

Course Title: Band 2 / 3 / 4

Course Length: Full Year

Teacher(s): Dr. Jody Besse

Goals of the Class:

- This course is designed to give the student an enriching and diverse instrumental music education.
- Students will become aware of various ensemble and rehearsal techniques, band repertoire, and performance techniques.
- To provide the students with an advanced level performance opportunities.
- Students will have the opportunity to audition for local, regional, and state honor bands.

Who is this class for?

- This class is available to any student that has completed at least one semester of a band class. Students that have not taken a band class can be admitted through an audition process with instructor.
- Students participating in the marching band are encouraged to schedule this class.
- This class can be taken multiple times during a student's tenure at St. Xavier.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Student's grades are based on daily class participation, homework assignments, and quizzes.
- Students are required to participate in performances typically held at the end of the semester.

This class can lead to:

- Further participation in band class and/or jazz class.
- Participation in the marching band and/or jazz band.
- Scholarship opportunities at most colleges and universities.

Course Title: Band Class One

Course Length: First and Second Semesters

Teacher(s): Dr. Jody Besse

Goals of the Class:

- Goal 1 This course is designed to give the student an enriching and diverse instrumental music education.
- Goal 2 Students will become aware of various ensemble and rehearsal techniques, band repertoire, and performance techniques.
- Goal 3 To provide the students with performance opportunities.
- Goal 4 Students will have the opportunity to audition for local, regional, and state honor bands.

Who is this class for?

This class is available to any student that is interested in continuing their participation in instrumental music. Students that have not taken a band class or studied instrumental music are eligible to participate.

Students participating in the marching band are encouraged to schedule this class.

This class can be taken multiple times during a student's tenure at St. Xavier.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Student's grades are based on daily class participation, homework assignments, and quizzes.
- Students are required to participate in performances typically held at the end of the semester.

This class can lead to:

- Participation in band class and/or jazz class.
- Participation in the marching band and/or jazz band.
- Scholarship opportunities at most colleges and universities.

Course Title: Choir 1, 2, 3, 4 – X-Men Choir

Course Length: 1 semester (0.5 credit)

Teacher(s): Mr. Angelo Sylvester

Goals of the Class:

- Goal 1: Learn to sing alone and in groups in preparation for performance
- Goal 2: Increase students' ability to read music (music literacy).
- Goal 3: Build a brotherhood and community through song and artistic expression

Who is this class for?

This class is for any student that wants to learn how to sing for the first time, or learn how to improve their current singing skills. There is no experience necessary, and every student is welcome to join.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Students will perform in 1 concert each quarter
- Students will “sight-sing” in a group setting, which will enhance their ability to read music
- Students will participate in brief written assignments as reflections of performances or as music literacy checkpoints

This class can lead to:

- Higher levels of the same course. (Choir 1 leads to choir 2, etc.)
- Optional participation in a competitive co-curricular ensemble
- Opportunities for Travel (recent trips include: France & Orlando Fl.)
- Exposure to other music ensembles

Any other notes about the class:

The only outside of class requirements for this course are 1 dress rehearsal and 1 concert per quarter. All other classwork takes place during the school day.

If students choose to participate in the co-curricular ensembles *in addition* to the class, they may do so. These opportunities are optional.

Students will be asked to provide only a binder for this course. All other materials are supplied by the school.

Course Title: Music 1

Course Length: 1 semester (0.5 credit)

Teacher(s): Mr. Angelo Sylvester

Goals of the Class:

- Goal 1: Learn to read and write music at a basic level
- Goal 2: Short introductions to singing, band instruments, and string instruments
- Goal 3: Discover each student's natural musical ability. Each student is capable of creating music. This course will find each student's musical strength.

Who is this class for?

This class is for any student with an interest in music, but may not know where to begin. This brief overview of the musical elements and St. Xavier's musical offerings will help to connect students to their artistic musical abilities.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Students will learn the three main elements of music: Rhythm, Melody, and Harmony
- Students will progress through three units: song, wind instruments, and string instruments
- Students will participate in brief written assignments as reflections of performances or as music literacy checkpoints

This class can lead to:

- Enrollment in any of the school's musical ensembles as a class (Choir, Band, strings)
- Optional participation in a competitive co-curricular ensembles
- Enrollment in Music 2: Electronic Music Production

Any other notes about the class:

Students do not need any experience or prior knowledge before this course. This class will provide students with all necessary baseline knowledge as they become exposed to an array of musical opportunities.

