

WIND SYMPHONY

To: UPEI Instrumental Majors & Potential Wind Symphony Members
From: Karem J. Simon
Date: 7 June 2017
Re: UPEI Wind Symphony 2017 - 2018

Greetings! I hope this letter finds you well and in good cheer. I am writing to inform you about plans for the UPEI Wind Symphony for this coming academic year.

Outline

The Wind Symphony rehearses each Wednesday evening from 6:30PM – 8:30 PM, and performs on several occasions throughout the academic year. The first rehearsal this fall will be Wednesday, September 6. Building on the success of the retreats in recent years, we will continue this weekend tradition in September in order to advance our ensemble's mission. As of this writing, most of our events and performances for the forthcoming academic year are set and may be viewed at <http://www.upei.ca/arts/music/wind-symphony/upcoming-events>. Details regarding all of this will be available in September and will be updated throughout the summer. For your information, one track for this past year's CD, among others in our collection, may be found at <http://www.upei.ca/arts/music/windsymphony/audio>

Programming

I am in the process of reviewing repertoire and am particularly enthusiastic about the prospects for our 2017-2018 programming. The center piece of our Fall repertoire will be the complete Symphony No. 1 *The Lord of the Rings* by Johan de Meij. Links to audio recordings of these pieces will be posted on our facebook page – www.facebook.com/#!/groups/6183442019/. During the winter semester there will be opportunities for a student to rehearse and conduct a piece in performance and for student compositions to be read and, perhaps, performed as well.

Membership and Auditions

All instrumental majors are required to participate in the Wind Symphony; others are welcome to do so. Auditions will occur on Friday, September 1 and Tuesday, September 5, to determine membership, seating position, and to assess the abilities of each member. Plan to return with good performance chops in order to be satisfactorily prepared to display the best of your playing. Only those who meet the standard will be permitted to participate. The auditions will also determine who, if anyone, will be student soloist with the Wind Symphony during the academic year. Those who are considering this option should prepare a major work to perform during the audition.

Auditions will occur in Room 201 (my studio) at the Department of Music at UPEI. For music majors, the audition will consist of the following:

1. Technique: all major scales; and, d, b, f, and f# melodic minor scales
2. Test piece - For most of you this will be *Gandalf*. [This will be available to pick up in late June and will be placed on my office door. [Please advise if you need it sent to you.]
3. Own selection (approximately 2 minutes in duration).
4. Sight-reading

Be certain to sign up for your preferred audition time on the sheet provided on the bulletin board on my office door (available after August 22). *Audition advice*, found with this memo, may be helpful in your preparations.

Additional Personnel

In addition to music majors, the Wind Symphony has many musicians who are university students, community musicians, and high school students. These auxiliary personnel play an important function – filling out the instrumentation as well as contributing to the musical objectives of the band. If you know of anyone who you feel would positively strengthen the band, please invite them to audition.

Contact

I would be pleased to answer any concerns you have about the UPEI Wind Symphony. You may contact me at 902-566-0702 (work), 902-892-5993 (home) or e-mail ksimon@upei.ca. Enjoy the remainder of your summer. I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

UPEI WIND SYMPHONY

Audition Advice

What to do:

- ◆ Present a professional image (You only get one chance to make a first impression)
- ◆ Take control of the situation (Plan what you are going to play and do)
- ◆ Dress for the occasion
- ◆ Be on time and warmed up
- ◆ Leave your case, coat, and other belongings outside the audition room
- ◆ Make certain that your instrument and reeds are in good working order
- ◆ Have your instrument out and ready
- ◆ Introduce yourself
- ◆ Get the committee's attention
- ◆ Speak clearly
- ◆ Look people in the eye
- ◆ Know correct pronunciations
- ◆ Choose music that is appropriate (Get advice)
- ◆ Do not change repertoire less than a week before the audition
- ◆ Prepare well in advance
- ◆ Demonstrate your ability and facility
- ◆ Dazzle them with your blazing technique
- ◆ Show them the depth of your musical soul
- ◆ Communicate if you have a legitimate problem – long before the audition
- ◆ Maintain a positive appearance even if you do not play well

What not to do:

- ⊗ Do not make excuses or apologies for anything
- ⊗ Do not draw attention to problems (The committee may not notice)

What not to say:

- ⊗ I haven't warmed up
- ⊗ I haven't had a chance to practice
- ⊗ I didn't know
- ⊗ I just got this horn
- ⊗ What should I play?
- ⊗ I don't have my instrument (sticks, etc.)
- ⊗ I didn't bring any music
- ⊗ Nobody told me

Remember: The Audition Committee wants you to succeed!!