WFS Music Department
Course Descriptions

Ensembles

Concert Band - open to all forms, experience required
The Concert Band is comprised of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. The band plays traditional and contemporary music for Wind Ensemble as well as some pop selections. No audition is necessary but experience on the instrument is expected. A weekly private lesson is provided as a component of the class. This is not a course for absolute beginners.

Jazz Band - open to all forms by audition
Jazz Band is comprised of a specific instrumentation of saxes, trumpets, trombones, guitar, piano, bass and drums. The Jazz Band is selected by audition only. Members of the Jazz Band also perform in the Wind Ensemble.

Bagpipes 1 - open to all forms, no experience required
Bagpipes 1 is an introductory course for those wishing to begin study of the great Highland Bagpipe and gain membership in the Woodberry Forest Pipe Band. Students in Bagpipes 1 will also be exposed to some basic drumming for pipe band. No musical experience is necessary.

Bagpipes 2 - 4 - open to all forms, experience required
Bagpipes 2 through 4 are successive courses for those wishing to continue their study of bagpipes and membership in the Woodberry Forest Pipe Band.

Drumline 1 - open to all forms, no experience required
Drumline 1 is for students with limited or no musical experience on percussion or another instrument. The class studies both Scottish and Corps style drumming and serves primarily as the drum section of the Woodberry Forest Pipe Band. A weekly private lesson is provided as a component of the class.

Drumline 2 - 4 - open to all forms, experience required
The Drumline 2, 3 & 4 classes are for students with some musical experience on percussion or another instrument. The class studies both Scottish and Corps style drumming and serves primarily as the drum section of the Woodberry Forest Pipe Band. A weekly private lesson is provided as a component of the class.

Beginning Strings - open to all forms, no experience required
Students may begin study on violin, viola, cello or double bass with no prior experience. Basic position, reading and ensemble skills are taught to prepare students to enter String Ensemble.

String Ensemble - open to all forms, experience required
The primary String Orchestra for all string players with experience. No audition required; basic experience is expected. Chamber music groups (quartets, trios and duos) can be formed from the String Ensemble group. A weekly private lesson is provided as a component of the class.

The Woodberry Forest Chapel Choir - open to all forms, no experience required
Provides music for our weekly chapel services. Open to all forms with a simple audition. Includes vocal technique — especially for the changing voice — and music reading skills. No previous experience required.

The Woodberry Forest Dozen - open to all forms by audition
The Dozen is Woodberry's premier choral ensemble and one of its treasured traditions. The group specializes in a cappella music from all periods of music history, especially the Renaissance and modern popular music. The Dozen is open to all forms but is typically made up of upper form singers with significant singing experience in the Woodberry Choral Program, elsewhere, or both.

Academic Courses

Electronic Music - open to all forms. This is a trimester course and repeatable. It is a production based course where students learn music production by doing it with guidance from the instructor and collaboration with peers.

Intermediate Music Theory - open to all forms. Syllabi are developed with individuals or small groups.. Courses are one trimester long and repeatable or may meet once a week all year for a trimester credit. Study is available in music theory, electronic music, recording engineering, composition, chamber music and other topics by request.

Honors Music Theory - open to all forms, but typically fifth or sixth formers; significant previous experience is required. This course is designed to give students competence to use functional harmony, counterpoint, and form both in the analysis of existing works and in the creation of original musical material. Emphasis is on the principles of the common practice period. There is also a survey of 20th century compositional techniques. Basic keyboard skills and advanced ear training are key elements of this course. Students who successfully complete this course will be prepared to take the Advanced Placement exam in Music Theory if they so choose.

Private Lessons

Weekly private lessons are available on most any instrument. Students will have the opportunity to sign up electronically for private lessons during the first week of classes in the fall. Private lessons do not receive any academic credit and additional fees may apply. If the student is enrolled in a music ensemble that is inclusive of a private lesson, he will be automatically enrolled as part of the class with no additional fee.