

## MUSC 1121: Semester 1 Aural Skills

Fall 2019

**Instructors:** Philip Chang (coordination), Jacob Eichhorn, Devin Guerrero, Ben Morris

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Office hours: announced by instructor

**Required items:** Berkowitz, Fontrier, Kraft, Goldstein, Smaldone: *A New Approach to Sight Singing*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.

Kazez: *Rhythm Reading*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

Each day, bring books to class, as well as manuscript paper, pencil(s), and eraser. You will also need a device to video yourself (e.g., smart phone, tablet, computer camera).

**Course Description:** MUSC 1121 is the first course in the four-semester sequence of ear training and sight-singing required of all music majors. This class and its corequisite, MUSC 1101 (1<sup>st</sup>-semester theory), are designed to develop musical skills beneficial to all literate musicians. We focus on aural recognition and performance of rhythms, melodies, and harmonic progressions, developing sight singing skills, and a bit of keyboard facility as well. These skills all contribute to our general musicianship and to our ability to pre-hear, conceptualize, learn, and analyze music.

The course runs in three 5-week cycles, each incorporating in-class drill, lab assignments, a dictation quiz, and an individual recitation.

**Except for dire emergencies, late work of any type will not be accepted, and make-up assignments, quizzes, recitations, and extra credit will not be given. The semester schedule is attached, so please plan accordingly.**

**Canvas:** Your grades and some documents for the class will be available in Canvas. You should check the site at least once a week.

- The Canvas site is <http://canvas.colorado.edu>
- Your login is your IdentiKey user name
- Your password is your IdentiKey password
- For problems using or accessing Canvas, call 303-735-HELP (on campus: 5-HELP) or email [help@colorado.edu](mailto:help@colorado.edu)

**Grading:** Evaluation is based on four components, weighted approximately as follows:

Quizzes	35%
Recitations	30%
Lab assignments	25% (0.2*Lab .1 + 0.4*Lab .2 + 0.4*Lab .3)
Preparation & professionalism	10%

**Labs:** Labs prepare you each cycle's quiz and recitation. Each cycle has three labs, which can include singing and rhythm performance, dictation, and keyboard work. We may review some questions in class, so have a pen of a different color and self-mark your errors to focus on skills you need to improve. The .1 lab is a "free trial"—you will earn credit just by completing it. The .2 and .3 labs will be handed in for a grade assessment.

Find aural portions of lab assignments at [www.colorado.edu/course-sites/musc/1121/](http://www.colorado.edu/course-sites/musc/1121/). Labs may also require you to submit **videos** of your activities, which also ensure that you are accomplishing some practice outside of the classroom. Your instructor will provide more details about uploading/sending your files. **You are held to the CU Honor Code, and so do not collaborate on labs** (unless specified to do so).

**Attendance:** Since this is a skills class, practice is necessary for success. You have two “free” absences; plan far enough in advance if possible. Each additional absence will reduce your course grade by 3%. Waiving this policy depends on *significant* extenuating circumstances, which must be reported to me as soon as possible. We are required to notify the undergraduate dean when a student exceeds three absences. Notify your instructor in advance about date(s) when you know you will be away (for events such as performances, auditions, etc.). If you miss a class due to a legitimate emergency, let your instructor know—before your absence, if possible, but certainly as soon as you return to class

**Be responsible** about your attendance and your work. Consult your instructor if you are having trouble meeting the expectations of the class. We are here to help you in the gradual and sometimes demanding work of improving your aural skills. Have a successful and fulfilling semester!

### **Adjustments**

Depending on the way the semester progresses, I may make changes to this syllabus as needed.

## MUSC 1121: Semester 1 Aural Skills (Fall 2019) Semester Schedule

Berkowitz: Section I of all units

### CYCLE 1 (Weeks 1-5, Aug 26-Sept 26)

Diatonic *solfège* (major); all intervals (ascending & harmonic); 4 triad qualities; conducting patterns; Kazez, Chapter 1—simple meter & rhythm syllables

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| Week 2 (Sept 2-5)   | Monday, Sept 2: <b>Labor Day—no classes</b>                                    |
| Week 3 (Sept 9-12)  | Lab 1.1 due Mon/Tue, Sept 9/10   |
| Week 4 (Sept 16-19) | Lab 1.2 due Mon/Tue, Sept 16/17  |
| Week 5 (Sept 23-26) | Lab 1.3 due & Quiz 1: Mon/Tue, Sept 23/24<br>Recitation 1: Wed/Thu, Sept 25/26 |

### CYCLE 2 (Weeks 6-10, Sep 30-Oct 31)

Minor keys & *solfège*; all intervals (ascending, descending, harmonic); cadences; two-voice dictation; Kazez, Chapter 2—compound meter & rhythm syllables

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|---------------------|--|
| Week 8 (Oct 14-17)  | Lab 2.1 due Mon/Tue, Oct 14/15   |
| Week 9 (Oct 21-24)  | Lab 2.2 due Mon/Tue, Oct 21/22   |
| Week 10 (Oct 28-31) | Lab 2.3 due & Quiz 2: Mon/Tue, Oct 28/29<br>Recitation 2: Wed/Thu, Oct 30/31 |

### CYCLE 3 (Weeks 11-15, Nov 4-Dec 12)

Alto clef; harmonic dictation (diatonic root position triads); 5 seventh chord qualities; Kazez, Chapters 3-4; dotted rhythms, some ties and syncopation

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Week 12 (Nov 11-14) | Lab 3.1 due Mon/Tue, Nov 11/12 |
| Week 13 (Nov 18-21) | Lab 3.2 due Mon/Tue, Nov 18/19 |

**Fall Break: Nov 25-29—no classes**

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| Week 15 (Dec 9-12) | Lab 3.3 due & Quiz 3: Mon/Tue, Dec 9/10<br>Recitation 3: Wed/Thu, Dec 11/12 |
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Final exam time use at instructor discretion.

From CU Final exam schedule:

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|-------------|--------------|---|--|
| Class meets | MW at 8 a.m. | → | Mon, Dec 16, 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  |
|             | MW at 9 a.m. | → | Wed, Dec 18, 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.   |
|             | TR at 9 a.m. | → | Sat, Dec 14, 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.<br>(conflicts with Exam 3 for MUSC 1101-001) |

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Depending on how the semester progresses, this schedule may be adjusted as needed.