- ICM members are required to attend several weekly coachings and masterclasses and are expected to rehearse a minimum of 2 hours on a daily basis.

- ICM instrumentalists typically lead UWM orchestra sections.

- In addition to weekly coachings, ICM benefit from guest master classes with world renowned musicians and chamber groups such as Rachel Barton Pine, Lynn Harrell, Philippe Muller, Sung Sic Yang, the Pacifica Quartet, the Isasi Quartet, and members of the Kronos Quartet.
ICM groups perform 4 concerts per academic year. They are also encouraged to perform on professional series and collaborate with local arts organizations.

ICM alumni are currently enrolled in doctoral programs while others have performing careers in leading orchestras in the U.S. and abroad, or have formed their own chamber music groups.

ICM members are expected to "like" the ICM Facebook page and supply its administrator with any updates or achievements relevant to the program.

ICM members are also encouraged to advertise ICM events to their peers and the local community.

V. Coaching Faculty

Brass:
- Greg Flint, Horn (LAB 802)
- Kevin Hartman, Trumpet and brass area coordinator (LAB 812)

Guitar:
- René Izquierdo (LAB 811)

Percussion:
- Thomas Wetzel (LAB 806)

Piano:
- Elena Abend, piano (LAB 803)
- Jeffry Peterson, collaborative piano

String, Harp and Piano:
- Elena Abend, piano (LAB 803)
- Stefan Kartman, cello (LAB 810)
- Claudia lasareff-Mironoff, viola (LAB 815)
- Bernard Zinck, violin (LAB 801)

Voice:
- Tanya Kruse Ruck, voice area coordinator

Woodwinds:
- Jennifer Clippert, flute and woodwinds area coordinator (LAB 804)
- Todd Levy, Clarinet (LAB 807)

VI. Stage Etiquette

How you come across on stage is an important part of your performance. It is your responsibility to look professional and create the right stage environment.

Dress code should not be casual. Coordinate with your group your concert clothing. In some cases, it could reflect the theme or music of your concert.
- Stage presence - Present yourself with confidence and connect with your audience.

- Check with the music office to make sure your event is included in the calendar.

- Schedule a dress rehearsal in the concert space to get used to the hall's acoustic.

- Arrange for the concert to be recorded.

- Contact the stage manager if you have special requests.

- ICM members are required to provide program notes to be submitted and edited by the ICM director and Dr Noonan two weeks prior to a concert.

**VII. Evaluations**

Evaluation forms are distributed at the end of each semester. This is the opportunity for students to evaluate and share comments of their experience. The evaluations are anonymous so that students can express themselves freely and openly. Copies of the forms are given to the Music Department chairperson and kept in the Faculty files.

All evaluations are an important part of the Faculty tenure process so UWM takes them very seriously.

**VIII. Reserving Recital Hall Procedure**

- Consult the Music Department Office to access the Hall's availability.

- You need to fill an event form including date and time, type of name of event, numbers and names of participants, and special stage requests.

- Check with Music Office that all procedures have been followed and completed.

- Contact faculty in charge of the event and communicate all events information.

- Contact stage manager before the concert to check all details of events.

**IX. Credit Load for Certificate in Chamber Music and MM in Chamber Music performance**

1. MM in Chamber Music Performance
   33 Graduate Credits

   - 9 credits of Academic Core Courses (Mus 710, Mus 711, Mus 680, 731 or 744)
   - 8 credits of Lessons (MusPerf 8xx)
   - 8 credits of Masterclass (4 credits of Chamber Music Masterclass, Mus 806 and 4 credits of Instrumental Masterclass, MusPerf 855)
   - 8 credits of Chamber Music Coaching (Mus 835)

2. Certificate in Chamber Music Performance
   [http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/certificate-admissions/](http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/certificate-admissions/)
24 Graduate Credits (i.e., same as Chamber Music Performance, minus academic core courses)

- 8 credits of Lessons (MusPerf 8xx)
- 8 credits of Masterclass (4 credits of Chamber Music Masterclass, Mus 806 and 4 credits of Instrumental Masterclass, MusPerf 855)
- 8 credits of Chamber Music Coaching (Mus 835)

For additional program and course information, please refer to the PSOA Music Department Webpage and Dr. Noonan, graduate advisor for the Music Department.