Dear UA Violinists,

Welcome to the violin studio of 2023-2024! We’re very excited to see and work with all of you as the year progresses. The following is a guide to ensemble placement for this fall.

In addition to the full orchestras, Arizona Symphony and the UA Philharmonic, the school of music features a strong Chamber Music program, the Arizona Baroque Ensemble, and the Arizona Contemporary Ensemble. Chamber Music class meets every Tuesday from 2-3pm, and each group prepares a work on their own (with weekly coachings from the faculty). Your orchestral audition is used for Chamber Music placement as well. For more information about the Baroque Ensemble or the Contemporary Ensemble, please contact Dr. John Brobeck (brobeck@arizona.edu) or Prof. Dan Asia (asia@email.arizona.edu). Additionally, Prof. Roth holds an orchestral repertoire class that meets 3-4pm on Thursdays.

Every year we hold placement auditions for the orchestras. Please begin preparation as soon as possible! You can find more information on the audition process and setting up your audition here: http://ensembleauditions.music.arizona.edu The site is not yet active, but you will eventually also use that site to set up your audition time.

You will only need to prepare one of the two sets of excerpts (either Symphony or Philharmonic). All music majors should prepare the Symphony list. The requirements for this year’s orchestral auditions are as follows:

**Arizona Symphony**
- Exposition of a standard Classical or Romantic concerto, not including cadenza; OR a movement of a sonata or showpiece of your choice
- Schuman Symphony No.2, II. Scherzo: Allegro Vivace: Beginning to m.49
- Brahms Symphony No.2, I. Allegro non troppo: Beginning to rehearsal B

**UA Philharmonic**
- Bach Double Concerto, Violin 1, beginning to B (included in packet); OR a movement of a concerto, sonata, or showpiece of your choice
- Mozart Symphony No.40, IV. Allegro assai: Beginning to Rehearsal A

Attached you will find the excerpts for this year’s orchestral auditions. Based on your audition, we will place you in the ensemble that best fits your playing and experience. We will also base the placement for Chamber Music on the orchestral audition.

Some tips for successful audition preparation:
- Make sure to be prepared and warmed-up at least 15 minutes before your audition time
- Do your homework to avoid “dumb-dumb” mistakes. These include but are not limited to: wrong key signature, wrong rhythms, missed accidentals, etc. With a little
concentrated preparation these are very easy to avoid. A **metronome** and **tuner** can save you a lot of time!

- Study the scores: all scores are available for free at [www.imslp.org](http://www.imslp.org)
- Listen to recordings: there is a wealth of tradition for most of these pieces, and knowing a little about traditional performance practices can be very helpful. Listen for tempos, dynamic shape, and articulation. Recordings of these pieces are easily accessible online on YouTube, Spotify, iTunes, etc.
- **Make music and have fun!**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Tim

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