



# Fine Arts Center

## Winds & Brass Chamber Music

### 2011-2012 Course Syllabus

**School Name:** The Greenville Fine Arts Center

**Course Name:** Instrumental Chamber Music

**Instructor:** Gary A. Robinson, D.M.A.

**Office Room Number:** Suite #126

**Phone number and extension:** 864-355-2568

**Email Address:** grobinso@greenville.k12.sc.us

**Class Time/Room Number:** 1:30-2:25 m-f; room 102A Multi Media Center

#### Course Description

Fine Arts Center Winds & Brass Chamber Music (WBCM) 2011-2012 is a class devoted to the rehearsal and performance of chamber music. It is open to accomplished, motivated, and mature musicians who can contribute successfully to the development of a chamber ensemble. Individual study with a private teacher and training in music theory is strongly recommended. From a practical standpoint, students will develop the basic skills required of musicians working in a conductor-less ensemble: deciding what to rehearse and for how long, stopping and starting, maintaining and manipulating tempi, etc. Students will learn how to communicate, both verbally and – essential for a chamber musician – nonverbally during a both rehearsal and a performance. They will learn how to listen. Students will be encouraged to develop musical ideas: analytically, by examining a work from its theoretical and historical perspectives, and personally, by being in touch with their feelings about it.

These musicians will gain insight into their own artistic workings; develop the means to articulate these ideas, and then to respond creatively to the ideas of other players in the process of building a musical consensus.

Students will rehearse selections specifically arranged or composed for the 2011-2012 ensemble, consisting of flute, clarinet, horn, bassoon, saxophone, and bass clarinet. They may also break down into smaller combinations of instruments or, conversely, be combined with students from the 1:30 Advanced Percussion or Strings Chamber Music classes into yet larger ensembles. Time permitting, solo repertoire needed by students for college or festival band auditions will be coached in a master class setting.

A typical week will consist of up to three rehearsal days, one (or possibly two) days of coaching by the instructor, and a mini performance during Friday Master Class, held in combination with the 1:30 Advanced Percussion students. Though, at the time of this writing, not all of the dates and venues have been set, the Winds & Brass Chamber Ensemble will give one or more performance each term. All performances will be given without the aid – or interference! – of a conductor.

#### Suggested Materials

- your instrument in good repair and working condition
- a chromatic tuner like the Korg CA30 or CA40, the Sabine MT9000 or the Boss TU80
- a battery-powered metronome. It is very common to combine a chromatic tuner and a metronome into a single unit, as do the Korg CA40, the Sabine MT9000 and the Boss TU80
- a fingering chart for your instrument and other reference materials

#### Fee

There a \$25 fee expected from each participating student. This fee will come back to students in the form of materials purchased for them throughout the year.

## All Students Are Expected To Practice At Home

WBCM students know that there are no exceptions to this “law” because the physical and neurological development that is a part of playing an instrument requires a great deal of individual problem solving and repetition **Don’t** do this in rehearsals, however! Bring your achievements to rehearsal and add to the progress of the ensemble; work out problem spots in your music and avoid being a drag!

## Tentative Course Outline

### TERM I: AUGUST 17 THROUGH OCTOBER 21

- *Baroque Suite*: music by Franz Xaver Richter, Georg Philip Telemann, Johan Mattheson, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Georg Frideric Händel, as arranged by FAC Composer-in-Residence Dr. Jon Grier. Students will consult print and online resources, audio and video clips researching these composers, “Baroque music,” and dances including Bouree, Minuet, Sarabande, Gavotte, and Gigue; make stylistic decisions based upon their research; rehearse and then perform this suite.
- If needed as an additional work: *Improvisation No. 1* by Whitney Tustin as arranged by Dr. Robinson. Students will research composer and style aspects of the work; stylistic decisions based upon their research; rehearse and then perform this suite.
- Possible informal performance, October, TBA

### TERM II: THROUGH JANUARY 15

- *Feld-Parthie in C Major*: music by Franz Josef Haydn as arranged by Dr. Robinson. Students will consult print and online resources, audio and video clips researching this composer, “Classical music,” and *wind divertimenti*; make stylistic decisions based upon their research; rehearse and then perform this suite.
- Other works TBA, including possible collaborative project with 1:30 Advanced Percussion class
- Preparation for county, Region I, and state festival band auditions
- Preparation for collegiate auditions as needed and as possible
- Perform in FAC Winter Showcase, Friday, December 16, FAC Recital Hall, 1:40 PM
- Perform in Recital No. 1; Wednesday, January 18, 2012, FAC Recital Hall, 7:00 PM

