

Note: Answers to these FAQs may be inaccurate or irrelevant during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact the instructor if you have questions not answered here.

Frequently Asked Questions

Enrollment

I *have to* take a class that is scheduled immediately before or after UCBWE, or slightly overlaps.

Can I still play in the group?

We know that scheduling presents challenges to many. Within reason, we can accommodate late arrivals or early departures. Depending on the strength of your audition, we can also accommodate up to one hour per week of overlapping enrollment. We expect you to exhaust all other reasonable alternatives (e.g., requesting an override into another section), and trust that you will attend rehearsal if/when your other class is canceled. If you think this situation applies to you, please be sure to mention it during your audition. (Note: all players must still perform an audition.)

Can I miss rehearsal(s) for work?

No.

Do I have to enroll in the class?

For many reasons, no-credit participation is restricted as much as possible. Please contact the instructor if you have specific concerns.

Auditions

What should I bring to the audition?

Please bring a photocopy of your prepared repertoire along with your instrument or sticks/mallets, and any needed accessories.

Can I warm-up before the audition?

Yes, there are practice rooms nearby. Please arrive early enough to still be on time to your scheduled audition.

I play percussion. What should I do?

From among snare drum, timpani, and marimba, **select two** and prepare one brief excerpt on each. (In place of marimba, you may select xylophone, vibraphone, or glockenspiel.) Scales and/or sight-reading may be requested on the instruments you selected or waived altogether.

Could you explain the term “chromatically adjacent” a little further?

Certainly – Imagine the black and white keys on a piano. Select four keys (notes) that are all right next to each other, without skipping any at all (black nor white). Now play the major scales that begin with those 4 notes on your instrument.

Correct: F – F#(Gb) – G – Ab (forms a cluster with no skipped notes)

Close, but incorrect: F – G – Ab – A (missing F#)

Incorrect: Bb – C – Eb – F (missing B, C#(Db), D, and E).

If you still have questions or would like verification, you are welcome to email the instructor before your audition.

If I play more than 4 scales, do the additional scales *also* have to be chromatically adjacent?

No – as long as a minimum of 4 of your scales are chromatically adjacent, you may play any additional major scale(s) beyond them, as you wish.

Example: F – F#(Gb) – G – Ab (chrom. adj.) ... followed by Bb, Eb, C, and so on.

Can I audition on more than one instrument?

Absolutely! You can sign up for a double-slot, or two separate slots on different days. Please inform the director at your first audition if you will be (or are considering) auditioning on a second instrument, and communicate any preferences at that time.

Can you recommend any audition repertoire?

We don't have any specific recommendations, but All-State Band audition material, method book etudes, previous solo pieces, Berkeley's Hargrove Music Library, and even Internet searches are good places to start. Aim to exhibit both your technical and lyrical skills when selecting repertoire. Always strive for outstanding tone, pitch accuracy, rhythmic vitality, and dynamic playing that goes beyond the page. Select repertoire that shows what you can do rather than what you cannot do.

I play clarinet or saxophone, but am interested in playing a different type than the one I own.

Play your audition on the type you have, and indicate on the audition form and again during the audition if you would like to be considered for a different voice (e.g. bari sax, bass clarinet, etc.).

I have additional questions. Who should I contact?

Email Matthew Sadowski, Director of Bands, at msadowski@berkeley.edu. Please include as much information as possible so that your question(s) can be accurately and completely answered.

Thank you and good luck!