The University of Western Ontario Department of Music Performance Studies - Course Outline


2019-2020

Course Instructors

Joseph Lanza - director  MB 216
Borys Medicky - consultant, historic keyboards and chamber music MB 216
Jonathan Raine - TA (teaching assistant)

Course Meetings

Mondays & Wednesdays - 3:30-5:30, MB 210, 216 or 208

Chamber music will be on Mondays and the large ensemble (bande) will meet on Wednesdays. However, there will be some exceptions - most dress rehearsals and concerts are on Mondays. All students will be required to be present for those, regardless of EMS class scheduling. Please be in touch with Joseph Lanza or the TA regarding scheduling problems. See the performance schedule on page 4.

Course Description

A study of the styles of music composed mostly 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 fall and winter 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.

Grading scale for all aspects of the course is A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

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

Students are responsible for finding out about new information, markings, etc., resulting from any missed coaching sessions and rehearsals as soon as possible. In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing more than 30% of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation in the form of a completed and appropriately signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her performance and participation responsibilities, or the equivalent documentation for non-medical or compassionate grounds.

Students seeking academic consideration must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the rehearsal/performance expectations they may have missed during the absence. Documentation, if required, shall be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210).

Note that the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal may not be used for requesting academic relief for work worth more than 30% of their total course grade. Students are directed to read the full Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

A pdf copy of a Senate approved Student Medical Certificate (SMC) may be downloaded here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

In cases where students miss work that is worth 30% or less of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online absence report is submitted using the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal, or if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean’s office and the Associate Dean deems that accommodation is warranted, then the missed rehearsals/coachings/performances may be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not submitted voluntarily then the missed rehearsals/coachings/performances will be credited as zero.
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western at the following website https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Students may be excused to observe a religious holy day of their faith without penalty provided they notify the instructor in advance. Students are responsible for information and markings covered in their absence and each student shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to obtain such information.

If you require academic accommodations because of a disability, please let the instructor know during the first week of classes, and, if you have not done so already, register as soon as possible with Accessible Education (formerly known as Services for Students with Disabilities). You can learn more about the Student Success Centre’s services for accessible education at http://success.uwo.ca/academics/sas/index.html.

The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for listening to approved listening examples or accessing OWL materials for this class) is expressly prohibited. Students guilty of disrupting class with electronic devices may be asked to leave the class; if so, they will not be permitted to re-enter the class with their device until they can satisfactorily prove to the instructor that their device will no longer be a disruption.

Miscellaneous

Everyone is responsible to bring stands to all rehearsals. Punctuality for rehearsals is important: tuning for string instruments in particular is a critical issue in historical performance. Please arrive early enough to be ready to play, with your instrument ready for tuning at the beginning of rehearsal. Please use a binder for music; no loose pages. Concert dress is all black, unless otherwise decided by consensus.

The use of EMS rooms; keys - The TA will have keys to the EMS rooms. Also, there will be a sign out sheet for EMS keys at a location to be confirmed. First priority will be practice access for keyboard students, then other EMS students, for practicing of period instruments only. Sharing of keys with non-EMS students or use of the space for modern instrument practicing without special permission from myself or the TA will result in loss of key privileges.

The EMS uses an on-line sign up system in order to provide equitable access to our rooms for practice and rehearsal.

During September and October, we will be sharing MB 210 with keyboard students from John Hess’s. They will be doing a special exploration of some Haydn repertoire, using our fortepiano. This will result in added demand for this room during non-class time. Everyone’s patience and generosity will be appreciated during this period, as the EMS wishes to support the exploration of historic performance and period instruments throughout the faculty of music.
Early Music Studio (EMS) Dress Rehearsals, Concert Dates and Other Important Events

All concerts in von Kuster Hall, Music Building, unless otherwise noted.

* Monday, November 11 - Dress Rehearsal: 3:30 - 5:30, Concert 7:30 p.m.
* Monday, January 27 - Dress Rehearsal: 3:30 - 5:30, Concert 7:30 p.m.
* Monday, March 30 - Dress Rehearsal: 3:30 - 5:30, Concert 7:30 p.m.

Special Programme: Paul Davenport Theatre, Talbot College -

The Early Music Studio presents baroque opera highlights at the Opera Gala

Dress rehearsal times to be confirmed.

* Concerts: Friday, March 13, 7:30 p.m., & Saturday, March 14, 2:00 p.m.