2026-27 GW Band and Orchestra Auditions

Wind Ensemble and **Orchestra** students will be invited to join these groups based on their audition, instrumentation needs, and at the discretion of the Directors.

All students will be accepted into **Symphonic Band** after completion of their audition if they choose to enroll.

Open Rehearsals - Phillips Hall, B120

Orchestra	**Monday, August 24th:** 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm
Symphonic Band	**Tuesday, August 25th:** 5:10 pm - 6:10 pm
Foghorns Pep Band	**Tuesday, August 25th:** 7:10 pm - 8:15 pm

Preparing

1. **Inform us of your intent**:
    a. **All band members**, both new **and** returning, fill out the Band Information Form. This form will provide us with the information necessary to keep you informed regarding such things as audition logistics, scheduling, and other important news about the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band.
    a. If you are auditioning for the Orchestra, please make sure you have reviewed the Orchestra Syllabus and complete the Orchestra Interest Form (unless you are returning and/or already in touch with Prof. Wood about your plans for the coming year).

2. **Schedule your audition** by using the appropriate sign up link below.

    Monday, August 24th (strings - no signup required, auditions immediately following open rehearsal)

Woodwind Audition	**Wednesday, August 26th**
Phillips Hall, B147	4:00 - 9:30 pm
Brass Audition	**Thursday, August 27th**
Phillips Hall, B120	4:00 - 8:00 pm

Percussion Audition	**Thursday, August 27th**
Phillips Hall, B155	8:30 - 9:45 pm

3. **Practice**
    a. **String** musicians do not have required audition music selections and should choose their own; see Orchestra Syllabus
    b. Audition music for **woodwinds**, **brass**, and **percussion** can be found at this link for audition music.
        i. Almost all excerpts and etudes are linked to a recording. Use these to understand how to approach the music.
        ii. Students auditioning for Symphonic Band should prepare only the first two excerpts in the audition music and one scale of their choosing.
        iii. Students auditioning for Wind Ensemble and/or Orchestra should prepare all the audition music as well as their chromatic scale and one additional major scale.
    c. There will be practice rooms open and available in Phillips Hall (basement level)
    d. Practice with a metronome: we are listening for good rhythm.
    e. Practice with a tuner: we are listening for good pitch.
    f. Practice with your favorite player in mind: we are listening for beautiful sound

The best advice for auditioning is to "be yourself" and "be prepared". If you can manage to fulfill both those ideals, you will have a wonderful audition.

- Never begin your audition with an apology.
- Demonstrate your ability to communicate musically.
- Maintain a positive appearance even if you do not play well.
- Be yourself

GW has a long tradition of serving performers from all musical backgrounds. Members of the Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band have a wide range of ability and experience levels. We are interested in meeting players at all levels of experience and ability, even those who have never played an audition before. There is a place for all students and we will work hard to make sure that you feel comfortable and relaxed during your audition.

The goal of an audition is to learn about you as a person and as a performer; it is not intended to be stressful or intimidating. The greatest source of anxiety during auditions is a lack of preparation; if you are prepared, you will be a lot less nervous!

*The people hearing your audition genuinely **want you to succeed**. If you have questions about your excerpts (rhythms, notation, etc.), please feel free to contact the directors; we would be happy to help you.*

Questions regarding auditions?

Please email:
Orchestra - Professor Wood: ascottwood@gwu.edu
Band - Professor Schmitz: schmitz_m@gwu.edu

Results

Audition results, including ensemble and chair assignments, will be emailed after auditions have concluded, **by Sunday, August 30th.**

Band results will also be posted on the band bulletin board.

Other Information

School Instruments & Lockers

GW maintains an inventory of high-quality instruments for use by students. This is especially useful for performers of the larger (or more expensive) instruments such as tuba, euphonium, and bassoon; however, it is also a great resource for players who relied on high-quality, school-owned instruments while in high school.

Students that need a locker and/or a GW-owned instrument and are planning on participating in an ensemble should see Prof Schmitz on Thursday, August 20th and Friday, August 21st between 1:00 - 4:00 (Phillips Hall, B-135). An instrument may be temporarily issued for the audition, and then permanently checked-out to those students after enrollment in one of the concert bands.

The GW Instrument Use and Locker rental is $10 per semester ($20 for both Spring and Fall Semesters) and can be paid either in person by check or online using Campus Cash. In order to initiate payment fill out this form.

Please note, Dining Cash is not the same as Campus Cash. Campus Cash can be added/updated by visiting this link.

Fall Band Schedule (for Orchestra, visit the Orchestra Syllabus)

Rehearsal times for Fall 2026 are as follows:

- Wind Ensemble TR 3:45 - 5:00 pm
- Symphonic Band TR 5:10 - 6:25 pm
- Foghorns Pep Band TR 7:10 - 8:15 pm

The first full class meetings for GW Bands (Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band) will be Tuesday, September 2nd. All rehearsals are held in Phillips Hall, B-120

The Fall Band & Orchestra concerts are scheduled for Sunday, December 6th, in Lisner Auditorium. 1:00 pm - Band & 5:00 pm - Orchestra.

Class Enrollment (for Orchestra, visit the Orchestra Syllabus)

Students participating in our performing ensembles receive one unit of academic credit by enrolling in either Symphonic Band_CMUS_1083_10 or Wind Ensemble_CMUS_1085_10.

Additionally, there is a section for each course that allows students with a full academic load to enroll in the ensemble for zero credit. Students that qualify for zero credit courses will be required to pay an $85 fee. **It is not necessary to enroll in either course at this time.** Once audition results have been announced, members will be given instructions on how to add the class/register.