



## Wind Symphony Syllabus 2015 - 2016

**Overview:** Advanced level Band performing more difficult repertoire that would be expected at a small high school (Comparable to a Class C or B High School Band based on the MSBOA standard repertoire list). The Wind Symphony usually works to have 1 or 2 on a part much like a wind chamber ensemble. They are also the wind section of the symphony orchestra. The OHMI Wind Symphony performed three concerts a year.

**Student Expectations:** Students need to bring their instruments, music, and a pencil to class every week. Students are expected to practice their instrument throughout the week. Ideally, they should be practicing at least 30-45 minutes a day for at least 4 days a week. Practicing for shorter time periods each day is better than longer time periods a couple of days each week. I recommend that the practice time should include 15% scales, 15% technical studies, 40% band music, and 30% any other solo music that is being worked on – including music being prepared for private lessons.

**Grading:** Grades/HS credit is available for this class, and will be based on the following criteria:

- Class participation, preparation, behavior & attendance will be 30%.
- Concert and Festival participation/attendance will be 30%.
- Assessments – both formal (announced performance test) and informal (assessment that occur as I am listening throughout class/rehearsal/performances) will be 10%.
- Practice records will be 30%.

Grades are based on the work and improvement that the student has shown, not on their musical ability since each student has varying amounts of experience. If a student participates in the Y.A.C. Solo & Ensemble Festival, State Band or Orchestra Festival, or any other Honors Band or Orchestra, they will receive extra credit towards their grade because that involves a significant time investment outside of class.

**Repertoire:** Students will be required to work on a variety of different pieces for performance with the full ensemble. The majority of the repertoire will be comparable to the pieces included on the MSBOA class C and B required list. The pieces will also cover a variety of styles from standard concert band forms, orchestral transcriptions, popular music and movie themes, and jazz styles. The pieces will contain a variety of key signatures, time signatures, and an adequate amount of technical demands to allow for improvement of the ensemble playing ability and each student's individual playing ability.

**Method Book:** The Wind Symphony uses the Essential Techniques Book 3 from the Essential Elements series. Students will use the book as an individual practice resource and the class will use it for warm-up exercises and scale practice; as well as rehearsing the individual exercises as an ensemble, that the students should be practicing at home. The method book covers the following concepts and areas of technique and the class will work through these as the year progresses:

Class participation, preparation, behavior & attendance will be 30%.

- Major and Minor Scales - performed as 8th notes and 16 notes at various tempos and with different articulations. The class will cover the following concert keys: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, F, C, and G. Students will also play the relative Natural, Harmonic, and Melodic Minor scales for each of these keys. The

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class will perform each of the technique building exercises in each of these keys; the scales in thirds, and the arpeggios in each of the keys.

- Chromatic Scale - will be learned and practiced in 16th notes and triplets starting on all the notes of the major/minor scales we will learn
- Rhythms and Time Signatures - the class will cover quarter notes, 8th notes, 16th notes and all equivalent rests and syncopations consistent with our repertoire and covered in the method book. Students will also learn these in 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 5/4 and compound time signatures such as 3/8, 6/8, 9/8, and 12/8
- Tone Building and Balance exercises - during class the students will perform the range, balance, and intonation exercises to address chorale playing, proper band sound, balance and intonation.
- Technique Builders and Etudes - Students will use the exercises in the book as we work through the various keys to build their individual technique, expand their range and address accidentals, dynamics, musical styles and articulations.

**Solo and Ensemble:** As members of Wind Symphony students will also have the opportunity to participate in the Youth Arts Coalition Solo and Ensemble Festival. This will allow students to perform solos or perform in a small ensemble and receive a critique and a rating by a professional performer/educator on their instrument.

**Concerts:** The Students will perform in 4 concerts each year. 1 in the first semester and 3 in the second semester. Participation is required and students are graded on their attendance. The ensemble also receives a rating and a critique from a band director/music educator for the Youth Arts Coalition Band and Orchestra Festival performance.

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