

Stanford Summer Symphony

MUSIC 160S/160SZ

SYLLABUS Summer 2026

Class meetings/rehearsals: Tuesday & Thursday evenings, 7:00-9:30pm
from June 23-July 30 in Dinkelspiel Auditorium

Performances: Friday, July 31 and Saturday, August 1 at 7:30pm in Bing Concert Hall

Instructor: Professor Paul Phillips

Professor of Music / Gretchen B. Kimball Director of Orchestral Studies
Music Director and Conductor, Stanford Symphony Orchestra & Stanford Philharmonia
psphil@stanford.edu office: Braun Music Center 121 (650) 498-6957
Office hours, summer quarter 2026: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Participation in an orchestra for the purpose of rehearsing and performing orchestral music from the Baroque era to the present day. Rehearsals will begin on June 23 and continue for six weeks, with concerts in Bing Concert Hall on July 31 and August 1, one of which will be livestreamed. Membership is determined by audition and open to students in Stanford's Summer Session, undergraduate and graduate students, Stanford faculty and staff, and members of the community.

REPERTOIRE

Mendelssohn – *Lobgesang*, in collaboration with the Stanford Summer Chorus, plus works TBA

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORCHESTRA

The Stanford Summer Symphony (SSS) is one of three orchestras, along with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra (SSO) and Stanford Philharmonia (SP), sponsored by the Stanford Department of Music. Members of the Stanford Summer Symphony include high school students enrolled in the Summer Session along with Stanford undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members, with a total estimated membership of about 72 musicians.

The minimum instrumentation for 2026 will be: 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, timpani, organ, and strings – ca. 14-12-10-9-8.

AUDITIONS

Auditions for high school students planning to attend the Stanford Summer Session will take place over Zoom beginning in March. Those students, and anyone else interested in joining the 2026 Stanford Summer Symphony, should fill out the [2026 Stanford Summer Symphony Participation Form](#). Auditions, to be held in Spring 2026, will consist of a solo piece, scales, and sightreading, as in the [Fall auditions](#). Members of the Stanford Symphony Orchestra or Stanford Philharmonia who auditioned in Fall 2025 do not have to re-audition, but are asked to fill out the Participation Form to express their interest in joining the 2026 SSS.

ROSTERS and SEATING

The roster will be finalized no later than June 23, with seating determined by audition results and previous orchestra participation. Seatings will generally remain as originally assigned, but may be changed by the music director (MD) if deemed necessary because of inadequate attendance, musical preparation, or other reason.

COURSE REGISTRATION

All students who participate in SSS are required to enroll in MUSIC 160S-01, for 1 unit of credit, or MUSIC 160SZ-01 for 0 units. To enroll in MUSIC 160SZ-01, fill out the [Zero-Unit Request Form](#), which will provide the code required in order to register for the zero-unit option. The zero-unit registration option allows the Department of Music to correctly track the number of students participating in ensembles, and allocate resources accordingly. Please refer to the [Zero-Unit Enrollment Policy](#) on the Department of Music website for details.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION (CE) WAYS REQUIREMENT

For MUSIC 160S to satisfy the Creative Expression (CE) WAYS requirement, it must be taken for a letter grade.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Beginning on June 23, rehearsals will take place in person in Dinkelspiel Auditorium or Bing Concert Hall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-9:30pm. Rehearsal schedules will be announced at the start of each week, sent by email to all SSS members and posted on Canvas.

MUSIC and FOLDER

Hard copies of the music will be provided, with a music folder, at the first rehearsal on June 23. Each orchestra member will be asked for a deposit of \$100, which will be returned in full when the folder and music are returned after the final concert. Any charges for lost or damaged materials will be deducted from the deposit.

CONCERT DRESS

Women: Elegant black attire (dress or slacks) with black footwear (no flip-flops)

Men: Tuxedo or black suit with black shirt and black footwear

Non-binary: Choose from the options above

INSTRUMENT LOANS

Some instruments can be borrowed from the Music Department at no cost. Please contact the MD with any questions, or contact Stanford's Instrument Curator Herbert Myers (hwm@stanford.edu) to arrange to borrow an instrument.

INSTRUMENT LOCKERS

Instrument lockers are available at the Braun Music Center and Bing Concert Hall. To request a locker in Braun, use this [link](#) and for one in Bing, please fill out this [form](#). If you don't receive an email with an assigned locker number and combination within a few days after filling out the form, send an email to [orchestra@stanford.edu](mailto:<orchestra@stanford.edu>).

