

MCC FALL 2020 INSTRUMENTAL AUDITIONS (CONCERT ENSEMBLES)

All Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion students must submit an audition recording. This fall, all auditions will be recorded, not live. Please be assured that your audition will again be anonymous to the evaluating committee, to ensure fairness. You need to prepare an audio recording of all audition excerpts, played straight through without break (in one sitting). If you do not have access to an appropriate way to make an audio recording, a cell phone video recording is acceptable, but please block the camera so you are never visible on the recording. Please do not talk at all on the recording. When finished, upload your audition to YouTube, Google, or Dropbox and share the link in an email to jconrad@mclennan.edu. Remember, please do not speak at all on the recording. **Your recording must be uploaded no later than 1:00 pm on Friday, August 14th.** Please DO NOT email audio files, they will be returned to you.

Placement in the MCC Wind Ensemble is competitive – please prepare appropriately.

Everyone who auditions will be placed into either:

MUEN-1121-01 Wind Ensemble M/W/Th 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Or

MUEN-1122-05 Concert Band Friday 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

KEEP YOUR SCHEDULE OPEN FOR BOTH TIME SLOTS TO AVOID CONFLICTS.

TO BE SUCCESSFUL, YOU MUST:

- 1) **PRINT AND PREPARE EXCERPTS** chosen by the wind and percussion faculty. They can be found here: <https://www.mclennan.edu/bands/ensemble-auditions.html>
- 2) **RECORD** and upload your audition and share the link to Prof. Conrad.
- 3) **FILL OUT** the Personnel Form linked on the website above.

MCC Band Audition FAQs

1. What bands are available for MCC students?

There are two concert bands at MCC, a marching band, a pep band, and a jazz band. The **Wind Ensemble** is the premiere band and the **Concert Band** is the second band. Both are comprised of woodwinds, brass, percussion, piano, and string bass (both are also open to non- music majors). **Jazz band** and **Pep band (Blue Crew)** are also available. Marching Band is offered through an agreement held with Baylor University. Any MCC student taking a concert ensemble for credit may audition for the Baylor Marching Band.

2. Are music majors required to be in a concert ensemble?

According to the Department of Music, **every woodwind/brass/percussion music major** must perform in a primary ensemble (Wind Ensemble or Concert Band).

3. Why do we audition at the beginning of each semester?

Each wind and percussion student is required to **audition for his/her/their band assignment**. The Wind Ensemble is highly selective and has limited seats available. The Concert Band is not limited and can be augmented by students from majors other than music. The audition determines an appropriate assignment and maximizes the student's educational experience.

4. What if I have a class I really want to take at 9:30 Fridays, but I am assigned to Concert Band?

As with EVERY major university, music majors must adjust their schedules to accommodate their ensemble assignments after auditions occur. If you are assigned to Concert Band, you must attend at 9:30 a.m. on Fridays; the same applies to those assigned to Wind Ensemble, M/W/TH from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

5. May I choose to sign up for the concert ensemble of my preference?

No. Again, this is a standard policy across the country at the university level.

6. Are the audition parts available? What should I do if the audition materials seem difficult?

Yes. The excerpts can be found online at: mclennan.edu/bands (click on the "Ensemble Audition" link on the left). Practice them **SLOWLY** with a metronome the best you possibly can. Only speed up the metronome when you are almost perfect with the musical line. Maximize all shaping and dynamic possibilities. The excerpts represent the level of music in the Wind Ensemble, which may seem difficult for some. Do the best you can – it is important that the faculty are able to determine your placement appropriately.

7. I am a sophomore. Does that mean that I will automatically be placed in the Wind Ensemble (Or, I am a freshman. Does that mean that I will automatically be placed in the Concert Band)?

No limitations or guarantees are made based upon your class ranking. Assignments are made based upon your **playing skills** as demonstrated in the audition.

8. When are the auditions?

For Fall 2020, all auditions will be recorded and submitted electronically to jconrad@mclennan.edu no later than Friday, August 14 at 1:00 PM.

9. Do the concert ensembles have responsibilities outside of class?

Yes. The Wind Ensemble represents MCC both on and off campus. As a result, there are occasional off-campus performances and sectionals outside of class. This is common for all university wind ensembles, and all students are expected to fully engage in all rehearsals and performances.

10. Finally, some tips before your audition:

- Arrive extra early and be warmed-up
- Dress in professional attire
- Have your instrument ready and make sure it is working properly
- Bring your own copies of the required audition music
- Auditions will be blind, do not speak during your audition
- Perform expressively – do not be satisfied with correct notes and rhythms
- Stay focused and calm. If you make mistakes, stay positive and avoid frustration
- Do not make excuses

GOOD LUCK!

MCC BANDS

Flute Audition Fall 2020

FLUTE EXCERPTS:

1. Beethoven, *Leonore Overture No. 3* - pickup to m. 329 through m. 359

328

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins at measure 328 with a pickup. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piece starts with a *cresc.* marking, followed by a *fp* (fortissimo piano) dynamic. The music features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. There are several trills and triplets throughout the piece. The score concludes with a *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic marking.

cresc. *fp*

pp

2. Bizet, *L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2*, 3rd mvt ("Menuet") - mm. 3 through 18

Andantino quasi Allegretto (♩ = 72)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, featuring a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Andantino quasi Allegretto' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The score consists of four staves of music, with a first ending bracket labeled 'A' spanning the first two staves. The piece begins with a dynamic of *pp* (pianissimo) and a 'Solo' marking. The melody is characterized by flowing eighth-note patterns, often grouped with slurs. The dynamics fluctuate, including *pp*, *p* (piano), and *pp*. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Holst, *Second Suite in F for Military Band*, 2nd mvt ("Song without words") - 4th beat of Rehearsal A through 15th m. of Rehearsal A

The image displays a musical score for the 2nd movement of Holst's *Second Suite in F for Military Band*, specifically the section from the 4th beat of Rehearsal A to the 15th measure of Rehearsal A. The score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, with a key signature of three flats (F major/D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The music begins with a box labeled 'A' above the first measure, followed by the tempo marking 'a tempo'. The melody is characterized by long, sweeping phrases connected by large, curved slurs. The first staff contains the first 10 measures, the second staff contains measures 11 through 14, and the third staff contains measures 15 through 18. The piece concludes with a final note in measure 18, followed by the instruction 'ad lib.' (ad libitum).