Course Title: Music 2: Electronic Music Production

Course Length: 1 semester (0.5 credit)

Teacher(s): Mr. Angelo Sylvester

Goals of the Class:

- Goal 1: Produce electronic music using only software
- Goal 2: Understand basic audio loops, drum machines, and sound mixing
- Goal 3: Understand electronic music hardware including: microphones, MIDI instruments, etc.
- Goal 3: Learn to clean and distribute final products of produced music

Who is this class for?

This class is for any student in grades 10-12 with an interest in music production. There is no prerequisite class.

This introduction to Electronic Music Production will teach students how to design and configure electronic music using industry standard techniques and software.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Students will learn to setup and navigate audio production software
- Students will learn to work with MIDI instruments and synthesizers
- Students will record, edit, mix, and master audio
- Students will learn the process of music distribution

This class can lead to:

- College courses in Music Production
- Optional opportunities to work live and recorded sound for school events
- Careers in music production and/or sound engineering.

Any other notes about the class:

Students do not need extensive music experience to be successful in this course, though a basic understanding of music is helpful.

Course Title: Guitar 1

Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Dr. Jody Besse, Mr. Isaac Watras

Goals of the Class:

- Introducing the student to the guitar.
- Introducing students to a basic method of playing guitar and how to put chords together to play simple tunes.

Who is this class for?

- Typically freshmen, but open to any student interested in learning how to play the guitar.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Practice and work towards playing a rendition of “Shenendoah”.
- Practice and work towards playing selections from the Suzuki method books.
- Record and produce videos of themselves playing different songs.

This class can lead to:

- Guitar 2 and Guitar 3, which can then lead into Ensemble style playing.
- Men in Black string Ensemble and/or Jazz Band.
- Playing for liturgies at school.
- Playing around school for events like open mics and MusicFest.
- Forming musical groups with other like-minded students.

Any other notes about the class:

- Guitars and sheet music are provided by the school.
- Students will choose between Acoustic guitar and Classical Guitar styles of playing.
- Students who take Guitar 1, 2, 3, and then AP Music Theory will be well prepared to enter into a Studio Guitar course of study at the college level.

Course Title: Guitar 2

Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Mr. Isaac Watras

Goals of the Class:

- € Acoustic Guitar players will progress through the Mel Bay music books.
- € Classical Guitar players will progress through the Suzuki method books.
- € Students will continue to learn and perfect new pieces, while also reviewing and performing previously learned tunes.

Who is this class for?

- Typically sophomores, but open to any student who has previously completed Guitar 1.
- With completion of specific assessments, a student can register for Guitar 2 without taking Guitar 1. Any student interested in pursuing a skip should contact Mr. Watras.
- Any student interested in continuing to enhance their playing skill and understanding of music performed on a guitar.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Practice and work towards playing a rendition of “Sor’s Waltz”.
- Practice and work towards playing a rendition of a Carulli “Etude”.
- Record and produce videos of themselves playing different songs.

This class can lead to:

- Guitar 3 and Ensemble style playing.
- Men in Black string Ensemble and/or Jazz Band.
- Playing for liturgies at school.
- Playing around school for events like open mics and MusicFest.
- Forming musical groups with other like-minded students.

Any other notes about the class:

- Guitars and sheet music are provided by the school.
- Students will choose between Acoustic guitar and Classical Guitar styles of playing at the beginning of the Semester.
- Students who take Guitar 1, 2, 3, and then AP Music Theory will be well prepared to enter into a Studio Guitar course of study at the college level.

Course Title: Guitar 3

Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Mr. Isaac Watras

Goals of the Class:

- € Acoustic Guitar and Classical Guitar students will play ensemble style music together.
- € Students will continue to learn and perfect new pieces, while also reviewing and performing previously learned tunes.

Who is this class for?

- Typically Juniors and Senior, but open to any student who has previously completed Guitar 2.
- With completion of specific assessments, a student can register for Guitar 3 without taking Guitar 1 or Guitar 2. Any student interested in pursuing a skip should contact Mr. Watras.
- Any student interested in continuing to enhance their playing skill and understanding of music performed on a guitar.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Selections for this class will be determined by the teacher, based on a variety of styles and with a recognition of the developing skill level of the students.
- Some examples of songs performed are Eric Clapton's "Sunshine of your Love" and "I Love Thee" as arranged by Mel Bay.
- Record and produce videos of themselves playing different songs.

This class can lead to:

- Ensemble style playing.
- Men in Black string Ensemble and/or Jazz Band.
- Playing for liturgies at school.
- Playing around school for events like open mics and MusicFest.
- Forming musical groups with other like-minded students.

