

Course Content Document

C. Chamber Music Explorers.

Chamber Music Explorers is an informal and fun playing group led by experienced musicians who select and provide the music copy for the pieces which have been pre-selected. The members are periodically polled to create a list of suggested pieces and these are developed into programs for each semester. The group is not focused on performing, to date, and the music selected is normally as composed and is not arranged editions.

The course enables string students to access chamber music early in their careers. Often access to quartet and chamber music groups is limited to difficult music and only to already accomplished players, normally by audition. This course aims to find music at an easy enough level to be playable by each student. All the students play, and multiple students may play the same part.

The group "explores" a number of pieces during the semester, brings easy movements to a relatively high standard, and works with the harder movements to get playability. The pieces are broken down into manageable parts and the group works on learning the various parts. Each person will get the chance to hear their part and their section in the overall ensemble of each piece. Instruction from the experienced personnel is in tempos, the specific music notations, playing style, phrasing, intonation, entrances, exits, hearing the entrances and parts of the other sections. Basic playing technique for playing each specific instrument is not given in this class. An assignment is given out to allow all to practice and come prepared to play their part in the following class.

Each class is the opportunity for every player to improve and polish their part and add to the ensemble, for the overall group to achieve an improved group effort. Some of the pieces are played for the fun of working on them, and others are just for fun.

Music selected is normally played by 4 or 5 parts, as a quartet or quintet, or easier concerto. At times additional instruments may be invited to allow larger pieces to be explored.

R. Wellons 5/12/2021.