

GRADUATE CONDUCTING ORCHESTRA (GCO)

2025-2026

The Conducting Orchestra exists as a service ensemble for the graduate students in the conducting program at Eastman. All students in the ensemble are assigned as part of their graduate award and, in compliance with their signed award contract, must observe the guidelines stated below. All students must register for ENS 470 for 0 credits in order to be paid through the Graduate Award. **In addition to the weekly Tuesday rehearsal, the ensemble (named Graduate Conducting Orchestra [GCO]) may be called upon to perform concerts or recording sessions each semester. Rehearsals in preparation for possible concerts will take place during the regular Conducting Orchestra meeting time with one or two added rehearsals. Recording sessions (as part of the Beal Institute) do not require rehearsal and typically involve a 3-hour session (most often scheduled on Saturdays). All students in Conducting Orchestra are required to participate in these concerts or recording sessions as the repertoire dictates, and should consider these concerts a required component of their signed graduate award contract.**

MEETING TIME:

Tuesdays, 3:45-5:25, RWR (120)

FACULTY:

Neil Varon, Brad Lubman

GUIDELINES:

- Players must arrive no later than 5 minutes prior to rehearsal time.
- Players are expected to be available to attend every class. When more players are available than the instrumentation requires, ensemble members should attend as scheduled in the rotation provided each semester.
- Players must check in upon entering the rehearsal hall – Attendance sheets will be on clipboard at the entrance.
- All players must provide a sub when absent. Non-GCO subs must be paid **\$30** per service by GCO member.
- If a student is absent without engaging a sub, a proportional deduction from the GCO component of the graduate award may be applied (at the discretion of the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies)
- GCO is a pass/fail course. More than 2 unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

SEATING:

- **Weekly rotations:** A general rotation for the semester will be posted online, indicating which players should plan to attend each week should the repertoire call for their instrument. Specific seating can be chosen by the sections.
- **Strings:** Strings are encouraged to rotate seating.
- **Winds, Brass, Percussion:** Woodwind, brass, and percussion requirements will be posted on the Conducting Orchestra portion of the Ensemble Guide website:
<https://www.esm.rochester.edu/ensembles/guide>

MUSIC:

- Repertoire and instrumentation for the week will be posted by the Friday before each Tuesday class.
- Parts will be available at each class. Parts may also be requested in advance from the Ensemble Library.

QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS:

- Contact Head Ensemble Librarian and Manager: Meredith Gangler
OSL 201, 274-1447, mgangler@esm.rochester.edu
Departmental website: <https://www.esm.rochester.edu/ensembles/guide>