

MUSIC 160/160Z: Stanford Symphony Orchestra (SSO)

Class meetings/rehearsals: M, Th 7:00-9:30pm

plus additional rehearsal and concert times as listed on the Course Schedule

Location: Bing Concert Hall (primarily) and alternate venues

INSTRUCTOR: Paul Phillips

Music Director and Conductor, Stanford Symphony Orchestra

Gretchen B. Kimball Director of Orchestral Studies / Associate Professor of Music

psphil@stanford.edu (650) 498-6957 Office: Braun Music Center 121

Office hours, Fall Quarter 2019: Tu/Th 4:30-5:00pm or by appointment

SYLLABUS 2019-20

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Participation in a full symphony orchestra for the purpose of rehearsing and performing orchestral music from the Classical era to the present day. The SSO generally gives two performances of one full program per quarter, and usually plays for other events or on other concerts each quarter in addition to the main program. Enrollment is by audition. While undergraduate and graduate students will be given priority, Stanford faculty and staff, as well as community members, may audition for membership.

EXPECTATIONS

The SSO offers orchestral musicians outstanding rehearsal and performance opportunities in a supportive educational environment. Orchestral performance is inherently a team endeavor that requires all players to be present and attentive at each rehearsal in order to achieve their highest potential. SSO members are expected to take their commitment to the ensemble seriously through regular attendance and practice, and full attention in rehearsals unimpeded by smartphone usage or other distractions.

AUDITIONS

Auditions for the SSO take place 18-23 September 2019 in the Braun Music Center. To sign up, follow the link on the Stanford Orchestra website: sso.stanford.edu. For 1st-year students and new members, the audition consists of: 1) about two minutes of any piece that shows you at your best (excerpt of a concerto, sonata, suite; or etude); 2) scales, and 3) sight-reading. For returning members, the audition consists of orchestral excerpts instead of a solo piece. These excerpts are posted online before the Fall Quarter begins. New students may also play these excerpts in their audition in addition to their solo, but are not required to do so. Each audition lasts about 10 minutes.

Students (and other potential members) may audition for SSO later in the year, but will only be considered for membership if there are openings for their instrument at that time.

ROSTERS and SEATING

The Fall Quarter roster will be announced by 26 September, with the first rehearsal taking place that evening. Membership on this roster applies to the entire academic year; anyone who plans to study abroad later in the year, or who is otherwise unable to participate for all three quarters, should notify the Music Director (MD) of this at their audition.

Every effort will be made to assign wind parts as equally and equitably as possible, with each wind player assigned to at least one work on each program. This also applies to timpani, percussion, harp, and keyboards. Seatings in the string sections will rotate each quarter.

Seatings are determined by auditions and previous orchestra participation, and will remain as originally assigned most of the time. However, seatings may be changed by the MD for reasons such as inadequate musical preparation or poor attendance.

COURSE REGISTRATION

All Stanford students selected for membership in SSO are required to enroll for the course, preferably for credit (MUSIC 160). Those students who choose to enroll using the zero-unit enrollment option (MUSIC 160Z) will be given a link to submit information and will then be given a code required for registration. The zero-unit option allows the department to correctly track the number of students participating in ensembles, and allocate resources accordingly. Please refer to the [Zero-Unit Enrollment Policy](#) on the Department of Music website for details.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION (CE) WAYS REQUIREMENT

For MUSIC 160 to satisfy the Creative Expression (CE) WAYS requirement, it must be taken for a letter grade.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

SSO rehearsals are held on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:30pm in Bing Concert Hall, or in Bing Studio when BCH is unavailable. Sectional rehearsals generally take place once per quarter. Concert dates and additional rehearsal times are specified on the SSO schedule distributed at the start of each quarter.

Rehearsal schedules are announced at the start of each week and distributed electronically to all SSO members. SSO members who play timpani, percussion, harp, and keyboard are expected to assist with setting up their instruments before the stage is raised by a Bing crew member at 6:45pm. All orchestra members are expected to be in their seats ready to begin by 6:55pm.

ATTENDANCE

SSO is an ensemble whose success and productivity depend on consistent participation and attendance by each member. For this reason, attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts for all assigned pieces. (SSO members do not have to be present for rehearsal of pieces that they are not assigned to.)

Two *excused* absences per quarter are permitted, without grading penalty, for **Category A** reasons:

- illness
- family emergency
- academic/career-related travel (such as attendance at conferences or job interviews)

Absences for **Category B** reasons are deemed *unexcused* absences and may incur a grading penalty:

- midterm examinations
- working on homework
- recreational travel

SSO members with any of the following **Category C** situations that conflict with the SSO schedule are required to discuss these with the MD at their audition (or earlier) and *must* do so before seatings are determined:

- course schedule conflict
- employment schedule conflict
- participation in clubs, or other ensembles or activities (including pit orchestras)
- Greek organization events

Because Category C situations can vary widely, they need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Often, the MD is able to permit students in this category to participate by reducing the number of pieces they play, seating them toward the back of the section (especially string players who regularly have to arrive late or miss a significant number of rehearsals), or through some other accommodation. However, some students in this category may be deemed unable to participate if they would have to miss too many rehearsals and/or performances.

