

Hello everyone,

I hope your summers have been going well, and that, like me, you are starting to experience the conflicting emotions of wanting summer to continue but also looking forward to the fall.

This (LONG) message is going to everyone I know about who wants/needs to audition for large ensembles. The excerpts are attached in a PDF, but will also be posted on the department website. PLEASE read everything carefully and all the way to the end. Feel free to share it with any other folks who would like to audition for our ensembles. In case anyone wonders, majoring in music is NOT required to play.

HORN auditions will be held Wednesday, September 23 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. When ready, you will sign up for specific times through the Ensemble website.

As you will see in the PDF, there are two sets of excerpts. The first set of three is for everyone to play. These are used for seating—no one is left out, there is a place in an ensemble for everyone. The second set of excerpts are for those who wish to be considered for Wind Ensemble and/or Orchestra. You must play these if you want to be considered for one of those two groups. Here are some things to consider as you prepare for the audition itself:

All excerpts will be performed behind a screen.

You will be led in by the audition proctor (one of the grad students).

Do not make any noises that could be identifiable (coughs, comments, etc.)

If the audition panel asks you to play something again, please do—just don't make any personal noises (sighs, comments, coughs, etc.).

If you have any questions, the audition proctor will be there for you to ask (quietly)—do not speak to the panel.

I will be present at the auditions, so I will be able to provide feedback to you at some point.

To be considered for Wind Ensemble or Orchestra be sure to prepare ALL of the excerpts—it's possible we will not hear all of them, but you never know...

If this is new to you, I realize it all sounds a bit intimidating, but it allows us to maintain a good level of anonymity and objectivity when we listen to you. The audition panel does not find out who is who until after decisions are made. I can honestly say that our current process is one of the most objective, fair ways of doing this I have been a part of.

Finally, please remember the following:

For these auditions, there is nothing else for you to prepare. You will only play these excerpts in the audition. Auditions are just a measure of your progress and suitability for a specific ensemble at this specific time. It is NOT a reflection of who you are as a person or your future success. It is definitely NOT a sign of how things will be forever (well, except if you don't practice...). There is a place for everyone to play. No one will be left out.

There will be more auditions later in the year—this will allow more opportunities for you to demonstrate your progress.

If you don't get into the group you are hoping for, it is not the end of the world. All of our groups are great. Your character is more reflective of your attitude toward the circumstances you are presented with, not the results of the audition itself. Make the most of the chances you are given in the group you are assigned, and things can always get better!

Let me know if you have any problems with the PDF attached. If you are unfamiliar with how to prepare excerpts for this type of audition (i.e., a professional one), the process is relatively simple—research the pieces for technical and musical choices thoroughly, and practice like crazy! And learning more about all this is part of what we study in college.

Take care, and look for more emails from me in the next week or so about lessons, Horn Ensemble, and more. Feel free to ask questions anytime—I will answer!

Dr S

CWU Large Ensemble Horn Auditions Fall 2026
ALL MUST PLAY THE FIRST THREE (3) EXCERPTS

1. Julie Giroux, *One Beautiful Life*, Horn 1 in F, measures 24-42. Horn 1 in F.

2. Gustav Holst, *Hammersmith*, Horn 1 in F, Rehearsal S to Rehearsal V.

3. Arturo Marquez, *Danzon No. 2*, Horn 1, measures 34-48.

Handwritten musical score for Horn 1, measures 34-48. The score is in 4/4 time and key of F major. It features a large bracket spanning measures 34 to 48. The tempo is marked *piu mosso*. The dynamics include *mp* (measures 34-37), *mf* (measures 38-43), *dim.* (measures 44-47), and *pp* (measure 48). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks.

THOSE WHO WISH TO BE CONSIDERED FOR WIND ENSEMBLE OR ORCHESTRA MUST ALSO BE PREPARED TO PLAY ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS:

4. Jean Sibelius, *Symphony No. 2*, I. Allegretto, Horn 1 in F, three before Rehearsal N to Rehearsal P

Handwritten musical score for Horn 1 in F, measures 238-280. The score is in 4/4 time and key of F major. It features a large bracket spanning measures 238 to 280. The tempo is marked *Allegretto*. The dynamics include *poco f* (measures 238-243), *f* (measures 244-249), *p* (measures 250-255), *mf* (measures 256-261), *molto cresc.* (measures 262-267), *ff* (measures 268-273), *dim.* (measures 274-279), and *p* (measures 280-285). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks. The tempo changes to *Tempo I* at measure 257. The score includes a *Solo* section starting at measure 257. The tempo changes to *poco allegro* at measure 266. The score includes a *Solo* section starting at measure 266. The tempo changes to *aff.* at measure 280. The score includes a *Solo* section starting at measure 280. The tempo changes to *Q* at measure 280. The score includes a *Solo* section starting at measure 280. The tempo changes to *6* at measure 280. The score includes a *Solo* section starting at measure 280. The tempo changes to *8* at measure 280. The score includes a *Solo* section starting at measure 280. The tempo changes to *(Trbe., Trbni.)* at measure 280. The score includes a *Solo* section starting at measure 280. The tempo changes to *mf* at measure 280.

5. Sibelius, *Symphony No. 2*, I. Allegretto, Horn 4 in F, three before Rehearsal N to Rehearsal P

238 *poco f* *f* *p* *mf* *molto cresc.* *ff* *dim.* *p* *poco f* N

249 *dim. mp* *mf ma marcato*

257 *p* *f* *mp* Tempo I

267 *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

282 *mf* *dim.* *p* *affret. to al Q poco allegro* R

8 (Trbe. Trbni.) 6

6. Sibelius, *Symphony No. 2*, III-IV. Horn 4, III. Lento e suave to IV. Rehearsal A

293 Lento e suave *p dim. pp* *ppp* *p*

299 *cresc.* *poco accelerando* *poco f*

304 *f* *L largamente* *mf*

307 *f* *allargando* *cresc. molto* *attacca*

IV
Finale

Allegro moderato 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 *marcato*

12 *dim. p* *f* *f* *f* *f* *mf* *cresc.* *f* *f* A

7. Sibelius, *Symphony No. 2*, IV. Horn 1, Rehearsal I to end of excerpt. Please count the rests.

157 **I** *mf* 5 *mf* 1 1 1 1

172 *cresc.* *ff*

178 *f* *ff* *poco f* *poco allarg.*

190 *f* *cresc. molto* 1 2 3 4 5 6

196 **K** *Tempo I* 7 *marcato* *mf* *f* *dim* **4**

8. Omar Thomas, *Of Our New Day Begun*, Horn 1, measures 51-66.

51 *f* *p* *f*

55 *f* *ff*

58

59 *PLAY OUT!!!* *mf* *f* *ff*

63 **shakes* *sfz* *mp* **66**

9. Omar Thomas, *Of Our New Day Begun*, Horn 4, measures 47-66.

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45 *mp* *f* 47 *mf* *legato e cantabile* 51

49 *f* 53 *p* *f* 58 *PLAY OUT!!!* 60 *mf* *f* *ff* 64 **shakes* 66 *sfz* *mp*

The musical score is written for Horn 4 in a single staff. It begins at measure 45 with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a half note G4. A crescendo leads to a forte (*f*) dynamic at measure 47, which starts with a whole rest. The music then continues with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a *legato e cantabile* marking. Measure 51 is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 49 features a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 53 begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo to a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 58 is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and includes the instruction "PLAY OUT!!!". Measure 60 starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo to a forte (*f*) dynamic, and then a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. Measure 64 includes the instruction "*shakes" and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 66 begins with a sforzando (*sfz*) dynamic and ends with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings.