

Dear Kansas State University Fall 2026 Concert Ensemble Auditionee,

The following brass and woodwind excerpts are to be prepared at the designated style and tempo for your ensemble audition. Excerpts can be downloaded directly using this link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FvO1TMkfmg5AhNwUfpq6vWg-czb3RkF?usp=sharing>

All excerpts are required for those auditioning for **Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony or Concert Band**. *Selecting to audition for just one of these ensembles does not guarantee your placement into these ensembles.*

Percussion auditions will be on the afternoon of Monday, August 24th. For more information and for audition percussion specific audition excerpts can be found by using this link or by emailing Dr. Gartner (kgartner@ksu.edu): https://ksuemailprod-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/kgartner_ksu_edu/1QDbvejzNWe6TJX_zAdk19GXAc0h91Ng1TpCJdWQqGPTBcI?e=cOS75A

Before Friday, August 28th, everyone needs to enroll for the ensemble they can perform in via KSIS. This of course can change before August 28th, but this will give us an idea of who can perform in particular ensembles based on rehearsal information below:

Concert Band:	M/W/F	12:30-1:20pm	MUSIC 116/401/845
Wind Symphony:	M/W/F	3:30-5:20pm	MUSIC 117418//845
Wind Ensemble:	M/W/F	3:30-5:20pm	MUSIC 102/402/845

Attached to this email is a list of everyone who has enrolled for a concert ensemble via KSIS already, and who we are expecting to audition on Monday, August 24th. To add your name to this list, please email Dr. Wimmer (amwimmer@ksu.edu).

Woodwind and brass players can expect the below during their audition. Faculty may elect to hold auditions blind or not, attached is a PDF that outlines this procedure for your reference.

- All students auditioning must complete the below 2026-2027 Concert Ensemble Interest Form: <https://forms.gle/Fo7NmnTR13mpVZ7r7>
- All woodwind and brass students auditioning for a Fall 2026 Concert Ensemble will meet on Monday, August 24th at 3:30pm in All-Faiths Chapel for a mandatory meeting (auditions will begin immediately after this meeting).
 - There will be no "official" audition time sign-up; everyone needs to audition on Monday, August 24th.**
- After this meeting, you will head to your audition room for your blind audition.
 - WID numbers will be used for identification.
- Perform 1-2 scales (slurred up, tongue down).
 - Any of the 12 major/minor scales could be chosen.
 - Be prepared to perform scales a minimum of two octaves.
- Perform Audition Excerpts – **BRING YOUR OWN PRINTED COPIES OF AUDITION EXCERPTS TO YOUR AUDITION**
 - Download at <https://www.k-state.edu/band/ensembles/windensemble/> or using the links above.
 - ALL saxophones will audition on Alto Saxophone.
 - Perform in the appropriate tempo/style as indicated.
 - Feel free to add your own musicality with the slower, lyrical excerpt.

Again, **there is no "official" audition time sign-up** and there will be a mandatory meeting for those auditioning on Monday, August 24th at 3:30pm in All-Faiths Chapel. Blind auditions will begin immediately after this meeting. Please arrive early to your audition and double check that you have everything you need prior to your audition (warmed-up, instrument assembled, *audition music in hand*, etc.).

Audition results will be posted by 12:00pm on Wednesday, August 26th outside of the Band Office and McCain 201; folders can be picked up at that time. All ensembles will begin rehearsals on Friday, August 28th.

Please take the necessary time and effort to perform these excerpts not only at the correct style and tempo but with your best sound, tone quality, articulation, and accuracy. We are looking for ensemble members who value and appreciate the process of developing and establishing a diligent practice routine. Those who have scholarship stipulations related to ensemble placement, make sure you understand the expectations of your scholarship contracts.

Understand that membership in any of the bands is not automatic. If you are not placed in your desired ensemble, you will be placed in another appropriate ensemble based on your audition. Also recognize that Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, and Concert Band are auditioned university ensembles and that you are willing to abide by the director's expectations.

Please let us know what questions you have regarding this process. More information will come about the audition locations in August. Happy practicing and see you soon!

Sincerely,

Dr. Alex Wimmer
Director of Bands
amwimmer@ksu.edu

Dr. Allen Parrish
Associate Director of Bands
arparrish@ksu.edu

Mr. Xan Perkins
Assistant Director of Band
xperkins@ksu.edu

K-State 2026-2027 Woodwind & Brass Placement Auditions | Blind Audition Procedure



Purpose:

The purpose for blind auditions is to ensure that your ensemble placement is determined by your musical performance and not by any non-musical bias. To ensure equity for everyone, please read and practice the procedure below to ensure anonymity during your blind audition.

Before your audition:

1. Enroll in the ensemble you can perform in via KSIS.
2. Attend the mandatory meeting on Monday, August 24th at 3:30pm in All-Faiths Chapel.
 - a. There will be no "official" audition time sign-up; everyone needs to audition on Monday, August 24th.
3. Arrive early to your audition time to allow yourself adequate warm-up time and to keep auditions moving.
4. Make sure you have everything you will need in your audition (*including your own audition music*).
5. Please confirm your WID number with the proctor prior to your audition. The proctor will provide you with further instructions.

From this point until you leave the audition area, it is critical that you do not talk or make any other noises that could reveal your identity. The proctor or judge will not be asking you questions to verbally answer, all you need to do is play!

During your audition:

1. The proctor will bring you into the audition room, seat you, and introduce you to the audition judge.
 - a. **DO NOT TALK!!!**
 - b. The judge will give you clear instructions for the remainder of the audition process.
2. You will get an opportunity to briefly warm up, get used to the space (15-20 seconds).
3. You will be asked to perform 1-2 scales (slurred up, tongue down).
4. You will be asked to perform your prepared excerpts.
 - a. There will be very little time between each excerpt. Be prepared to transition quickly and at the judges' pace.
5. When the judge dismisses you, you are done!
 - a. **DO NOT TALK** as you are exiting the audition room and save all comments until you are clear of the area.

Audition results will be posted by 3:30pm on Wednesday, August 26th outside of the Band Office and McCain 201; folders can be picked up at that time. All ensembles will begin rehearsals on Friday, August 28th.

To help you prepare for this audition, we encourage you to make this procedure part of your practice routine! Though someone with musical experience would be best suited to judge your "at home mock audition," anyone can fill the role of the audition judge (parent, sibling, friend). The more you become used to this process (especially with someone else listening to you), the easier this will be during the actual audition.

Please let us know any questions you have and happy practicing; see you soon!