



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Dr. Matthew Busse
Course Title & #:	Orchestra for Older Adults MUS 803	Email:	Matthew.busse@imperial.edu
CRN #:	12057	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	SHS Band/Orchestra Room	Office #:	None
Class Dates:	8/11/25 to 12/6/2025	Office Hours:	By appointment
Class Days:	Wednesdays	Office Phone #:	
Class Times:	6-8:30 PM	Emergency Contact:	(760) 370-8866
Units:	1	Class Format:	In Person

Course Description

A study and performance of literature for a symphony orchestra. Performances in local communities and on campus are required. Field trips to other musical events will be included to help performers develop efficient listening and evaluating practices. Solo and ensemble rehearsals and performances included. Maximum credit four units. (CSU,UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

By audition. The ability to read music, and previous experience playing a symphonic musical instrument.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Exhibit improved technical skill on their instrument (ILO2, ILO3).
2. Exhibit improved musical skills including sight-reading, rhythmic accuracy, dynamic accuracy, and intonation. (ILO2, ILO3)
3. Exhibit improved ensemble skills including following directions, group dynamics, section playing, ensemble playing and the role of the section leader. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4)
4. Exhibit knowledge of different stylistic performance practices; e.g., Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and/or Modern; as drawn from the literature studied. (ILO4, ILO5)
5. Exhibit knowledge of the musical repertoire of the chamber orchestra; e.g., Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and/or Modern; as drawn from the literature studied. (ILO4, ILO5)
6. Exhibit music reading and listening skills including resources for interpretation of notation and style, historical and cultural context through multiple sources. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Correctly perform assigned parts from a varied literature for orchestra in concert.
2. Correctly perform assigned parts from a varied literature for orchestra in rehearsal.
3. Demonstrate proper vocal technique appropriate to the style of the composition being performed.
4. Correctly interpret music notation symbols of pitch, dynamics and expression.
5. Recall details about the style, period, and performance practices of the composers and compositions studied in class.
6. Isolate technical performance problems in rehearsal.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

No text required. Literature to be studied will be drawn from the standard orchestral repertoire from Baroque to Contemporary, including (but not limited to) such as composers as Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Corelli, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Rossini, Brahms, Bizet, Tchaikovsky, Wagner, Grieg, Sibelius, Glinka, Rachmaninoff, Ravel, Debussy, Elgar, Stravinsky, Copland, Bernstein, Rodrigo, et al., and including (but not limited to) such forms as symphonies, suites, overtures, concerti, concerti grossi, tone poems, et al., as well as contemporary “pops” pieces. Sheet music will be provided to the students on loan from the library of the Imperial Valley Symphony, or downloadable from the Petrucci Library (imslp.org). (Students will be responsible for the cost of replacing music lost or damaged while on loan to them.)

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

- Correct performance of assigned parts from a varied literature for symphony orchestra in concert.
- Correct performance of assigned parts from a varied literature for symphony orchestra in rehearsal.
- Correct performance of proper instrumental technique appropriate to the style of the composition being performed.
- Correct interpretation of music notation symbols of pitch, dynamics and expression.
- The recalling of details about the style, period, and performance practices of the composers and compositions studied in class.
- Isolation of technical performance problems in rehearsal, and systematic application of standard rehearsal techniques to them.

Method of Evaluation:

1. Class Activity
 2. Mid-Term/Final
- Exam(s), i.e., performance in scheduled public concert(s)

- Objective
- Oral
- Assignments.
- Quizzes
- Skill Demonstration
- Written Assignments

Out of Class Assignments:

The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement. acoustic music (if preferred). Students will work in conjunction with other departments (theater, graphic arts, eg.). Final projects may be presented on public concert.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Concert attendance/Performances 80%

Class Participation 20%

Course Policies

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

What does it mean to "attend" an online class?

Attendance is critical to student success and for IVC to use federal aid funds. Acceptable indications of attendance are:

- Student submission of an academic assignment
- Student submission of an exam
- Student participation in an instructor-led Zoom conference
- Documented student interaction with class postings, such as an interactive tutorial or computer assisted instruction via modules

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- A posting by the student showing the student's participation in an assignment created by the instructor
 - A posting by the student in a discussion forum showing the student's participation in an online discussion about academic matters
 - An email from the student or other documentation showing that the student has initiated contact with a faculty member to ask a question about an academic subject studied in the course. Logging onto Canvas alone is NOT adequate to demonstrate academic attendance by the student.

Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, only students enrolled in the class may attend; children are not allowed.

How do I act differently if I have an on-ground class during COVID?

1. DO NOT COME TO CAMPUS OR ATTEND AN OFF-CAMPUS CLASS IF YOU FEEL SICK, HAVE A FEVER, OR HAVE A COUGH

- Even if your symptoms are mild, stay home.
- Email your instructor to explain why you are missing class.
- If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have COVID-19, provides CDC guidance.
- If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you must self-quarantine for 14 days and then be without symptoms for at least 72 hours. Clearance is required prior to returning to any face-to-face interaction. It is recommended that you undergo a final COVID-19 test to confirm that you are no longer infected.
- If you are exposed through direct contact with a person known to be COVID-19 positive, then you must submit negative COVID-19 test results prior to returning to any face-to-face interaction.

