

## Woodwind Area Small Ensemble/Chamber Music policy

### General

- All wind-area performance majors are required to do an assigned small ensemble (chamber music) in addition to a large ensemble. For more information on ensemble requirements as they relate to any program of study, student may refer to their specific program requirements online or contact the Student Affairs Office at [studentaffairs.music@mcgill.ca](mailto:studentaffairs.music@mcgill.ca)
- Wind students are encouraged to form their own small ensembles amongst themselves (usually wind quintets and wind quartets). The wind area chamber music coordinator, Prof. Jacqueline Leclair ([jacqueline.leclair@mcgill.ca](mailto:jacqueline.leclair@mcgill.ca)), will finalize small ensemble personnel, taking into account pre-formed ensemble requests and other requests after sending out drafts for everyone's review. In the case of forming chamber groups, large-ensemble auditions results are often used as a guide for matching students.
- There are no wind small-ensemble auditions.
- Large and small ensemble assignments are made following the large ensemble auditions, normally in the first week of classes.
- Saxophones are assigned to ensembles by Prof. Marie-Chantal Leclair: [marie-chantal.leclair@mcgill.ca](mailto:marie-chantal.leclair@mcgill.ca)
- Small ensembles at Schulich are formed with 3 or more players in a group. Therefore, the duo Sonata Class ([Sonata Masterclass](#) MUEN 585) is not a small ensemble credit for non-piano students.
- Students cannot participate in chamber music without credit unless accompanied by a special request due to a specific situation. All such requests need approval by wind area coordinator, Prof. Simon Aldrich: [simon.aldrich@mcgill.ca](mailto:simon.aldrich@mcgill.ca)
- If a student wishes to withdraw from a small ensemble credit, he/she/they must consult with the assigned coach as well as Prof. Aldrich. The question of withdrawing from a small ensemble should not be taken lightly, as the decision affects all students assigned to the group.
- Final grades are determined by coaches based on individual student preparation, progress, and final performance.
- There is a chamber music competition: <https://www.mcgill.ca/music/resources/competitions-awards/chamber-music>
- Final Performances of small ensembles will take place during, or immediately after, the academic term. Dates, times and locations of these concerts will be determined during the term.
- Dress Code for Concerts: Formal concert attire is recommended for all public performances at the Schulich School of Music. Please coordinate performance attire with your group before the concert.
- A student's chamber music degree requirements are listed on the following webpages: <https://www.mcgill.ca/music/programs/bmus/orchestral-instruments/requirements> (for undergraduates) and <https://www.mcgill.ca/music/programs/mmus-orchestral-instruments-guitar/requirements-courses> (for graduate students).

## Coaching

• **STUDENTS are responsible for contacting their coach(es) and for scheduling their rehearsals/room bookings, and coaching days and times. The coaches are not responsible for scheduling, but will assist. Coaches will make room bookings for COACHINGS.**

- Small ensembles receive 11 hrs of coaching per semester, and are expected to rehearse between coachings.
- Winds-only Ensembles will be assigned 1 coach per semester.
- Mixed Ensembles (groups that include strings and/or piano as well as winds) are assigned 2 coaches per semester, one from each Area. The coaches will split the coaching hours.
- 24 hrs notice is required to cancel a coaching for unavoidable reasons. Coaches are not obliged to make up missed coachings due to last-minute cancellations.
- First rehearsal/coaching should be scheduled AS SOON as the final list of groups is released. All students/coaches should have their first coaching scheduled by the Drop/Add deadline (which is usually around mid-September).

## Registration Timeline

- 1) Students are not to register for chamber music until they have received a final document which will include the names of the group members, name of coach(es) and, most importantly, your CRN, Course #, and Section # for registration.
  - A FINAL list of groups/coaches will be emailed to you. At this point, you may register. This list will include:
    - ○ Your Name
    - ○ Your Instrument
    - ○ Your Emails(s)
    - ○ Your Group(s) – FINAL
    - ○ Your Assigned Coach – FINAL
    - ○ Most importantly, your CRN, Course #, and Section # for registration **\*Students with two groups must look for two different CRN/course/section numbers**
- 3) Once final lists with CRNs are posted or emailed, all students should register according to their assigned sections. 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.

## Mixed chamber music policy (involving wind groups that involve strings and/or piano)

- Wind students should send inquiries about mixed chamber music to Prof. Leclair, as each area has a different procedure for allowing students to participate in mixed ensembles. Even if you have a pre-formed mixed ensemble, you must seek approval from Prof. Leclair, who will relay your requests to the other Area Coordinators. Note that pre-formed mixed ensemble requests are not guaranteed and are granted only if all Area Coordinators approve.