

Music 311.31 • Music Composition and Arranging

Tuesdays 8:30-9:45 & Fridays 2:00-3:15 3 Credit hours

Providence College

Winter 2010

Instructor: Dr. Karen Sunabacka

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Office Hours: Mon. 2:00-3:15, Wed. 8:30-11

Fri. 3:20-4:35, or by appointment

Syllabus

A. Course Description

An exploration of music arranging and composition. Students will learn to compose and arrange for orchestral instruments along with guitar, piano and voice. Each student will compose and arrange music for different ensembles including choral ensembles, classical instrumental ensembles, rock music ensembles and worship bands. Students will also be introduced to music computer software for music notation and recording. (Prerequisite: 311.11 – MUS: Music Theory I and 311.15 – MUS: Musicianship I)

B. Course Objectives

During the course the students will be introduced to different techniques of musical composition and arranging. They will learn the ranges of orchestral and non-orchestral instruments and the different ways that these instruments can be used in different contemporary musical genres. They will also learn how to write for transposing instruments and for chordal instruments. Through a series of assignments, students will compose original pieces and arrange existing pieces for different groups including orchestra, popular bands, worship bands, choral ensembles and instrumental ensembles. By the end of the course, students will have the tools to arrange and compose music for many different ensembles.

C. Course Text & Materials

Required: Blatter, Alfred. *Instrumentation and Orchestration*, 2nd Edition

Optional: Kostka, Stefan *Materials and Techniques of Twentieth-Century Music*.

D. Grading Summary

Weekly assignments (10 in total)	50%
Final Project	20%
Final Exam	20%
Attendance/Participation	10%

Numerical Grade Equivalents

A+= 97-100	B+= 87-89	C+= 77-79	D+= 65-69	F = 0-54
A = 93-96	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 60-64	
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 55-59	

E. Course Requirements

Weekly Assignments

There will be a total of 10 weekly assignments. Each assignment will address a different aspect of musical orchestration, composition and arranging. The students will be required to submit good copies both by hand and with the use of computer notation software.

Final Project

The final project gives the student the opportunity to create a larger piece for a Providence Ensemble. There will be a few choices for this project, however all pieces will be performed in class on the last day and if you want, you can complete the assignment earlier and have it performed during a *Soundbites* afternoon recital or a *Manytones* evening concert.

Final Exam

The exam will be divided into two parts. The first is will test technical knowledge - ranges of instruments and voices, transposing instruments, along with an arrangement of a piece. The section part will be a listening section where students will be required to recognize different ensembles and instruments through listening.

PLEASE NOTE: All requests to have a final exam rescheduled must be approved by the Academic Committee in accordance with the Early Leave Policy (available in the College Academic Calendar).

F. Course Policies

Class participation and Attendance

I expect each student to be prepared to participate in each and every class. I will be keeping track of attendance and participation in class. Participation and Attendance in class is worth 10% of your grade. If you miss more than **three** classes your grade WILL be affected.

Late Assignment policy

If you are ill on the day of an exam, quiz, or paper deadline, you must inform Dr. Karen Sunabacka (via email or phone) of your absence **BEFORE** the class begins. Please identify yourself (name and class) when doing so. **Students are held responsible on the day they return for any work missed during an absence.**

Written work and quizzes **MUST** be made up within a week of returning or the grade will convert to a zero. It is the responsibility of the student to set up a time with the instructor to make-up for a missed quiz.

Plagiarism

Issues of academic integrity will be dealt with according to the policies outlined in the Academic Conduct section of the Student Handbook (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/), the Providence College

document entitled “Academic Dishonesty: The Problem of Plagiarism in Academic Writing,” in the Providence College Academic Formation Guide available in the Bookstore. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the policies and with the consequences attached to their violation.

