Instructor: Melissa Howe
Mailbox: None
Phone: None
Office: None
Office Hours: None

Course Chair: Melissa Howe
Description: This ensemble will examine the way string instruments and improvisation are used in a variety of musical cultures including Greek, Bulgarian, Hungarian, klezmer, Romanian, and Charanga.
Course Objective: The general goal of this ensemble is to develop and improve your skills in specific performance areas. Upon satisfactory completion of this course, you will have completed specific exercises, analyses of music examples, class performance, and directed technical studies in idiomatic string playing in order to increase your capability and confidence in this area.
Required Text(s): None
Coursework and Out-of-Class Preparation: Weekly assignments are made and checked. In order to maintain a performance level consistent with the level of the materials presented in class, you should expect to spend three to four hours per week in out-of-class practice and preparation, distributed on a daily basis as part of your practice routine.
Final Performance Date: To be arranged with the instructor.
Grading Criteria:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>A (90-100)</td>
<td>Superior, Exceptional; control of course material enables excellent production.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B (80-89)</td>
<td>Good; grasp of material enables above-average production.</td>
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<td>C (70-79)</td>
<td>Average; assimilation of material enables acceptable production.</td>
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<td>D (60-69)</td>
<td>Below Average; exposure to material enables poor, but passable production.</td>
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<td>F (below 60)</td>
<td>Not Passing; assimilation of material insufficient to demonstrate acceptable productive capacity.</td>
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Final Grade Determination: 25% Instrumental skill development
25% Ensemble skill development
25% Preparation of weekly assignments
25% Final performance

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all meetings of their ensembles. Instructors must be notified in advance if an unavoidable absence is foreseen. In addition, the student must arrange for a suitable replacement to fill his/her role in the ensemble. Failure to send a substitute player will result in a grade of "F" for the ensemble and can result in the loss of the seat in the ensemble. The grade of "F" will stand as a final grade except in cases of extraordinary circumstance as determined by the department chair. Unexcused absence(s) may result in a course grade of "F".

Deadline for Course Withdrawal: 5:00 PM, Friday following Midterm Week. See Academic Calendar.
Withdrawal from a course may not be initiated after that date.
Topical Course Outline

The class will be divided into approximately seven units. Each unit will study a different genre of music that features bowed string instruments and the improvisations used in that genre. Topics will include ornamentation, bowing techniques, improvisational vocabulary, and a variety of dance music rhythms. Students will be asked to write their own music in each genre.