

## Orchestra course overview (MUPF 215-315)

For the 2020/2021 academic year we will have a Classical size orchestra (strings, flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, horns, trumpets, timpani). Fall term will be online and will be reserved for only the students who are registered (and of course admitted to the orchestra).

Plans for the second term will depend on the COVID situation. The non-registered orchestra members will join the orchestra once we start rehearsing.

Please upload your audition video(s) on YouTube by **September 14**, unlisted, and email me the link: [agopian@ucalgary.ca](mailto:agopian@ucalgary.ca) The audition consists of two contrasting selections: one fast, one slow.

**Strings:** if you have played in the orchestra in the past you only need to inform me that you are planning to return to the orchestra; [agopian@ucalgary.ca](mailto:agopian@ucalgary.ca) You don't need to upload an audition.

Orchestra Fall term (online):

The course will have three components:

1. Beethoven symphonies – audio recordings of your part
2. Zoom performances of Calgary Philharmonic audition excerpts
3. Point form written reports of Music videos

### 1. Beethoven symphonies

Playing knowledge of all the Beethoven symphonies is a worthwhile goal for any orchestra student. These symphonies are at the core of the orchestra repertoire. The recording projects will consist of audio recording your part on top of an orchestral recording, with the use of programs such as Garage Band or Audacity. The process is quite straight forward; it involves recording your track on top of the orchestra track. Having it tried it myself, I found the experience similar to playing under the type of conductors whose conducting indicate mostly phrasing, colours, expression, but very little, the beats. The experience is also similar to playing under conductors who beat ahead of the beat, whereby forcing the orchestra, through multiple rehearsals, to come up with its own sense of pulse, timing and attacks. The experience is also akin to being so familiarized with the pacing of the music after multiple rehearsals, that one can play without watching the conductor very much (not something I recommend).

Each week we will have a Zoom meeting at which time we will discuss each symphony. We will also practice orchestral score reading by watching together on YouTube recordings that include scores.

By the end of the project you will have recordings of you playing along major symphony orchestras, of as many Beethoven symphonies as the time allows.

2. Each week, on Zoom, we will have mock audition performances of excerpts from past Calgary Philharmonic auditions. A couple of students will be scheduled for each session.
3. Reports of YouTube Music documentaries in which you detail the content of each documentary; minimum 200 words.