Laptops and other electronic devices

Student use of information and communication technologies for purposes other than class note-taking is not allowed in the classroom, as students are expected to give their total attention to class activities. Use of cell-phones or iPods is never appropriate in the classroom, and use of laptop computers to play games, chat with others, browse the internet, or engage material not related to the class is always distracting to classmates and disrespectful to the instructor. Unlike some other post-secondary institutions, Providence has not yet found it necessary to ban laptops from the classroom, or prevent wireless internet access in classrooms. Only judicious use of them will keep it that way. **If you choose to take notes with your laptop I will ask you to email me your class notes at the end of each class.**

A. Course Outline, Reading Assignments and Homework

Jan. 12 Tuesday	Introduction to Course and Computer Music Programs (Finale)
Jan. 15 Friday	Preparing Scores and Parts: Orchestral Instruments vs “Bands” <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 1
Jan. 19 Tuesday	The Orchestral Strings <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Due: Assignment 1: Ch 1 - # 6 (pp15-16) (1 - handwritten good copy & 1 - Finale copy)
Jan. 22 Friday	The Orchestral Strings <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 2 & Ch 9 pp 356-363
Jan. 26	No Class - Day of Prayer
Jan. 29 Friday	The Woodwinds <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Due: Assignment 2: Ch 2 - #'s 19 & 20 (p 73)
Feb. 2 Tuesday	The Woodwinds <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 3 & Ch 9 pp363-365
Feb. 5 Friday	The Brasses <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Assign: New Music Festival Assignment <input type="checkbox"/> Due: Assignment 3: Ch 3 - # 29 (p 133) and prepare individual parts for each instrument.
Feb. 9 Tuesday	The Brasses <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 4 & Ch 9 pp 365-373
Feb. 12 Friday	NO CLASS - Go to at least one concert from the New Music Festival
Feb. 16 Tuesday	The Percussion <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Due: Assignment 4: Ch 4 - # 35 for Bb trumpet (p 168) & # 43 (p 187) except write for trumpet and Euphonium (Brass?)

Feb. 19 Friday	The Percussion <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 5 & Ch 9 pp 374-382 <input type="checkbox"/> Due: Assignment 5 (about New Music Festival)
Feb. 23 Tuesday	Other Instruments <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 6
Feb. 26 Friday	Other Instruments <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Due: Assignment 6: Ch 5 - # 45 (p241) (Percussion)
Mar. 2	NO Classes - Reading Break
Mar. 5	No Classes - Reading Break
Mar. 9 Tuesday	Composing, Transcribing and Arranging for Various Ensembles <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 8 & 9
Mar. 12 Friday	Composing, Transcribing and Arranging for Various Ensembles <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 10 - 12
Mar. 16 Tuesday	The Voice <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Due: Assignment 7: Arrange or Transcribe for small ensemble. Your choice any problem/piece from chapters 9-12 - but must be playable by students and faculty at Providence (ie flute, violin, viola, cello, sax, trumpet, euphonium, guitar, piano...any others?)
Mar. 19 Friday	The Voice <input type="checkbox"/> Text: Ch 7 & Ch 9 pp382-384
Mar. 23 Tuesday	Composing and Arranging for Bands (Rock and Worship Bands) <input type="checkbox"/> Due: Assignment 8: Choose one of the following: # 52-54 (p327-328) or #65-66 (p383-384)
Mar. 26 Friday	Composing and Arranging for Bands (Rock and Worship Bands)
Mar. 30 Tuesday	Composition Techniques <input type="checkbox"/> Kostka: Chapters 10-15 <input type="checkbox"/> Due: Assignment 9: Arrange a piece for Worship Band

Apr. 2 NO Class - Good Friday
Friday

Apr. 6 Composition Techniques – Electroacoustic music
Tuesday Kostka: Chapters 10-15

Apr. 9 Composition Techniques
Friday Kostka: Chapters 10-15
 Due: Assignment 10: Your choice of ensemble, but must be an original composition using techniques learned in class.

Apr. 13 The Singer/Songwriter
Tuesday

Apr. 16 Presentations and Performances
Friday **Due:** Final Project – Your choice of ensemble and project, however it must be performable in class on this day.

Apr. 20 8:30 - 10:30 FINAL EXAM (in the Recital Hall)
Tuesday

PLEASE NOTE: The Voluntary Withdrawal date is **March 12th, 2010**. (This is the last day to withdraw from the course without academic penalty.)

Bibliography

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- Dallin, Leon. *Techniques of Twentieth Century Composition*. Dubuque, Iowa: W. C. Brown Co, 1964.
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- Mann, Alfred. *Theory and Practice: The Great Composer as Student and Teacher*. New York : Norton, c1987.
- Morgan, Robert P. *Twentieth-Century Music: A History of Musical Style in Modern Europe and America*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1991.
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