



**WESTERN
NEBRASKA**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Instrumental Music

Location of Program

Scottsbluff, Nebraska

About the Program

The Western Nebraska Community College Music Program offers both music major and music minor associate degrees, plus numerous music classes for the general college student. We award over 30 full scholarships to worthy vocal and instrumental musicians. These scholarships are available to both music majors and non-music majors. We offer classes in Music Appreciation, Music Theory, History of American Popular Music, Elementary Music Methods, and all subject areas and levels of applied lessons. The student musician is given the opportunity to study privately and is encouraged to participate in the various performing ensembles, including concert band, concert choir, jazz band, show choir, rock combo, vocal ensembles, and others.

WNCC Instrumental Ensembles

Western Nebraska Winds is a traditional concert band made up of woodwinds, brass, and percussion. They perform a wide range of repertoire, including classical transcriptions, traditional band literature, Broadway showtunes, jazz, and seasonal favorites. The group performs an average of four programs per year, typically in formal attire (provided). Community members are welcome to participate.



Fire in the Pan Swingers is a 1940's-era traditional "big band." Typical instrumentation includes saxophones, trumpets, trombones, piano, bass, guitar, and drums. Other instruments are also used from time to time. The Fire in the Pan Swingers performs at the major WNCC Instrumental Music events throughout the academic year, and also plays a dance each semester. Their programs favor traditional swing music, and sometimes include Latin jazz, ballads, and funk. The group typically performs in modified formal attire (provided). Community members are welcome to participate.

Monumental Rock Combo is WNCC's most frequently performing instrumental ensemble. It is made up of a vocalist, a standard rhythm section (guitar, keyboard, bass, drums), and a small group of trumpets, saxophones, and trombones. The combo specializes in classic rock, funk, blues, and modern swing. A typical performance will feature selections by Elvis, Van Morrison, Brian Setzer, Big Bad Voodoo Daddies, Stevie Wonder, the Commodores, and James Brown, among others. Monumental Rock Combo plays at many Instrumental Music performances, as well as select civic and campus events. It also tours.



MEET THE DIRECTOR



Dr. Nathaniel Johnson

*Instrumental Music Instructor
Band Director*

Nathaniel Johnson is in his sixth year as Instrumental Music Instructor and Band Director at Western Nebraska Community College. Prior to his arrival at WNCC in 2003, he taught at the Morris campus of the University of Minnesota. He also held a one-year appointment at WNCC during the 2000-2001 school year.

Nathaniel holds a Doctor of Arts degree in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Northern Colorado, where he also earned a Master of Music degree. His undergraduate work in clarinet performance was done at Metropolitan State College of Denver, where he graduated summa cum laude.

Nathaniel's musical studies began at the age of three with the violin. He then began playing clarinet at age eleven under the tutelage of his father. Nathaniel has also studied clarinet with Alexander Ivanov, Bil Jackson, Joe Lukasik, Thomas Gilmore Masse, and Andrew Stevens. As a clarinetist, he has performed with groups throughout Colorado's Front Range, including the Alpine Winds, Colorado State University Opera, Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra, Greeley Chorale, and Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra.

For over twenty years, Nathaniel has been an active member of the 101st Army Band, a unit of the Colorado National Guard. He currently serves that organization as conductor, clarinet soloist, and Chief of Operations and Plans.

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Student Services

Western Nebraska Community College offers a number of terrific services to students, even while they're still in high school. WNCC is dedicated to helping students find their musical voice as well. High-caliber high school students may be eligible to play in the WNCC Concert or Jazz Bands. Each group rehearses one evening per week, making attendance easy.

WNCC offers lessons for college credit in all band and orchestra instruments, including piano, guitar, and percussion. High school juniors and seniors are eligible for these lessons, which are provided by a private teacher who will work with the student to establish a suitable lesson time.

High school students in the WNCC service area now receive a 50 percent tuition and fee discount.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available for high school graduates to play in our ensembles. They need not be music majors to participate or receive a scholarship.

Contact Information

For more information about the instrumental music program or to schedule an audition, contact:

Dr. Nathaniel Johnson

Phone: 308.635.6046

Toll Free: 800.348.4435

E-mail: johnsonn@wncc.edu

To Apply

Applying for admission is free and can be completed online. For more information, visit apply.wncc.edu or call 800.348.4435.

