

## Symphonic Ensembles at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music

The Symphonic Ensembles subject includes four large ensembles that are appropriate for different levels of individual performance ability:

The **University of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra** is our leading orchestra. In recent years, the Orchestra has performed to sold-out venues, internationally and in Australia, and is equally at home in the recording studio as it is on the concert platform. It is open to all students from the Conservatorium as well as from other Faculties within the University of Melbourne. The orchestra placements are merit based and the finest orchestral musicians will be allocated seats in this ensemble. There are at least four major projects per year and rehearsals are usually spread over three weeks, before each performance (12 calls per program). The orchestra also offers a valuable platform for the conservatorium's top soloists and an annual workshop for our student composers. 2021 repertoire will include works by Saint Saëns, Stravinsky, Respighi and Ravel.

The **University of Melbourne Wind Symphony** is the flagship wind band of the Conservatorium and aims to promote the wind band as a large instrumental ensemble of legitimate artistic expression. The ensemble includes the most talented undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Conservatorium and other Faculties of the University of Melbourne. This advanced ensemble performs a range of contemporary works for wind band as well as the cornerstone historic masterworks of the wind band genre. It performs four concerts in Melbourne venues in addition to regional centres, and will be looking to tour internationally in the future. The Wind Symphony will collaborate with guest artists from the MCM Concerto Competition finals, MCM Performance Staff, as well as guest artists from Australia and abroad. Additional collaborations now include an annual opportunity for student composers to workshop new compositions for wind band.

The **MCM Philharmonic Orchestra**, whilst essentially an in-depth training-ensemble, will also give three recorded performances throughout the year. In addition to concert-giving, there will be additional training sessions, including mock auditions and sectionals. The philosophy of the Philharmonic Orchestra is to encourage potentially gifted musicians to develop their ensemble skills with a view to joining the Symphony Orchestra or participating in Symphony Orchestra events during the year.

The **MCM Concert Band** is comprised of undergraduate Conservatorium members and breadth students from other Faculties of the University of Melbourne. The Concert Band rehearses twice a week and performs a range of standard repertoire for the wind ensemble genre and, like the Conservatorium's Philharmonic Orchestra, aims for its participants to refine ensemble skills, elevate musicianship, and improve live performance quality.

*Entrance to all ensembles is via audition. The Conservatorium also has separate subjects for Brass Ensemble, String Ensemble and Big Band. Please contact your instrumental Head of Department for more information on these other ensembles.*