Each SSO member is allowed two excused (Category A) rehearsal absences without having their grade lowered. Additional absences will count as unexcused (Category B) absences. Excessive lateness (more than 15 minutes) not excused in advance will count as a tardy; early unexcused departures from rehearsal (more than 15 minutes) will be treated similarly. Two tardies or early departures will equal one unexcused absence.

The grading scale for **unexcused** (Category B) absences is as follows:

0 absences	A (A+ awarded for exceptional achievement)
1-2 absences	A-
3-4 absences	B+
5 absences	B
6 absences	B-
etc.	

Students should notify the Orchestra Manager (OM) and MD as early as possible regarding conflicts by sending a message to orchmanager@stanford.edu. Emails sent to this address will be received by the student Orchestra Manager, Orchestra Administrator, and MD. Attendance is taken by the OM at every rehearsal and reviewed regularly by the MD to insure that the attendance log is accurate.

SSO members who expect to exceed the allotted number of excused absences should notify the Orchestra Manager and Music Director before the start of the quarter. These students may enroll in MUSIC 160 for Credit/No Credit or the zero-unit option MUSIC 160Z to avoid facing grading penalties.

Members enrolled in SSO are expected to adhere to this attendance policy. Failure to do so may affect one's grade and/or seating as described above. The Honor Code applies to all absence notifications.

MIDTERM EXAMINATIONS

According to Stanford University [policy](#):

Classes that give midterm examinations outside of regular class hours must

- 1. announce the date and time during the first week of the academic quarter, and*
- 2. provide reasonable alternative times to those students who have another class or other University commitment at that time.*

According to Honor Code interpretations and applications, a different examination may be given at these alternative times.

For any class you are taking with midterm examinations that conflict with SSO rehearsals or concerts, please contact your professor during Week 1 (or asap) to request alternate exam times, explaining that the scheduled exam times conflict with MUSIC 160, a regularly scheduled course for which you are registered. If any difficulties arise, please notify the MD as quickly as possible.

INSTRUMENT LOANS

Some instruments can be borrowed from the Music Department at no cost. Please contact the MD with any questions, or contact Stanford's Instrument Curator Herbert Myers (hwm@stanford.edu) to make arrangements to borrow an instrument.

INSTRUMENT LOCKERS

Lockers of varying sizes are available for rental at the Braun Music Center during the academic year for a small fee. To sign up, go to <https://music.stanford.edu/resources/lockers>.

Free instrument lockers are available at the Bing Concert Hall. Fill out this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZAGK8gbY9J3AfyGmd7Mo_uLA2As4I_Hnet4o5Q9EzM

[u2DQw/viewform](#) if you'd like an instrument locker in Bing. You should receive an email with your assigned locker number and combination shortly after filling out the form. If you don't receive it within a few days, contact Bryant Huang <bhuang19@stanford.edu>.

PRACTICE ROOMS

Practice rooms are available in Braun Music Center on a first-come, first-served basis. The practice room fee is \$50 per quarter. To sign up, go to <https://music.stanford.edu/resources/practice-rooms>. Harpists, percussionists, and bassists may practice in those respective storage rooms in Bing.

CONCERT DRESS

Women: Elegant black attire (dress or slacks) with black footwear (no flip-flops)

Men: Tuxedo or black suit, white shirt, black bow tie, black shoes and socks

Orchestra members dress in costume at the annual Halloween Concert. For some concerts, men wear “pit black” (long-sleeved black shirt with black shoes and socks; no jacket or tie). Less formal dress is also worn for some performances, such as children’s or pops concerts.

MUSIC and FOLDER

Each orchestra member will be provided with a folder and parts for each piece that they are assigned to on that program. All parts, originals and copies, must be returned directly after each concert. A replacement fee will be charged for any lost or damaged music.

ORCHESTRA RETREAT

The annual Orchestra Retreat at Monte Toyon in Aptos provides an opportunity for SSO and Stanford Philharmonia (SP) members to interact socially and musically in a beautiful natural setting among the California redwoods. All new SSO and SP members are very strongly encouraged to attend, as are all returning members. The 2020 Orchestra Retreat will take place during the weekend of October 5-6. Transportation and meals are provided; there is no cost to attend.

CONCERTO COMPETITION

The annual Concerto Competition provides an opportunity for students to perform as soloists with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra and Stanford Philharmonia. This year’s Concerto Competition will take place on Sunday, 2 February 2020, with the winners probably performing on the Spring 2020 SSO and/or SP concerts.

PHOTOGRAPHY and VIDEO RECORDING

By enrolling in SSO you are giving consent for the video and audio recording and distribution of your image and performance for use by any entity at Stanford University.

CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP

The vast majority of students accepted into SSO can expect to continue as members in future years. However, continuing membership is based on an annual audition and is not guaranteed.

HONOR CODE

Students in MUSIC 160/160Z are expected to uphold all aspects of Stanford's [Honor Code](#). All potential violations, which include plagiarism, unpermitted collaboration, and representing as one's own work the work of another, are strictly prohibited in this course.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Students with documented disabilities who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, URL: <http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oae>).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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For further information, visit sso.stanford.edu

Syllabus subject to change by instructor.