



2024-25 MUEN 560 STRINGS/MIXED CHAMBER MUSIC COURSE OUTLINE

General Information

- All questions regarding string chamber music should be directed to Strings/Mixed Ensemble Chamber Music Coordinator (Prof. Marina Thibeault), at chamber.music@mcgill.ca
- For woodwind groups, please contact Jacqueline Leclair. jacqueline.leclair@mcgill.ca
- For brass groups, please contact Richard Stoelzel. richard.stoelzel@mcgill.ca
- “Small Ensemble” at SSoM is a chamber music group of 3 or more players. Some exceptions are granted for Double Bass/Harp/Guitar.
- **Double Bass/Harp/Guitar students** need faculty recommendations to participate in chamber music.
- String students may only participate in one small ensemble per semester. Some exceptions are granted for violists & cellists
 - If any violist & cellist are assigned to play in more than one ensemble, **please pay special attention to your degree requirements of ensemble credits**. If you register for more ensemble credits than the requirement, you may be charged extra credit fees. **To avoid the extra credit fees, a request to participate in a second ensemble without credit must be made to Prof. Marina Thibeault, pending approval.**
 - Unless accompanied by a special request due to a specific problem, string students cannot participate in chamber music without credit.
- Per semester, small ensembles receive **11 hrs of coachings** per semester; and expected to rehearse at least **twice** between coachings
 - String Ensembles: 1 coach per semester
 - Mixed Ensembles (groups that include piano or other non-string instruments): 2 coaches per semester (split coaching hours)
 - **24 hrs notice is required to cancel a coaching for unavoidable reasons. Last-minute cancellations will not be made up.**
- Marks are awarded by your coach based on preparation, attendance, collaboration, progress, and performance. Please consult the rubric in the Annex section of this document for more information on McGill’s new Music Performance assessments.
- **Final Performance** is required for all groups. A full work is to be performed.
- All student groups must be available to perform on the following dates at **17:00 to 19:00 or 20:00 to 22:00**:
 - Fall 2024
 - November 22nd | Tanna Hall
 - November 23rd | Redpath Hall
 - November 26th | Tanna Hall
 - November 29th | Redpath Hall
 - December 1st | Redpath Hall



- Winter 2025
 - March 28th | Redpath Hall
 - March 29th | Tanna Hall
 - April 1st | Tanna Hall
 - April 4th | Redpath Hall
 - April 6th | Tanna Hall
- **Dress Rehearsals** (**unless specifically mentioned)
 - **same day as the concerts**
 - **12:30-16:00**
- Dress Code for Final Performance: Formal concert attire is recommended for all public performances at Schulich School of Music. Coordinated performance attire within a group is recommended.

Special Event

- **Chamber Music Competition:** Chamber Music Competition is annually set during one of the study days between the end of fall term classes and the beginning of exam period; In F23, it will be on **December 5th in Tanna Hall**. The schedule is as follows:
 - 10:00 to 13:00 **Preliminaries**
 - 16:00 to 18:30 **Dress Rehearsal for the Finals**
 - 19:00 to 22:00 **Competition Finals**

Course Credit & Registration

- **1st-year undergraduate violinists, violists, and cellists** are required to take the String Quartet Seminar (**MUEN 565 - 2 credits**) **AS** the large ensemble credit, **in addition to** the small ensemble coachings (**MUEN 560 - 1 credit**). ****1st-year undergraduate** students are generally assigned to one or less orchestra concert per semester.
- **Sonata Duo Class:**
 - Undergrad - Sonata Class is **not** a small ensembles credit for non-piano students.
 - Master's/GDP - Sonata Class may be part of your small ensembles credit as long as you fulfill the required chamber music credits during your degree
- If a student wishes to withdraw the small ensemble credit mid-semester, they must consult with the assigned coach and Prof. Marina Thibeault. **Withdrawing from a small ensemble must be taken seriously, as the decision affects all students assigned to the group.**
- Chamber music credit requirements can be found on McGill website [here](#). You may also inquire with your Area Coordinator or Academic Advisor who can guide you.
 - String Area Coordinator **Prof. André Roy**
 - Piano Area Coordinator **Prof. Kyoko Hashimoto**
 - Woodwind Area Coordinator **Prof. Simon Aldrich**
 - Brass Area Coordinator **Prof. Richard Stoezel**



