

UNL Wind Ensemble Audition

Spring Semester 2026

All Instruments:

Record your audition as a video. All auditions must be recorded without using mics or other peripherals. The three parts of the audition can be included in a single video or as three separate videos. Be sure you are clearly visible in the frame – as much of yourself as possible. How you move reveals a great deal about how you think as a musician.

What we are looking and listening for:

Part 1: tone, range and dexterity. We use scales and modes as tools to build ensemble technique. They are fundamental to the games and exercises we do. The more comfortable you are getting around your instrument, the more successful you will be as a member of the team.

Part 2: creativity, ingenuity, inflection and style. Finding possibilities among given musical materials is at the heart of what we do in the Wind Ensemble. Not all of our ideas are winners. In fact, some of the worst ideas end up being the most fruitful in the long run. Part 2 is not about whether you are a good composer or not. It is an opportunity to demonstrate how you think musically. This may be the first time you have been asked to do something like this. Jump in with both feet and have fun with it. That spirit is at the heart of who are as an ensemble.

Part 3: action, reaction and interaction. Connecting and communicating with each other and with our audience is paramount. We spend a great deal of time developing and practicing the vocabulary and techniques (physical, verbal and musical) to become experts at interaction and collaboration. Part 3 is a tiny window into this realm. Getting comfortable working with a partner, and perhaps even wiping out as they listen, is very important.

Part 1: Scales

- * **Chromatic scale** – starting pitch of your choice, at least two octaves (more if your range allows), ascending and descending, sixteenth notes at quarter = 72 beats per minute.
- * **Major scale** – key of your choice, in thirds (do-mi, re-fa, mi-sol, fa-la, sol-ti, la-do, ti-re, do), one octave, ascending and descending, eighth notes at quarter = 72 beats per minute.
- * **Minor scale** - play the etude shown below. Hint: it's all about tempo, steady subdivision, and note grouping. Can you overcome the notation and achieve a sense of flow?

Treble clef - C instruments



Treble clef - B-flat instruments



Treble clef - E-flat instruments



Treble clef - F instruments



Bass Clef - C instruments



Part 2: Build a Melody

Percussionists have the option of completing Parts 2 & 3 on marimba, or by using multiple un-pitched percussion instruments to represent the notes in the collection (if that doesn't make sense to you, use marimba).

Using the given notes in the given order, adjust their duration and add rhythm, meter, tempo, dynamics, and articulation to create a melody. Your goal is to create a small character study using the given material. Perform your melody for the audition video and say three words that you feel describe your melody best.

Accidentals do not carry up the octave

Treble clef - C instruments



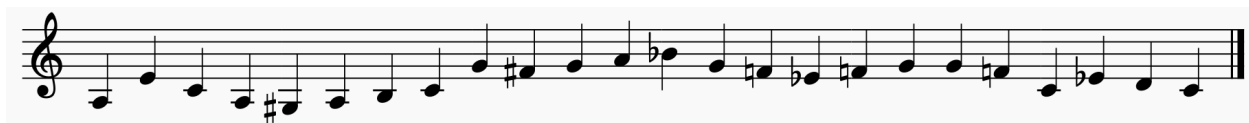
Treble clef - B-flat instruments



Treble clef - E-flat instruments



Treble clef - F instruments



Bass Clef - C instruments



Or...



Part 3: Share and Combine

Option A (preferred) - Find a buddy. If you are registered for the class you have access to Canvas. Log on to the Wind Ensemble site for Spring 2026. There is a discussion board set up to enable you to connect with others who are seeking an audition buddy. Developing a creative musical community is a goal and this will help you get connected regardless of the outcome of the audition. If you are new to this whole situation and Canvas doesn't work, do not panic. Reach out to Dr. Barber and she can help you get connected: cbarber2@unl.edu

Option B (if Option A is unavailable) - Be your own buddy. Instead of playing with another person, you will play along with the recording you made in Part 2. It takes some of the spontaneity out of it but we will still be able to hear how you think.

-----**Both Options A & B**-----

Set up your phone to record and just let it run. Hearing your discussion is very helpful. The complete recording of Part 3 might take 5-8 minutes total. Most importantly: don't stop to practice. Seeing and hearing how you handle wiping out is part of the audition (and you will wipe out so have fun).

1. Give the melody you created to your buddy and listen as they sight read it for you. Then you sightread their melody for them. Notice and chat briefly about how the interpretations differed from what might have been intended (remember your three words from Part 2?)
 2. While your buddy plays the melody you wrote, play something new to go with it. Improvise a duet. It doesn't have to be virtuosic and odds are the first attempt will be pretty bad. Try a couple of times, have fun and experiment to find something that sounds interesting.
 3. Switch roles. While you play the melody your buddy wrote, they play something new to go with it.
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Submit your audition video using the Audition Form

The video elements of a complete audition are:

- Chromatic scale, major scale in thirds, minor scale etude
- Melody (with three-word description)
- Improvised duet(s) with your buddy using your melody

Be mindful of the size of video files; high def is not recommended. If your file(s) are not uploading, a good alternative is to upload them to a private YouTube channel and provide the link(s) on the Audition Form. Just be sure the settings on the channel allow a person with the link to view the material.

All audition materials must be uploaded by 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 18, 2025. Audition results will be communicated through your @huskers.unl.edu email by 5 p.m. on Monday, January 5, 2026. The first meeting of the Wind Ensemble class will be Monday, January 12 at 3:30 p.m. in Westbrook room 116.