

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SCORE: Student Composer Opportunities with Resident Ensembles

Challey School of Music
North Dakota State University

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the shared expectations and responsibilities between the SCORE program and participating ensemble directors within the Challey School of Music at North Dakota State University.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SCORE (Student Composer Opportunities with Resident Ensembles) is a residency initiative designed to embed student composers within NDSU performance ensembles to create and premiere new works written specifically for those groups. The program emphasizes collaboration, rehearsal engagement, and experiential learning through the development and public performance of new music.

PARTICIPATING ENSEMBLE

Ensemble Name: _____

Director: _____

Academic Year: _____

COMMITMENTS OF THE SCORE PROGRAM

The SCORE program agrees to:

- Select and assign a student composer appropriate to the ensemble's instrumentation and artistic goals
- Provide communication and coordination between the composer and ensemble director
- Support the student composer through mentorship, project oversight, and timeline management
- Provide compensation to participating student composers through SCORE funding
- Coordinate workshop/masterclass opportunities when applicable

COMMITMENTS OF THE ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR

The participating ensemble director agrees to:

- Provide the student composer with reasonable access to rehearsals relevant to the development of the work
- Facilitate opportunities for feedback and collaboration between performers and composer
- Program and present the completed composition on a regular ensemble concert during the 2026–2027 academic year, pending successful completion of the work and reasonable performance readiness
- Communicate scheduling, instrumentation, and logistical considerations in a timely manner
- Notify the SCORE coordinator of significant concerns or project changes as early as possible

COMPOSITION PARAMETERS

The final instrumentation, duration, difficulty level, and performance requirements of the work will be collaboratively determined between the composer and ensemble director.

PREMIERE & DOCUMENTATION

The participating ensemble agrees that the premiere performance may be recorded and documented for archival, educational, and promotional purposes related to SCORE and the Challey School of Music.

NON-BINDING UNDERSTANDING

This MOU is intended as a statement of mutual collaboration and shared expectations. It is not intended to create a legally binding contractual relationship.

SIGNATURES

Ensemble Director

Date: _____

Kyle Vanderburg

SCORE Coordinator

Date: _____