2. ARRIVE AT CAMPUS EARLY (at least 15 minutes early is advised).

- All people entering the IVC campus will need to pass a screening process, which will occur at the gates as your drive onto campus. You will need to take a short questionnaire and get your temperature taken (the screening is completely touchless and will take place while you remain in your car).

3. BRING A MASK TO CLASS (and always wear it).

- Be sure that your mask covers both your nose and mouth. If your mask is cloth, then wash it each day. If your mask is disposable, then use a new one each day.

4. GO DIRECTLY TO YOUR CLASSROOM.

- The IVC campus is mostly closed so you should not visit other areas or seek any face-to-face services. Services are available to students online and can be accessed through www.imperial.edu.

5. WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY (and use the provided sanitation supplies).

- Your classroom is equipped with cleaning supplies. Use them as needed.

6. BE SURE TO SOCIAL DISTANCE (stay at least 6 feet from other).

- The number of students in a classroom at any one time is very limited so you have plenty of space to spread and ensure that you stay at least 6 feet from others.

7. BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND DRINKS.

- There is no food service currently offered on campus

Other Course Information

Online Netiquette

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].

How am I expected to act in an online "classroom" (especially Zoom)?

Attending a virtual meeting can be a challenge when there are many students on one conference call. Participating in such meetings may count as class attendance, but disruptive behavior may also result in you not being admitted to future meetings. Follow the tips below for best results:

1) Be RESPECTFUL

- Your written, verbal, and non-verbal communications should be respectful and focused on the learning topics of the class.

2) Find a QUIET LOCATION & SILENCE YOUR PHONE (if zooming)

- People walking around and pets barking can be a distraction.

3) EAT AT A DIFFERENT TIME.

- Crunching food or chugging drinks is distracting for others.
- Synchronous zoom times are set in advance so reserve meals for outside class meetings.

4) ADJUST YOUR LIGHTING SO THAT OTHERS CAN SEE YOU

- It is hard to see you in dim lighting so find a location with light.
- If your back is to a bright window, you will be what is called “backlit” and not only is it hard on the eyes (glare) but you look like a silhouette.

5) POSITION THE CAMERA SO THAT YOUR FACE AND EYES ARE SHOWING

- If you are using the camera, show your face; it helps others see your non-verbal cues.
- You may be at home, but meeting in pajamas or shirtless is not appropriate so dress suitably. Comb your hair, clean your teeth, fix your clothes, etc. before your meeting time to show self-respect and respect for others.

6) Be READY TO LEARN AND PAY ATTENTION

- Catch up on other emails or other work later.
- If you are Zooming, silence your phone and put it away.
- If you are in a room with a TV – turn it off.

7) USE YOUR MUTE BUTTON WHEN IN LOUD PLACES OR FOR DISTRACTIONS

- Pets barking, children crying, sneezing, coughing, etc. can happen unexpectedly. It’s best if you conference in a private space, but if you can’t find a quiet place, when noises arise MUTE your laptop.

8) REMEMBER TO UNMUTE WHEN SPEAKING

- Follow your instructor’s directions about using the “raise hand” icon or chat function to be recognized and to speak, but make sure you have unmuted your device.
- Do not speak when someone else is speaking.

9) REMAIN FOCUSED AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING

- Especially when the camera is on YOU, we can all see your actions. Engage in the meeting. Look at the camera. Listen to instruction. Answer questions when asked.
- Do not use the Zoom meeting to meet with your peers or put on a “show” for them.

10) PAUSE YOUR VIDEO IF MOVING OR DOING SOMETHING DISTRACTING

- Emergencies happen. If you need to leave the room or get up and move about, stop your video.

What if I need to borrow technology or access to WIFI?

1. To request a loaner laptop, MYFI device, or other electronic device, please submit your request here: <https://imperial.edu/students/student-equity-and-achievement/>

2. If you'd like access the WIFI at the IVC campus, you can park in parking lots "I & J". Students must log into the IVC student WIFI by using their IVC email and password. The parking lots will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Guidelines for using parking WIFI:

- Park in every other space (empty space BETWEEN vehicles)
- Must have facemask available -For best reception park near buildings
- Only park at marked student spaces
- Only owners of a valid disabled placard may use disabled parking spaces
- Only members of the same household in each vehicle
- Occupants MUST remain in vehicles -Restrooms and other on-campus services not available
- College campus safety will monitor the parking lot
- Student code of conduct and all other parking guidelines are in effect
- Please do not leave any trash behind
- No parking permit required

If you have any questions about using parking WIFI, please call Student Affairs at 760- 355-6455.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.



IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Weeks 1-11	Students will be rehearsing for concert on November 15	Concert November 15, 2025
Weeks 12-16	Students will be working on repertoire for Spring concert	

Subject to change without prior notice