PRACTICE ROOMS

Practice rooms are available in Braun Music Center. Contact Adriana Ramirez Mirabal [<aramir@stanford.edu>](mailto:aramir@stanford.edu) for further information.

EXPECTATIONS

The Stanford Summer Symphony offers orchestral musicians outstanding rehearsal and performance opportunities in a supportive educational environment. Orchestral performance is inherently a team endeavor that requires all players to be present and attentive at each rehearsal in order to achieve their highest potential.

SSS members are expected to take their commitment to the ensemble seriously through regular attendance and practice, and full attention in rehearsals unimpeded by smartphone usage or other distractions.

ATTENDANCE

SSS is an ensemble whose success and productivity depend on consistent participation and attendance by each member. For this reason, attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts for all assigned pieces. SSS members do not have to be present for rehearsal of pieces that they are not assigned to.

One *excused* absence per quarter is permitted, without grading penalty, for **Category A** reasons:

- illness
- family emergency
- academic/career-related travel (such as attendance at conferences or job interviews)

Absences for **Category B** reasons are deemed *unexcused* absences and may incur a grading penalty:

- midterm examinations
- working on homework
- recreational travel

SP members with any of the following **Category C** situations that conflict with the SP schedule are required to discuss these with the MD at their audition (or earlier) and *must* do so before seatings are determined:

- course schedule conflict
- employment schedule conflict
- participation in clubs, or other ensembles or activities (including pit orchestras)
- Greek organization events

Because Category C situations can vary widely, they need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Often, the MD is able to permit students in this category to participate by reducing the number of pieces they play, seating them toward the back of the section (especially string players who regularly have to arrive late or miss a significant number of rehearsals), or through some other accommodation. However, some students in this category may be deemed unable to participate if they would have to miss too many rehearsals and/or performances.

Each SSS member is allowed one excused (Category A) rehearsal absence without having their grade lowered. Additional absences will count as unexcused (Category B) absences. Excessive lateness (more than 15 minutes) not excused in advance will count as a tardy; early unexcused departures from rehearsal (more than 15 minutes) will be treated similarly. Two tardies or early departures will equal one unexcused absence.

The grading scale for **unexcused** (Category B) absences is as follows:

0 absences	A (A+ awarded for exceptional achievement)
1 absence	A-
2 absences	B+
3 absences	B
etc.	

Students should notify the Orchestra Manager (OM) and MD as early as possible regarding conflicts by sending a message to orchmanager@stanford.edu. Emails sent to this address will be received by the student Orchestra Manager, Orchestra Administrator, and MD. Attendance is taken by the OM at every rehearsal and reviewed regularly by the MD to insure that the attendance log is accurate.

SSS members who expect to exceed the allotted number of excused absences should notify the Orchestra Manager and Music Director before the start of the quarter. To avoid letter grades, these students might prefer to enroll in MUSIC 160S for Credit/No Credit or register for MUSIC 160SZ (the zero-unit option).

Members enrolled in SSS are expected to adhere to this attendance policy. Failure to do so may affect one's grade and/or seating as described above. The Honor Code applies to all absence notifications.

MIDTERM EXAMINATIONS

According to Stanford University [policy](#):

Classes that give midterm examinations outside of regular class hours must

1. announce the date and time during the first week of the academic quarter, and
2. provide reasonable alternative times to those students who have another class or other University commitment at that time.
3. According to Honor Code interpretations and applications, a different examination may be given at these alternative times.

For any class you are taking with midterm examinations that conflict with SSS rehearsals or concerts, please contact your professor during Week 1 (or asap) to request alternate exam times, explaining that the scheduled exam times conflict with MUSIC 160S/160SZ, a regularly scheduled course for which you are registered. If any difficulties arise, please notify the MD as quickly as possible.

PHOTOGRAPHY and VIDEO RECORDING

By enrolling in SSS you are giving consent for the video and audio recording and distribution of your image and performance for use by any entity at Stanford University.

HONOR CODE

Students in MUSIC 160S/160SZ are expected to uphold all aspects of Stanford's [Honor Code](#). All potential violations, which include plagiarism, unpermitted collaboration, and representing as one's own work the work of another, are strictly prohibited in this course.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Students with documented disabilities who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk – (650) 723-1066; <https://oe.stanford.edu/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Paul Phillips	Music Director	psphil@stanford.edu	(650) 498-6957	Braun 121
SunYoung "Sunny" Park	Orch Studies Admin	spark110@stanford.edu	(650) 725-2694	Braun 110A

For further information, visit orchestra.stanford.edu.

Syllabus subject to change by instructor