Course Description:

This course provides an introductory level of knowledge in music theory. The course goal is designed to help the student clarify and simplify the complexity of tonal music, develop his/her musical understanding through the study of various musical elements. At the end of this course, s/he will understand the fundamental structure of Western Art Music. This course explores the theory of music from musical notation to chord spelling. Upon completion of this course, the student will have the foundation to continue his/her musical studies in music history, theory, composition, ethnomusicology, and performance. In addition, this learning sequence in music theory is closely associated with that of aural, oral, and basic keyboard skills. The skill section is 50-minute per week; time to be arranged with course TAs. Based on this curriculum, the student can learn musical structure through multiple perspectives of theory, hearing, singing, and performing.

Required Material:

The first three items are the textbooks used for the theory lecture (item # 1) and skill section (items # 2–3). Importantly, students who have had more than two years of piano lesson do not need to purchase the item # 3. The last two items are the course equipment.

   • • • Your textbook must be NEW, since all the assignments and practices are contained in it.


4. Manuscript Paper, Keyboard Sheet, and PENCIL (only).

5. A three-ring binder to contain all course handouts and returned assignments.
Class Expectations:
1. Please use a **PENCIL** to complete all the assigned homework. Never use Pen.
2. Each assignment is due on every Tuesday. **I DO NOT accept any late assignments.**
3. Food and cell phone are prohibited during the class.
4. The student’s grade will be based on the quizzes, attendance, participation, weekly assignments, skill sections, and the final exam. The quizzes and final exam are not too difficult, as long as the student does the homework with careful attention, s/he will be fine.

Course Evaluation:
4 Quizzes 20 % (5 % per each quiz)
Skill Section 20 % (based on 12 tests)
Weekly Assignments 30 %
Attendance and Participation 10 %
Final Exam 20 %

Grading Scale:

<table>
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<th>Numeric Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<td>98.3</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>The quality of the work is outstanding.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>A-</td>
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Weekly Schedule

—§ [Unit 1] Fundamental Elements: Pitch, Rhythm, and Meter —§

Week 1 (9/4 & 6)
  Topic: Pitch
  Reading: Straus Ch. 1 (Lessons 1–5)

Week 2 (9/11 & 13)
  Topic: Rhythms & Meters
  Reading: Straus Ch. 2 (Lessons 6–8)
    • Skill Section Begins
    • Tuesday 9/11: Assignment Due

Week 3 (9/18 & 20)
  Topic: Rhythms & Meters
  Reading: Straus Ch. 2 (Lessons 9–13)
    • Tuesday 9/18: Assignment Due

—§ [Unit 2] Horizontal Dimension —§

Week 4 (9/25 & 27)
  Topic: Major Scales
  Reading: Straus Ch. 3 (Lessons 14–16)
    • Tuesday 9/25: Assignment Due
    • Tuesday 9/25: Test 1 (Chapters 1–2)

Week 5 (10/2 & 4)
  Topic: Minor Scales
  Reading: Straus Ch. 3 (Lessons 17–19)
    • Tuesday 10/2: Assignment Due

Week 6 (10/9 & 11)
  Topic: Harmonic & Melodic Minor
  Reading: Straus Ch. 3 (Lesson 20)
    • Tuesday 10/9: Assignment Due
    • Thursday 10/11: Test 2 (Chapter 3)

Fall Break (10/16)
—§ [Unit 3] Vertical Dimension: Intervals §—

Week 7 (10/18)
  Topic: Intervals
  Reading: Straus Ch. 4 (Lessons 21–23)
    • Thursday 10/18: Assignment Due

Week 8 (10/23 & 25)
  Topic: Intervals
  Reading: Straus Ch. 4 (Lessons 24–26)
    • Tuesday 10/23: Assignment Due

—§ [Unit 4] Vertical Dimension: Chords §—

Week 9 (10/30 & 11/1)
  Topic: Triads
  Reading: Straus Ch. 5 (Lessons 27–28)
    • Tuesday 10/30: Assignment Due
    • Tuesday 10/30: Test 3 (Ch. 4)

Week 10 (11/6 & 8)
  Topic: Triads in Major key
  Reading: Straus Ch. 5 (Lesson 29)
    • Tuesday 11/6: Assignment Due

Week 11 (11/13 & 15)
  Topics: Triads in Major & Minor Keys
  Readings: Straus Ch. 5 (Lessons 29–30)
    • Tuesday 11/15: Assignment Due

Week 12 (11/20 & 22)
  Topics: Triads in Minor Keys, Introduction to the 7th chord
  Readings: Straus Ch. 5 (Lessons 30–31)
    • Tuesday 11/20: Assignment Due

Week 13 (11/27 & 29)
  Topics: Seventh Chord
  Readings: Straus Ch. 5 (Lesson 31)
• Tuesday 11/27: Assignment Due

Week 14 (12/4 & 6)
Review Unit 4
• Tuesday 12/4: Assignment Due
• Thursday 12/6: Test 4 (Ch. 5)

Final Exam (12/12–15)
Straus, Chapters 1–5
Course Instructors:
Sean Sonderegger; seansonderegger@gmail.com
John Welsh; jwelsh@wesleyan.edu

Class Time:
TAB (50-minute per week; Music Studios 101)

Goal & General Description of the Course:
This course is closely related to MUSC 103. It is composed of three different parts—sight singing, hearing, and basic keyboard skills. However, students who previously have had two years of piano lessons can place out the basic keyboard section (and are not required to buy textbook #2). The goal of this course is to help the student bridge the gap between written theory and aural/oral/keyboard skills. During the class, the student puts into action the compositional rules and principals emphasized in theory lecture through the real practice of singing, hearing, and playing the music. Each week, the class will be assigned to memorize some rhythmic/melodic patterns practiced during the lab. The dictation test will be based on these patterns with some slight variations. This approach is to help the student efficiently improve aural skills. Important, based on this curriculum, theory and practice are firmly linked. In addition, by the end of this learning sequence, the student will realize how to apply learned theory and developed skills to interpret and articulate the performance practice.

