

UCCS Music Ensembles

Lifelong Musicianship: a music program for the UCCS community

Opportunities abound for students across UCCS to continue their music practices throughout their college career. These opportunities include many ensemble choices such as UCCS Orchestra 21, University Choir, Wind Ensemble, VAPA Vocal Ensemble, Music Theater, Chamber Music, Jazz Ensemble, Electro-Acoustic Ensemble, Creative Music Ensemble and the UCCS Athletics Band.

While our large ensembles are quickly expanding, we emphasize small ensemble development and training whether student's background are in classical music, jazz, rock, music-theatre, electronic music, or other traditions.

Small Ensembles for students include the Honors Scholarship Ensemble, Brass Quintet, String Quartet, Jazz Combo, and more

Music Ensemble Descriptions

MUS 1100 UCCS Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Glen Whitehead, Director

Open to UCCS students, faculty, staff, alumni and the broader campus community

This ensemble pursues a broad perspective on instrumentation and repertoire that will also include an expanded brass, woodwind and percussion section. In addition to full orchestra, we will address wind ensemble and string repertoire, commissioning pieces, improvisation, student compositions as well as iconic literature. Emphasis will be on highlighting composers from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, works composed in the 21st century, a focus on the performer as artist, as well as contributing as a lab for student composers.

This ensemble will also be investigating the role of the orchestra in the 21st Century, addressing directly our cultures and times, inquiring into the relationship between traditional and modern repertoire as well as the symphony orchestra as a contributor to knowledge and culture.

MUS 1310 University Choir

Solveig Olsen, Director

Open to UCCS students, faculty, staff, alumni and the broader campus community

Wednesday 3:05-5:45pm, Ent Center for the Arts, Margot Lane Studio (125)

The University Choir performs a wide range of choral music throughout the centuries, and from around the world. This includes everything from Renaissance chant, Bach and Mozart, to African-American spirituals, jazz, Brazilian music and experimental music. Vocal technique is taught through the rehearsal process. A simple audition to ensure the ability to match pitch and hear harmony is required at the first class meeting. Basic music reading skills are encouraged.

MUS 2210: Wind Ensemble

Open to all wind, brass and percussion players; all UCCS students, faculty, staff, alumni and the broader campus community

Mountain Lion Athletic Band

The Mountain Lion Athletic Band performs for both men's and women's basketball seasons and other campus events. Students get paid for performing in basketball games.

MUS 2250: Jazz and Improvisation Ensemble

Dr. Glen Whitehead, Director

Open to UCCS students, faculty, staff, alumni and the broader campus community

The Jazz and Improvisation Ensemble is a rehearsal and performance ensemble course. This class will focus on repertoire representing different styles and periods from the wide-ranging Jazz idiom with a priority on jazz in the 21st century. Also, students will study and practice broader methods and pedagogical approaches to improvisation.

MUS 2300: Electro-Acoustic Ensemble

Dr. Glen Whitehead, Director

For music majors and minors, This cutting-edge ensemble accommodates any and all instruments and vocal types. Student musicians will explore a range of composition and improvisation approaches, merging popular genres and styles with experimental flare, bridging the acoustic world, with the electronic (digital and analogue) and engaging in an intensive semester-long collaboration with DNCE 4900/ MUS 4900.

MUS 2310: VAPA Vocal Ensemble

Haleh Abghari, Director

The VAPA Vocal Ensemble is a small ensemble of vocalists that explores a broad range of styles and vocal literature including classical, folk, jazz, musical theatre, twentieth century, and world music as well as improvisation and interdisciplinary work. There is no prerequisite, but students should have basic score reading and musicianship skills and some previous singing experience. Students will be asked to do individual singing and pitch-matching exercises in the first few classes in lieu of a formal audition.

Before the end of the term, the ensemble will present a concert on campus. In the past few years, the VAPA Vocal Ensemble has presented highly successful concerts, each time

focused on a different theme or style. Audiences have responded enthusiastically to the performances. The students work hard during rehearsals, but they also have a lot of fun and learn about new repertoire and singing technique.

MUS 2400: Chamber Players and Singers

Haleh Abghari, Martha Muehieisen directors

Open to a broad spectrum of instruments and vocalists in the classical music tradition, this ensemble will focus on the development of chamber music literature, performance, and practice, rehearsal methods and professional ensemble building focusing on repertoire from the Renaissance period to new music of the 21st century. Most significantly, this ensemble will strive to create recognized student groups (e.g. string quartets, brass and woodwind quintets, piano trios).

UCCS Student Brass Quintet

UCCS Student String Quartet

MUS 4300: Creative Music Ensemble

Dr. Jane Rigler, Dr. Glen Whitehead, directors

CME is an advanced ensemble for music majors and minors that explores a variety of notated and improvised contemporary music practices. All students both compose and perform.