

# Large Ensemble Placement Audition Guidelines for Trombone

## General thoughts

EVERYONE is welcome to play in ensembles. Whether you are a seasoned performance major or a novice who would like to continue playing trombone in college, you are welcome and encouraged to participate in ensembles at Lawrence. Auditions are meant to place students in ensembles with players of similar ability and experience. There is an ensemble for everyone at Lawrence. Work diligently on the material below over the summer, and come prepared to play your best.

## Your ensemble placement does not define you

Neither your audition result nor your ensemble placement are a judgment of your character. They are not a reflection on one's value to the trombone section, ensemble or studio. Each member of the section shall be treated with dignity, compassion and grace, and their presence will be treated with equal value. If you feel that your voice is not valued appropriately in ensembles, please let me or your ensemble director know.

## Bachelor of Music Students (Music Majors)

Prepare all material listed below for your instrument (tenor or bass trombone). Any rests longer than one measure should be skipped. All other rests should be played in time. In addition to the prepared material, you may be asked to sight read.

## Music Minors and BA students

Prepare one piece (etude, solos, excerpt, etc.) of your choice, **OR** play [this etude](#).

## Tips for preparation

- Listen to several recordings of these works. Listen along with the score. Take note of tempi, phrasing and breaths, orchestration, dynamics and style.
- Practice playing along with recordings
- Practice with a metronome, tuner and/or a drone (see useful resources below).
- Practice playing from memory.
- Practice playing with a sense of style appropriate to the piece.
- Practice some sight reading every day.
- Relax. Practice mindfulness, meditation, slow breathing, etc to help calm nerves.
- Enjoy the process. The audition committee's goal is to make the audition as painless as possible. We want to hear you enjoying the music.

## Useful resources:

- [Winds of Change](#) – recordings of Gillie and Nishimora (tenor trombone auditions)
- Intonation: [Tuning CD](#), [Cello Drones](#), and [Tonal Energy Tuner](#)
- [Mudd Library](#). Many great resources here including online recordings of the rep.
  - For example: A quick search for "La gazza ladra" produced [this recording](#).

If you have any questions, please contact me at [albright@lawrence.edu](mailto:albright@lawrence.edu).