Required Textbooks and Materials:
There are two textbooks that will be used throughout this semester (items #1–2). The first is for sight singing and hearing skills, and the second is for the keyboard skill. Each lesson the class will be assigned to memorize some melodic and rhythmic patterns sung and practiced during the class. In the following lesson, the student will dictate the same melodic and rhythmic patterns but with some slight variations. This learning method can efficiently improve the student’s hearing skill.

3. Pencil, manuscript paper, and a three-ring binder.
Weekly Schedule

Week 2
• Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Rhythmic Practice: Ch. 1/1.1–1.10, ♩ = beat
• Keyboard Skill: Alfred

Week 3
• Dictation: Ottman/Rogers Ch. 1/1.1–1.10
• Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Rhythmic Practice: Ch. 1/1.11–1.20, ♩ gets a beat and its division
  Melodic Practice: Ch. 2/2.1–2.9, major key, ♩ = beat, treble clef, stepwise
• Keyboard Skill: Alfred

Week 4
• Dictation: Ottman/Rogers Ch. 1/1.11–1.20 & 2/2.1–2.9
• Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Rhythmic Practice: Ch. 1/1.21–1.24, ♩ gets a beat, its division, and tie
  Melodic Practice: Ch. 2/2.10–2.15, major key, ♩ = beat, treble clef, stepwise
• Keyboard Skill: Alfred

Week 5
• Dictation: Ottman/Rogers Ch. 1/1.21–1.24 & 2/2.10–2.15
• Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Rhythmic Practice: Ch. 1/1.30–1.34, note values other than quarter note as a beat
  Melodic Practice: Ch. 2/2.18–2.23, major key, ♩ = beat, bass clef, stepwise
• Keyboard Skill: Alfred

Week 6
• Dictation: Ottman/Rogers Ch. 1/1.30–1.34 & 2/2.18–2.23
• Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Rhythmic Practice: Ch. 1/1.35–1.39, note values other than quarter note as a beat
  Melodic Practice: Ch. 2/2.24–2.31, major key, ♩ = beat, bass clef, stepwise
• Keyboard Skill: Alfred

—§ Fall Break (10/16) §—

Week 7
• Dictation: Ottman/Rogers Ch. 1/1.35–1.39 & 2/2.24–2.31
• Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Rhythmic Practice: Ch. 4/4.1–4.4, ♩ gets a beat
  Melodic Practice: Ch. 2/2.32–2.37, major key, other time signatures
• Keyboard Skill: Alfred
Week 8
- Dictation: Ottman/Rogers Ch. 4/4.1–4.4 & 2/2.32–2.37
- Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Rhythmic Practice: Ch. 4/4.7–4.9, ♩ gets a beat
  Melodic Practice: Ch. 2/2.38–2.43, major key, other time signatures
- Keyboard Skill: Alfred

Week 9
- Dictation: Ottman/Rogers Ch. 4/4.7–4.9 & 2/2.38–2.43
- Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Rhythmic Practice: Ch. 4/4.10–4.13, ♩ gets a beat
  Melodic Practice: Ch. 3/3.1–3.6, major key, ♩ = beat, treble clef, leaps by 3/4/5/8
- Keyboard Skill: Alfred

Week 10
- Dictation: Ottman/Rogers Ch. 4/4.10–4.13 & 3/3.1–3.6
- Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Rhythmic Practice: Ch. 4/4.14–4.15, ♩ gets a beat
  Melodic Practice: Ch. 3/3.7–3.12, major key, ♩ = beat, treble clef, leaps by 3/4/5/8
- Keyboard Skill: Alfred

Week 11
- Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Rhythmic Practice: Ch. 4/4.16–4.18, ♩ gets a beat
  Melodic Practice: Ch. 3/3.23–3.27, major key, ♩ = beat, bass clef, leaps by 3/4/5/8
- Keyboard Skill: Alfred

Week 12
- Dictation: Ottman/Rogers Ch. 4/4.16–4.18 & 3/3.23–3.27
- Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Melodic Practice: Ch. 3/3.35–3.40, major key, ♩ = beat, treble clef, leap by 6
- Keyboard Skill: Alfred

Week 13
- Dictation: Ottman/Rogers Ch. 3/3.35–3.40
- Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Melodic Practice: Ch. 3/3.44–3.49, major key, half / 8th note get a beat, leap by 6
- Keyboard Skill: Alfred

Week 14
- Dictation: Ottman/Rogers Ch. 3/3.44–3.49
- Sight Singing: Ottman/Rogers
  Review Ch. 1–4
- Keyboard Skill: Alfred
Final Exam (12/12-16)