### TERM III: THROUGH MARCH 22

- *Little Suite from “For Children, Sz.42”*: music by Bela Bartok as arranged by FAC Composer-in-Residence Dr. Jon Grier. Five movements: I. The Hidden House, II. Light the Way to My Love, III. Evening Kiss, IV. The young Bride, V. High Spirits. Students will consult print and online resources, audio and video clips researching this composer; site original medium for these *character pieces*; make stylistic decisions based upon their research; rehearse and then perform this suite.
- Other works TBA and as needed (the Bartok might well be enough)
- Friday, January 27 2012, 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM: possible educational concert performances with the Young Artist Orchestra at the Peace Center’s Dorothy Gunter Theater

### TERM IV: THROUGH MAY 21 (LAST DAY FOR UNDERCLASSMEN AT FINE ARTS CENTER)

- *Moon Dreams*: music by MacGregor and Mercer, arranged for Miles Davis by Gil Evans and adapted for WBCM by Dr. Robinson. Lots to research here: 1940s jazz, Gil Evans, Miles Davis and *Birth of the Cool*, etc. make stylistic decisions based upon their research; rehearse and then perform this work.
- Other works yet to be created for the class, including and especially arrangements combining students from the 1:30 Advanced Percussion and other classes.
- Perform in Recital No. 2; Wednesday, May 9, 2012, FAC Recital Hall, 7:00 PM
- Perform in FAC Spring Showcase, Friday, May 11, FAC Recital Hall, 1:40 PM

### PERFORMANCES: Summary

- Possible informal performance, October, TBA
- Winter In-School Honors Showcase: Friday, December 16, 2011; 1:40 PM, FAC Recital Hall
- Recital No.1: Wednesday, January 18, 2011; 7:00 PM, FAC Recital Hall
- Friday, January 27 2012, 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM: possible educational concert performances with the Young Artist Orchestra at the Peace Center’s Dorothy Gunter Theater
- Recital No.2: Wednesday, May 9, 2012; 7:00 PM, FAC Recital Hall
- Spring In-School Honors Showcase: Friday, May 11, 2012, 1:40 PM, FAC Recital Hall

## Assessment

- Each week, WBCM students will receive a grade based upon incremental achievement.
- At the end of the first and third quarters, each student will be responsible to perform, for his/her peers, a program consisting of materials representative of the preceding nine weeks, and will receive a grade based upon their achievements. Performance in the quarterly recital may be substituted for this in-class performance.
- At the end of the second and fourth quarters, each student will be responsible to perform, for his/her peers, a program consisting of materials as representative of the preceding semester. This performance will be counted as a semester exam. Performance in the quarterly recital may be substituted for this in-class performance.

Grades are weighted as follows:

Term: weekly assignments = 80%, term test or recital performance = 20%

Semester I: Term I = 40%, Term II = 40%, semester or recital performance = 20%

Semester I: Term III = 40%, Term IV = 40%, semester or recital performance = 20%

Final: Semester I = 50% and Semester II = 50%

## Other

**Attendance and Tardy Policy: refer to Fine Arts Center handbook**

**Classroom Rules and Expectations:**

- Report on time to each class. Please let me know in advance if you must miss the class for any reason.
- **Don't EVER come to class without your music – don't ever FORGET it at home!! We will NOT have extra copies of your music on hand and if you DO forget yours, rehearsal for that day will be severely compromised!**
- Bring your tuner and metronome to class.
- Bring a pencil to class, also
- If I am not there to coach you for part of a rehearsal, use your time productively.
- No food or beverages – with the exception of water – are allowed at the Fine Arts Center
- Be kind and thoughtful to your classmates.
- Strive always to do and to be your best

**Plan for Routine Communication With Parents:**

- Periodic e-letter sent to my students and families with assignments, schedules, and notices of events
- Occasional posting of the above and additional information on my blog: <http://www.facorchestra.blogspot.com/>
- **Quarterly Fine Arts Center Newsletter is mailed to all parents of Fine Arts Center students.**
- Parents are contacted promptly in the event of academic or disciplinary problems.
- A log of parent phone calls is maintained in teacher's office.