

MUSIC DEPARTMENT ENSEMBLES

2026–2027

Course Description

The Music Department offers a wide range of ensemble opportunities designed to engage students in collaborative music-making across diverse genres and traditions. Ensembles offered include Concert Band, Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Chorus, Community Choir, Tiger Jazz, Gamelan, Bluegrass, Collegium, Mariachi, Guitar, Musical Theatre, and Opera Scenes. Each ensemble provides students with the opportunity to develop musicianship, ensemble skills, and artistic expression through regular rehearsal and performance.

Participation is open to all Colorado College students; some ensembles require auditions or prerequisites. Rehearsal schedules vary by group. Students earn .25 unit credit per semester in each ensemble.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful participation in a music ensemble, students will be able to:

1. **Collaborate Effectively in Ensemble Performance**
Contribute actively to group rehearsal and performance, demonstrating attentive listening, musical responsiveness, and respect for ensemble dynamics and leadership.
2. **Apply Style-Specific Musicianship and Interpretation**
Execute ensemble repertoire with stylistically informed intonation, rhythm, articulation, and phrasing appropriate to the genre, period, and cultural context of the music studied.
3. **Demonstrate Technical and Aural Skills in Context**
Use and refine technical skills (e.g., pitch accuracy, rhythmic precision, dynamics, balance) and aural awareness in real-time ensemble settings to achieve cohesive group sound and expressive clarity.
4. **Engage in Reflective Practice and Performance Preparedness**
Prepare rehearsals and performances proactively, utilizing score study, part learning, and self- and peer-assessment to support artistic growth and contribute to polished public presentations.
5. **Participate in Public Performance and Musical Community Life**
Represent the department and campus community through participation in scheduled concerts, collaborative productions (e.g., Musical Theatre, Opera Scenes), and other public musical events, fostering musical citizenship and performance confidence.

Requirements for Joining an Ensemble

Specific audition dates, procedures, and expectations will be communicated by ensemble directors prior to the start of each semester.

- **Audition Required:** Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Chorus, Tiger Jazz, Musical Theatre, and Opera Scenes hold auditions at the beginning of each semester.
- **Open Enrollment:** All other ensembles are open calls.
- **Additional Requirements:** Participation in Bluegrass requires students to sign up for private lessons in addition to enrolling in the ensemble.

Materials Needed

- Instrument in working order (or voice, as appropriate)
- Free instrument rentals may be available through the department
- Music is provided by the ensemble director

Scheduling

Rehearsal schedules will be distributed by ensemble directors at the beginning of each semester. Each ensemble meets once per week each semester, with the following exceptions:

- Gamelan meets twice per week
- Musical Theatre and Opera Scenes follow more extensive rehearsal schedules
- Bluegrass offers open jam sessions every Friday in addition to the weekly rehearsal
- Tiger Jazz also offers open jam sessions in addition to the weekly rehearsal

Attendance

Student presence is required at all scheduled rehearsals. Every absence affects not only the individual student, but the entire ensemble.

- If a student is unable to attend a rehearsal for academic or health reasons, they must notify the ensemble director in advance whenever possible.
- Students are expected to honor their commitment to the ensemble and to arrive prepared, attentive, and ready to participate fully.

Grading

Grades for ensemble participation are based primarily on attendance and engagement. Additional expectations related to preparation, professionalism, or performance may be specified by individual ensemble directors.

- The director will determine the number of excused absences allowed per semester
- Unexcused absences (failure to notify the director) will negatively affect the grade

Concert Attire

Concert dress is dependent on the individual ensemble and the style of music being performed. Ensemble directors will clearly communicate attire expectations prior to each performance.

Performance

Each ensemble presents a formal concert at the end of the semester.

- Some ensembles may also perform in the Homecoming Showcase held in October.
- Ensembles may also be invited to perform at special events on campus.
- Select students in Bluegrass, Tiger Jazz, and Collegium perform community runouts.
- Advanced Bluegrass students may be selected to perform at festivals in Nashville and Durango.