



2023-24 STRINGS/MIXED CHAMBER MUSIC POLICY

General Information

- All questions regarding string chamber music should be directed to Strings/Mixed Ensemble Chamber Music Coordinator (Prof. Jinjoo Cho), at chamber.music@mcgill.ca
- “Small Ensemble” at SSoM is a chamber music group of 3 or more players (i.e Sonata Duo Class is **not** a small ensemble credit for non-piano students). Some exceptions are granted for Contrabass/Harp/Guitar.
- **Contrabass/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. Jinjoo Cho & Area Chair Prof. Axel Strauss, 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 **2 times** 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, progress, and final performance.
- **Final Performance** is required for all groups. A full work is to be performed.
- All student groups must be available to perform on following dates at **17:00 to 19:00 & 20:00 to 22:00**:
 - **Fall 2023**
 - **Nov 24** Wirth Lobby & Tanna Schulich Hall
 - **Nov 26** Pollack Hall
 - **Nov 28** Tanna Schulich Hall
 - **Nov 30** Pollack Hall (*dress day before)
 - **Dec 4** Pollack Hall
 - **Winter 2024**

- **April 2** Redpath Hall
 - **April 5** Redpath Hall
 - **April 6** Pollack Hall
 - **April 11** Pollack H
 - **April 12** Wirth Lobby & Tanna Schulich Hall
- **Dress Rehearsals** (**unless specifically mentioned)
 - **same day as the concerts**
 - **9:30 to 11:30 for concert at 17:00**
 - **11:30 to 13:30 for concert at 20:00**
- 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 6th in Pollack 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 assigned to one or less orchestra concert per semester.
- If a student wishes to **withdraw** the small ensemble credit mid-semester, he/she/they must consult with the assigned coach as well as Prof. Jinjoo Cho. **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 Chair/Coordinator or Academic Advisor who can guide you.
 - String Area Chair/Coordinator **Prof. Axel Strauss**
 - Piano Area Chair/Coordinator **Prof. Kyoko Hashimoto**
 - Woodwind Area Chair/Coordinator **Prof. Simon Aldrich**
 - Brass Area Chair/Coordinator **Prof. Russell DeVuyst**

F23-W24 Chamber Music Timeline

- **String Chamber Music Meeting attendance is required** for all **string** students who wish to register for chamber music in 2023-24 school year.
 - Time: **August 26, 2023, 7-7:45pm**
 - Location: Wirth Opera Hall

- If for unavoidable reasons you are unable to attend the Meeting, please email chamber.music@mcgill.ca to set up an arrangement.
- **FIND YOUR PEOPLE!** Pre-formed ensembles are encouraged. **String Chamber Music Reading Party** will follow the Chamber Music Meeting for **string** students who want to find group members. Attendance is optional. This is an occasion for students who wish to find group members and to get to know your colleagues.
 - Time: **August 26, 2023, 7:30-9pm**
 - Location: Wirth Opera Hall
- **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 **Sunday, August 28th 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:
 - **F23:** Sunday, August 28 at 11:59PM EST
 - **W24:** Sunday, Jan 7 at 11:59PM EST
- Based on information gathered, a **preliminary** list of ensembles will be emailed by **September 1. 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 3**. 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 4**. 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 in order 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 4**. All students/coaches should have their first coaching by the end of Drop/Add, **Tuesday, September 12.**
- **W23 REGISTRATION TIMELINE** is to be announced in December 2023.

Group Assignments

- Groups will be formed and assigned a coach by Strings/Mixed Ensemble Chamber Music Coordinator, Prof. Jinjoo Cho, in conjunction 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.
- **PIANO/WOODWIND/BRASS STUDENTS: PLEASE** send inquiries about chamber music to your Area Chamber Music Coordinators. Each Area has a different policy/procedure for small ensembles. Even if you have a pre-formed mixed ensemble with string players, you must seek approval from your Area Coordinator, who will relay your requests to the Committee meeting among Area Coordinators. **DO NOT SEND ANY REQUESTS TO** chamber.music@mcgill.ca
- **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