



Mason Gross School
of the Arts

Chamber Music (Fall 2024)

07:701:355/455 (Undergraduate) / 08:703:555/655 (Graduate)
Coord.: Dr. Rachel Yunkyung Choo, yc620@mgsa.rutgers.edu

Chamber music plays a vital role in all music programs at MGSA. By participating in chamber music, students gain experience in both rehearsing and performing in small groups, while developing the interpersonal skills essential for collaboration. Students also explore a wide variety of compositions, sharpening their collaborative skills, musicality, and technical proficiency. The course emphasizes effective group communication, rehearsal strategies, and individual accountability within the ensemble. Through weekly coaching sessions, rehearsals, and performance opportunities, students will develop a deeper understanding of collaboration and the role of each instrument in the ensemble.

Course Requirements

Students are required to receive 10 hours of coaching throughout the semester, with at least 3 hours of coaching by the midpoint of the semester. The first coaching must take place within two weeks of the announcement of the chamber group roster.

Weekly attendance and participation in coaching sessions and rehearsals (in addition to coachings) are required throughout the term.

1. Students must complete the log at the end of each coaching session, in the presence of your coach, who will verify your attendance. To receive credit for the semester, you are required to attend and log all 10 sessions. Since most chamber groups consist of multiple members, one person representing the group may complete the form after each session. Please be sure to keep the link handy. The coordinator will review the logs regularly, and confirm accuracy with coaches.
2. Students are expected to rehearse at least once per week (in addition to coachings), attend all coaching sessions, prepare music in advance, and contribute actively to the rehearsal process. Collaborative effort and open communication are essential to success in this course.
3. Final public performance (required): One public performance is required for the semester. After completing your performance, please use the log to record the details.
**See information below*

Failure to meet the following requirements may result in lowering the final grade:

- Fewer than 10 coachings.
- If the performance requirement is not met. Coachings and performances completed after the end of the semester may be considered, pending approval of the chamber music coordinator.

Chamber Performance Requirement

All chamber groups are required to perform at least once per semester, either in a student recital, an event organized by the chamber music program, or in a setting arranged independently by the group (with prior approval from the chamber coordinator). A list of performance opportunities will be distributed at the beginning of the semester, including recitals, outreach events, and other special performances.

If you choose to *arrange your own performance* and perform outside of school, you must submit proof of the performance, such as a concert program or a recording of the performance. This documentation must be submitted to the chamber coordinator no later than one week after the performance.

Participation in the chamber competition will not count toward this requirement, but a performance in the competition winners' concert will.

Evaluation criteria

Beyond the satisfaction of the requirements listed above, grades will be assigned to members of each group by the group's coach based on the following:

40% - Artistic quality and musicianship and/or improvement throughout the semester.

20% - Reliability and responsibility – Demonstration of accountability to the group
20% - Preparation – Demonstration of preparedness for coachings and rehearsals

20% - Individual initiative – The student's active engagement with the groups development towards goals established at the beginning of the semester.

Course Information

Enrollment for credit

All full-time undergraduate students participating in chamber music must enroll in 07:701:355. Graduate students may participate in chamber music for credit by enrolling in 08:703:555. Students enrolling in two sections of chamber music (with permission of the coordinator and advisor) should enroll in both 07:701:355 and 455 (undergrad) or 08:703:555 and 655 (grad). A special permission number for 455 or 655 is required. Please consult the undergraduate or graduate advisor for questions about the required chamber credits required for your program.

Group Formation

All students* who wish to participate in chamber music must submit the Chamber Music Sign Up Form, distributed via email at the beginning of each semester. This requirement applies to both pre-formed groups as well as those who are not in a pre-formed group. The form collects general information, scheduling constraints and ensemble and coach preferences. The

coordinator will make all possible efforts to satisfy requests, but students should note it may not always be possible. Students should indicate as much scheduling flexibility as possible.

*Note: Students in the **Brass** and **Jazz** areas do not need to submit the Sign-Up Form. Brass and Jazz students should consult the Head of Brass and the Jazz Coordinator, respectively.

Students who fail to submit the sign-up form by the posted deadline will not be placed in groups and may not remain registered for the course, so be sure to note the deadline, which might be before the end of the add/drop period. If your availability changes after submitting the form, notify the chamber coordinator with your revised availability. Late registrants or students with extenuating circumstances should contact the chamber coordinator as soon as possible and all efforts will be made to accommodate challenging situations.

Groups will be formed and assigned to coaches as quickly as possible. Once formed, the groups should meet as soon as possible to choose repertoire, address scheduling concerns. Chamber groups must have their first coaching within two weeks of the coordinator's announcement of the roster of chamber groups.

Mason Gross student representation in groups

Groups are expected to be comprised primarily of MGSA students. In duos, both members must be MGSA students. In trios, at least 2 members must be MGSA students. For larger groups, at least 3 must be MGSA students. Direct questions about this policy to the coordinator

Communication policy

All the members of the group will be responsible for communicating individually with the coach and coordinator in a timely and professional manner and all students in the group are responsible for completing rehearsals, coachings, and performances, and final projects assigned by the coach. Any issues or challenges with communication should be brought to the coordinator's attention immediately.

Attendance Policy

As a group's progress depends on all of its members, no absences from coachings are allowed. All members must be present for 10 hours of coachings. In the event of illness, emergency, or a missed coaching, a makeup must be rescheduled and held during the semester. Cancellations by the coach will be made up at a mutually convenient time for the coach and group members. Extenuating circumstances (illness, professional engagement, etc.) should be brought to the attention of the coordinator who will facilitate to ensure that the group satisfies the requirements.

Support from the Chamber Music Coordinator

If a chamber group is having any issues among its members or with its coach (interpersonal, scheduling, musical, communication, etc), it is the responsibility of a student or students from the group to contact the chamber music coordinator as soon as possible. The coordinator will be responsible for settling any issues or disputes and ensuring that the needs of all students are met. The coordinator will also make all efforts to fulfill any requests for confidentiality and will attempt to mediate any issues in manners that are fair and considerate of all parties involved.