The Michigan State University Concert Orchestra is a community of musicians: an ensemble that provides its members with a special opportunity to express our mutual love of music in order to communicate with one another in a profound and special way. It is our hope that each rehearsal, each concert, and each interaction that you experience with fellow musicians will provide a unique opportunity for expression and communication and a valuable outlet for creativity. Please come to rehearsal with this abiding passion in mind every week; the success of Concert Orchestra depends on the contributions of all of its members.

Attendance
In order to achieve an expressive, musical, and productive atmosphere, punctual and regular attendance at rehearsals is required. Whether enrolled in this course or not, irregular attendance of orchestra rehearsals will compromise musicians’ ability to play well in the ensemble. Every effort will be made to be reasonable about excusing warranted absences in advance of rehearsals, but musicians must receive prior approval of an absence by emailing the Weimar Arancibia at msuconcertorchestra@gmail.com a reasonable time (at least 48 hours) before the absence is to occur.

For an absence to be excused, it must be approved prior to the occurrence, except in
the case of an emergency. One unexcused absence in a semester will result in a

warning. Two unexcused absences within a given concert cycle will result in a player
being unable to perform on that particular concert and anyone taking the course for
credit will receive a grade no higher than a B. Note that musicians asked to refrain from
a concert as a result of attendance issues will still need to attend the remainder of the
rehearsals for that cycle in order to remain a member of the orchestra. Three
unexcused absences in a semester may result in dismissal from the ensemble and/or a
failing grade.

The University Concert Orchestra is a competitive ensemble and its members have
been selected for participation from a pool of interested applicants. It is each musician’s
personal responsibility to demonstrate, through regular attendance and otherwise, an
earnest commitment to this organization. **Therefore, if a student has multiple
absences - whether excused or unexcused - his/her participation in the upcoming
congert will be at the conductors’ discretion.**

**Wind Substitutions**
In an effort to avoid missing voices during rehearsals, wind players are asked to find a
substitute to cover their parts. Of course, we understand that this is not always possible,
but we would ask that you initiate the search. The conductors will be happy to assist.

**Tardiness**
It is essential that rehearsals begin on time and that each member of the ensemble is
ready to play prior to tuning; failure to do so will result in the musician being counted as
tardy. An accumulation of two tardy marks will be counted as a full absence. (If
temporary/recurring circumstances prevent you from honoring this policy fully, please
notify the conductors and alternate arrangements can be made.)

**Grading**
Final grades will be based on musicians’ musical and expressive contribution and
preparation at every rehearsal and concert and will be ultimately given by the Director of
Orchestras in consultation with the conductors. This necessitates the regular
attendance of, and the clear demonstration of personal effort at all rehearsals. An “A”
grade should not be assumed for this course; it is earned through a consistent
demonstration of individual commitment. Specifics about how grading is related to
attendance is explained in the “Attendance” section above.

Cell phones are absolutely prohibited in rehearsal and their use may result in removal
from rehearsal.

Music
Orchestra members will receive their assigned folders at the beginning of each concert cycle. Folders and music will remain on music stands following each concert to facilitate collection. Lost or damaged music/folder will result in a fine. Please bring a pencil to every rehearsal in order to mark parts with appropriate directions when necessary.

Website: orch.music.msu.edu
Our website is a vital resource that, among many other things, will keep us organized, ensuring a coordinated and efficient use of our precious rehearsal time. The website includes information regarding orchestra policy, audition schedules and procedures, and perhaps most importantly, a detailed schedule of our rehearsal time for the entire semester. Please consult the website regularly as we will update it frequently!

Sectionals
Sectionals have, time and again, proven to be a vital part of our ensemble’s success; they allow us to communicate better with our fellow musicians, and to resolve lingering technical and interpretative questions with those people intimately knowledgeable regarding how our individual instruments actually work! **In this spirit, a forty minute block following our weekly rehearsal (from 8:50-9:30) is reserved for sectionals.** Musicians will by no means be required to stay until 9:30 every week; this will occur no more than 3-4 times per semester as we will focus on different sections of our ensemble on a weekly and rotational basis: if, on a given week, the brass are required to hold a sectional during the designated time, the strings or woodwinds will be required to hold a sectional following the next week’s rehearsal.

Concert Procedures
Concert Orchestra’s concert dress is all black - no jeans/tee shirts please! Our concerts will occasionally fall on days/times other than the typical Thursday rehearsal period - please consult the schedule above to ensure that you are available for these times. Dress rehearsals will always begin at 6:00 pm on the night of the given concert. As there will likely not be sufficient time following this rehearsal to change into concert attire, we recommend that musicians arrive to the dress rehearsal in concert attire.

If any questions, problems, or concerns (no matter how insignificant they may seem) arise, please feel free to contact the conductors at msuconcertorchestra@gmail.com, or , for specific inquiries, email the conductors at the personal addresses listed below. All
final decisions regarding this course with respect to grades, attendance, etc., will ultimately be made by the Director of Orchestras in consultation with the conductors. Appeals on any decisions made by the conductors may be made to him directly.

Very much looking forward to making music with you,

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