

MUSC 2131: Semester 4 Aural Skills

Spring 2018

Instructors: Philip Chang (N135), Clay Downham (N114), Max Wolpert (N114)

Office hours: TBA by each instructor _____

Required texts: Berkowitz, Fontrier, Kraft, Goldstein, Smaldone: *A New Approach to Sight Singing*, 5th ed.
Kazez: *Rhythm Reading*, 2nd ed.

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

Course Description: MUSC 2131 is the final course in the four-semester sequence of ear training and sight-singing required of all music majors. This class and the companion MUSC 2111 (fourth-semester theory) are designed to develop musical skills required of all literate musicians. We will focus on aural recognition and performance of rhythms and melodies, recognition of harmonic progressions, general improvement of sight singing skills, improvisation, and a bit of melodic and harmonic keyboard facility as well. These skills all contribute to our general musicianship and to our ability to pre-hear, conceptualize, and learn music in particular.

The class is structured in 3 cycles each lasting 5 weeks that incorporate in-class drills (including sing and plays), lab assignments, a performance video, a transcription, a dictation quiz, and a performance recitation (singing, rhythm, and possibly keyboard).

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.

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

Quizzes	30%
Recitations	30%
Lab Assignments	20% ($0.25 \cdot \text{Lab .1} + .75 \cdot \text{Lab .2}$)
Performance videos	10%
Transcriptions	10%

Lab assignments are posted at www.colorado.edu/music/courses/musc2131. Each cycle has two. The .1 lab is simply for completion: you will earn credit just by turning it in, and we will check it over in class. Bring a pen of a different color and self-mark your errors to focus on skills you need to improve. The .2 lab will be similar in content but will be handed in for a grade. Labs also prepare you for each cycle's quiz. **You are held to the CU Honor Code, and so do not collaborate on labs.**

Performance **videos** of assigned melodies and rhythms will prepare you for recitations and class performances, and also ensure that you are consistently practicing outside of class. Your instructor will provide more details about uploading/sending your file(s). **Transcriptions** of real music reinforce what you have learned over the past two years.

Be responsible about your work and your attendance. Since this is a skills course, daily practice in and out (at least 15 minutes) of class builds success. Stay aware in class: avoid unrelated distractions (e.g., working on a different course's assignment, using an electronic device when not relevant). Absences may cumulatively affect consistency of skill level and mastery, and we will notify the undergraduate dean when you exceed three absences. Notify your instructor in advance about date(s) you will be away (e.g., performances, auditions, etc.). If you must miss class due to an unavoidable and dire emergency, let your instructor know as soon as possible (beforehand is better). Consult your instructor early if you have concerns about your progress. We are here to help you in the gradual and sometimes trying work of improving your aural skills. Let's have a successful and fulfilling semester!

Campus policy requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. Let your instructor know the specifics *in writing* as soon as possible (preferably within the first two weeks of the semester). See full details at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-and-or-exams>.

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability or temporary medical condition, please provide a letter from Disability Services *as soon as possible* so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. They can be contacted at dsinfo@colorado.edu or 303-492-8671. Visit <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices> for more.

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. We will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise this preference as soon as possible in order to make appropriate changes. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior>.

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC and more can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity>.

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/academic-integrity-policy>). Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Learn more about the Honor Code at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-honor-code-policy> and <http://www.colorado.edu/honorcode>

Adjustments: Depending on the way the semester progresses, this syllabus may be amended as needed.

Spring 2018 Semester Schedule (subject to change)

CYCLE 1 (Weeks 1-5)

Modulating period dictation; simple meter rhythms with syncopation and supertuplets; diatonic and chromatic (applied dominant sevenths) harmonic dictation; short +6 chord nationality identification; Kazez, Chapter 11

Week 1: Mon Jan 15: **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no class)**

Week 3: **Lab 1.1** due Mon/Tue, Jan 29/30

Week 4: **Video 1** and **Transcription 1** due Mon/Tue, Feb 5/6

Week 5: **Lab 1.2** due & **Quiz 1**: Mon/Tue, Feb 12/13
Recitation 1: Wed/Thur, Feb 14/15

CYCLE 2 (Weeks 6-10)

Single phrase melodic dictation, comprehensive review; harmonic dictation with +6 chords; compound meter and hemiola; Kazez, Chapter 12

Week 8: **Lab 2.1** due Mon/Tue, Mar 5/6

Week 9: **Video 2** and **Transcription 2** due Mon/Tue, Mar 12/13

Week 10: **Lab 2.2** due & **Quiz 2**: Mon/Tue, Mar 19/20
Recitation 2: Wed/Thur, Mar 21/22

CYCLE 3 (Weeks 11-15)

Modal melodies; harmonic progressions with common tone diminished seventh chords; two-voice Alberti bass dictation; Kazez Chapter 13

Spring Break: Mar 26 – 30

Week 13: **Lab 3.1** due Mon/Tue, Apr 16/17

Week 14: **Video 3** and **Transcription 3** due Mon/Tue, Apr 23/24

Week 15: **Lab 3.2** due & **Quiz 3**: Mon/Tue, Apr 30/May 1
Recitation 3: Wed/Thur, May 2/3

Instructors may use final exam times at their discretion.

Class meets	MW at 9 a.m.	→	Sat, May 5, 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
	MW at 10 a.m.	→	Sun, May 6, 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
	MW at 11 a.m.	→	Tue, May 8, 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
	TR at 8 a.m.	→	Sat, May 5, 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.