Any other notes about the class:

- Guitars and sheet music are provided by the school.
- Students will choose between Acoustic guitar and Classical Guitar styles of playing at the beginning of the Semester.
- Students who take Guitar 1, 2, 3, and then AP Music Theory will be well prepared to enter into a Studio Guitar course of study at the college level.

Course Title: Jazz Class

Course Length: First Semester

Teacher(s): Dr. Jody Besse

Goals of the Class:

1. The student will develop active listening skills and an ability to analyze the various styles of jazz.
2. The student will gain an aesthetic appreciation and understanding of jazz as an art form.
3. The student will develop an historical perspective of jazz and the society in which it has evolved.
4. The student will gain an active awareness of musical elements and how these musical elements are manipulated in jazz, through creative and improvisational activities.
5. The student will gain improved writing skills through assigned essays and other writing projects.

Who is this class for?

This class is available to any student that has completed at least one semester of a band class. Students that have not completed a band class can be admitted through an audition with the instructor.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Students will perform in an instrumental ensemble comprised of all class members.
- Daily class participation through performance and/or interaction with the instructor and peers is important.
- Students will have performance quizzes and written quizzes related to the history of jazz music.
- Students will give presentations related to jazz styles and important jazz artist.

This class can lead to:

- This class can be taken multiple times during a student's tenure at St. Xavier.
- Students can participate in the after-school jazz ensemble.
- Students can take the band class and/or the percussion class.

Course Title: Percussion Ensemble

Course Length: Second Semester

Teacher(s): Dr. Jody Besse

Goals of the Class:

- Goal 1 This course is designed to give the student an enriching and diverse instrumental percussion music education.
- Goal 2 Students will become aware of various ensemble and rehearsal techniques, percussion repertoire, and performance techniques.
- Goal 3 To provide the students with performance opportunities.

Who is this class for?

This class is available to any student that has completed at least one semester of a band class.

Students that have not taken a band class can be admitted through an audition process with instructor.

This class can be taken multiple times during a student's tenure at St. Xavier.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Student's grades are based on daily class participation, homework assignments, and quizzes.
- Students are required to participate in performances typically held at the end of the semester.

This class can lead to:

- Participation in band class and/or jazz class.
- Participation in the marching band and/or jazz band.

Course Title: Strings 1

Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Mr. Isaac Watras

Goals of the Class:

- € Preparing and performing string orchestral music.

Who is this class for?

- Typically freshmen and sophomores, but open to any student interested in playing a stringed instrument MINUS guitar.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Practice and work towards playing a rendition of “Sonata Da Camera IX in B Flat” by Arcangelo Corelli.
- Practice and work towards playing a rendition of “Ancient Dances and Airs” by Ottorino Respighi.
- Record and produce videos of themselves playing different songs.

This class can lead to:

- Strings 2, Strings 3, and Strings 4 and Ensemble style playing.
- Men in Black string Ensemble.
- Playing for liturgies at school.
- Playing around school for events like open mics and MusicFest, as well as off-campus events.
- Forming musical groups with other like-minded students.

Any other notes about the class:

- Typically, students who enter into Strings 1 have had prior instruction in the instrument of choice, but this is not required.
- Instruments can be provided by the school if necessary, and sheet music is provided by the school.
- Students will choose between violin, viola, cello, or bass.
- Students who take Strings 1, 2, 3, and then AP Music Theory will be well prepared to enter into a music performance course of study at the college level.

Course Title: Strings 2

Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Mr. Isaac Watras

Goals of the Class:

- Preparing and performing string orchestral music.

Who is this class for?

- Typically sophomores and juniors, but open to any student who has completed Strings 1.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Practice and work towards playing a rendition of “Sonata Da Camera IX in B Flat” by Arcangelo Corelli.
- Practice and work towards playing a rendition of “Ancient Dances and Airs” by Ottorino Respighi.
- Record and produce videos of themselves playing different songs.

This class can lead to:

- Strings 3, and Strings 4 and Ensemble style playing.
- Men in Black string Ensemble.
- Playing for liturgies at school.
- Playing around school for events like open mics and MusicFest, as well as off-campus events.
- Forming musical groups with other like-minded students.

Any other notes about the class:

- Instruments can be provided by the school if necessary, and sheet music is provided by the school.
- Students will choose between violin, viola, cello, or bass.
- Students who take Strings 1, 2, 3, and then AP Music Theory will be well prepared to enter into a music performance course of study at the college level.