F24 Chamber Music Timeline

- **If this is your first semester at McGill**, please send a recorded sample of your solo playing (Free repertoire, minimum 5 minutes) to chamber.music@mcgill.ca by **August 23rd at 11:59PM EST**—The recordings are used only to identify compatibility within the area, not merit.
- All string students who wish to register for chamber music **MUST** fill out the [Chamber Music Questionnaire Form](#) by:
 - **F24: August 23 at 11:59PM EST**
 - **W25: Jan 5 at 11:59PM EST**
- Based on information gathered, a **preliminary** list of ensembles will be emailed by **August 30. DO NOT REGISTER BASED ON THIS PRELIMINARY LIST.** This list will include:
 - Your Name
 - Your Instrument
 - Your Email(s)
 - Your Group(s)
 - Your Assigned Coach
- Any requests for change can be emailed to chamber.music@mcgill.ca by **September 1**. Requests are given due consideration. However, the Strings/Mixed Ensemble Chamber Music Coordinator and/or the assigned coach will make the final decision.
- The **FINAL** list of groups/coaches/repertoire will be emailed by **September 6**. At this point, you may register. This list will include:
 - Your Name
 - Your Instrument
 - Your Group(s) – FINAL
 - Your Assigned Coach – FINAL
 - Your Repertoire – FINAL
 - Most importantly, your CRN, Course #, and Section # for registration ***Students with two groups must look for two different CRN/course/section numbers**
- CRNs, courses, sections will be open completely in the following days after the final list has been distributed. Students must register for the correct course and section number on Minerva to avoid a failing grade and/or a late registration fee.
- First rehearsal/coaching should be scheduled **AS SOON AS** the final list of groups is released on **September 6**. All students/coaches should have their first coaching by the end of Drop/Add date, **Tuesday, September 10**.
- W25 REGISTRATION TIMELINE is to be announced in December 2024.

Group Assignments

- Groups will be formed and assigned a coach by Strings/Mixed Ensemble Chamber Music Coordinator, Prof. Marina Thibeault, with Area Coordinators and Chair of the Performance Department. Every effort is made to accommodate requests but the **final** assignment of ensembles and coaches is made by the Committee.



- **STRING STUDENTS: Pre-formed MIXED Ensembles**
 - String students may submit their mixed-ensemble requests on the [Questionnaire Form](#)
 - Please note that **pianists** who are enrolled in Sonata Class cannot take chamber music
 - Please note that pre-formed mixed ensemble requests are not guaranteed and only granted if **ALL** Area Coordinators approve.
- **STRING STUDENTS: Pre-formed STRING Ensembles**
 - Pre-formed string ensembles require a minimum of 4 students in the group

Annex 1

Preparation, Attendance, Collaboration, Performance and Progress will each count for 20% of your final mark.

MUEN SMALL ENSEMBLE COURSES:

Preparation	
90-100	Is consistently well-prepared for coachings
75-89	Is generally well-prepared for coachings
65-74	Preparation is inconsistent and inadequate for about half of the coachings
0-64	Preparation is inadequate for most of the coachings
Attendance	
90-100	Consistently attends coachings and provides adequate justification for absences
75-89	Generally attends coachings and provides adequate justification for absences
65-74	Generally attends coachings but doesn't always provide adequate justification for absences
0-64	Often misses coachings without adequate justification
Collaboration	
90-100	Consistently shows sensitivity to partner(s)' musical intentions and ability to make appropriate adjustments in own playing/singing
75-89	Often shows sensitivity to partner(s)' musical intentions and is sometimes able to make appropriate adjustments in own playing/singing
65-74	Often shows limited flexibility in responding to partner(s)' musical intentions
0-64	Generally shows little awareness of partner(s)' musical intentions
Performance	
90-100	Consistently performs at a level that satisfies or exceeds requirements for juries, exams and recitals
75-89	Generally performs at a level that satisfies requirements for juries, exams and recitals
65-74	Performance level often falls short of meeting requirements for juries, exams and recitals
0-64	Performance level generally doesn't meet requirements for juries, exams and recitals
Progress	
90-100	Achieved significant and noticeable progress over the term
75-89	Demonstrated progress in some aspects of playing/singing
65-74	Shows progress in only few aspects of playing/singing
0-64	Shows little or no progress