

The University of Vermont

Music 156: Harmony & Form Lab IV

Spring 2009

MW 8:30-9:20 Southwick 200D

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Office Hours: M 9:30-10:30, W 9:30-10:30 & 1:30-2:20 other times by appointment

OVERVIEW

Continuing from Music 154, you will practice singing melodies both at sight and with preparation; taking melodic, harmonic and rhythmic dictation; and performing various exercises at the keyboard involving chord progressions, melody harmonization, figured bass realization, chromaticism, and open-score reading.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS (available at the UVM Bookstore)

- Ottman, Robert W. Music for Sight Singing. 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2004.
- Brings, Allen, et al. A New Approach to Keyboard Harmony. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1979.
- 8 1/2 x 11 inch, 10- or 12-stave notebook and music manuscript paper, both for taking notes in class and for assignments.
- Pencils for quizzes and music manuscript assignments. Do not use ink for quizzes.
- MacGAMUT software (purchased through me for maximum discount, or from MacGamut.com)

FORMAT

Classes will involve daily performance of prepared and at-sight materials by individuals and by group. In addition to in-class evaluations, there will be one-on-one examinations scheduled in the course of the semester. Homework assignments will consist mainly of exercises from the textbooks, providing practice of the material and procedures discussed in class, and of on-line dictation exercises. You will achieve the most successful and lasting results through steady application in regular, thoughtful practice. Plan to spend 20-30 minutes daily on assigned material for this class.

ATTENDANCE

Your presence is crucial both for group activities and your own success. While I do not grade attendance per se, there is at least one evaluation every week, and class time not spent on quizzes is spent preparing for them. In addition to scheduled quizzes there may be unannounced evaluation of your performance at any time. Excused absences are given only for reasons of illness, religious observance, participation in university activities at the request of university authorities, or compelling circumstances beyond your control and supported by appropriate documentation. If you know ahead of time of an excusable absence, please notify me in advance.

EVALUATION

Singing: You will usually be required to sing using solfège syllables. For all quizzes you must sing from a **clean** score, with **no solfège syllables written in**. I grade singing on a 10-point scale using the following criteria:

- 10 = A+: Sing without error in good tempo and intonation, respecting dynamics and articulations, without stopping.
- 9 = A: Sing correctly or with one or two minor mistakes, in good tempo and intonation, respecting dynamics and articulations, without stopping.
- 8 = B: Sing with a few minor mistakes, respecting dynamics articulations; may stop once.
- 7 = C: Sing with several minor mistakes or one major mistake, or with unstable tempo; may stop twice.
- 6 = D: Sing with one or two major mistakes or way out of tempo; stop up to three times.
- 5 = F: Sing with several major mistakes or without tempo; or stopping more than 3 times.
- 1-4 = "F-minus": Reserved for obviously underprepared attempts.
- 0 = absent: If you are absent without an excuse on a quiz day you will receive a 0. There are no make-ups for unexcused absences.

Rhythmic exercises: You need to keep time (either conducting or tapping) while speaking the written rhythm.

Keyboard exercises: Criteria will vary depending on the task, but as in all performance rhythmic integrity and continuity are of greatest importance.

Participation: Be prepared to perform individually. Anyone may be called on at any time during class to sing, conduct, or take dictation at the board.

Academic honesty: Cheating on any work will result in loss of all points for all parties involved. Other penalties may be imposed in accordance with University regulations.

GRADING

The final letter grade in the course will be based on total points earned, but factors such as class contribution and preparation will be considered in borderline cases. N.B. There is **no final exam**.

In-class performance activities (lowest score dropped) 50% includes solfège, rhythm, keyboard, and play & sing exercises, both prepared and at-sight MacGAMUT target levels, and any web assignments 20% In-class dictation (lowest score dropped) 30%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any unsanctioned shared work and copying on tests will result in the loss of all points for all parties involved. Possible further consequences may result according to the UVM Code of Academic Integrity, available at www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.