The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Music Performance Studies

Course Outline

Music 1905, 2905, 3905, 4905, 9528 (Early Music Ensemble)  

2016-2017

Course Instructors

Joseph Lanza, (course coordinator) MB 216

Dr. Kate Helsen, (consultant; vocal ensemble) Talbot College 227

Sara-Anne Churchill (consultant; keyboards and chamber music coach) MB 216

Vladimir Djurovic (teaching assistant), Brianna Capri DeSantis, (teaching assistant)

Course Meetings

Mondays & Wednesdays - 3:30-5:30, MB 210

Course Description

A study of the styles of music composed before c1800 through coaching sessions, rehearsal, and performance. Instrumentalists will make use of copies of period instruments. We explore approaches to performance which are reasonably close to those of the time a composition was initially performed. Students taking the course for ensemble credit should expect to contribute about four hours (on average) of performance/rehearsal time each week. Students taking it as a half course credit will contribute two hours per week over both terms (or, very exceptionally, four hours per week over a single term). Students registering in early music as two half-course credits will be expected to complete four hours per week of performance/rehearsal time in both first and second terms.

Much of the music we will consider in the course does not of itself yield comprehensive information about approaches to performance (especially for the inexperienced), neither has it acquired reasonably ‘fixed’ performing traditions, such as those that one finds in much of the conventional world of modern music making. Part of our rehearsal time will sometimes seem more ‘exploratory’ than ‘goal-driven’. Students will be encouraged to share in the explorations we will make, and to engage their intellectual capacities every bit as much as their musical talents. In many cases we will find ourselves making some decisions about performance without having all the pieces of information we would like to possess.
Evaluation

Students will be assessed on their preparation for, and contributions to coaching sessions, rehearsals, and performances. Coaching sessions and rehearsals are not intended to provide time for practice. Students are expected to gain mastery over assigned repertoire on their own time.

Unexcused absences from coaching sessions, rehearsals, or performances will be reflected in course grades.

Concert Dates and Other Important Events

(all concerts at von kuster Hall, unless otherwise noted.)

Programme I - Monday, October 17, 8:00 p.m.; Tuesday, October 18, 11:30 a.m. at Weldon

Programme II - Tafelmusik’s sixth annual residency - Monday, November 28, 8:00 p.m.

Residency Part I Nov 16-18: Tafelmusik violinist Cristina Zacharias & harpsichordist Charlotte Nediger will be in residence, working with EMS students, teaching in various classes, and performing a Friday’s @ 12:30 recital on Nov 18

Residency Part II Nov 27-28: Tafelmusik Chamber Choir director Ivars Taurins and violinist Cristina Zacharias will be in residence to work with EMS and guest-direct their concert on Nov 28

There may be special rehearsal and workshop times during the above two time periods, tbc. Regarding Sunday November 27: more information on special sessions to follow. Save The Date!

EMS Singers only – at First St. Andrew’s United, Friday, Dec. 2: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Programme III - Monday, February 6, 8:00 p.m.

Programme IV - Monday, March 27, 8:00 p.m.