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

Music 1905, 2905, 3905, 4905, 9528 (Early Music Ensemble) * Music 2971A, 2972B, 3971A, 3972B, 4971A, 4972B special topics; (Grad.) Music 9568A, 9569B, special topics (Early Music Studio)

2020-2021

Course Instructors

Joseph Lanza - director MB 216  jlanza@uwo.ca
Borys Medicky - consultant, historic keyboards and chamber music MB 216  bmedicky@uwo.ca
Jonathan Raine - TA (teaching assistant)  jraine@uwo.ca

Course Meetings

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

Most ensemble rehearsal will take place in MB 210. Each group will rehearse for 45 minutes on the half hour (i.e. 3:30 – 4:15, or 4:30 – 5:15) to be followed by a 15-minute ventilation break, during which everyone will leave MB 210. Brief targeted practice sessions, group lessons and mini sectionals will take place in MB 208 or 216 “labs”.

This year, for various reasons, dress rehearsals and concerts will not be on class days. Please make a note of the performance schedule at the end of this syllabus and let the TA or myself know of any issues you may have ASAP. Borys and I will make accommodations where necessary if you notify us promptly. Otherwise, all students will be required to be present for dress rehearsals and concerts, regardless of EMS class scheduling.

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 /rehearsal time in both fall and winter terms.
Covid -19 impacts on EMS time usage and course delivery

Because of Covid – 19, there will be some variance to the above expected usage of time. While days with on-line classes will have the aforementioned time commitments, performance class days will see a reduction in minutes of class time. However, student/teacher ratio will be improved and there will be more individual and small group time spent on “labs”: practice and rehearsal techniques, building performance skills and understanding historic performance.

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.

The need for a certain quantity of-line delivery (which could increase due in case of public health mandates) is certainly a challenge for the EMS’s offerings, which are performance courses. However, the unique nature of historically informed performance (HIP) does lend itself to a degree of exploration of practices, aesthetics and historic conditions which would not otherwise be commonly understood in modern music making and music education activity.

We have sought to re-balance the sometimes competing interests of historic understanding and performance excellence, by posing the question: “what improvements in the learning experience might potentially exist within these necessary changes?” and also, “how can we create an environment in which our students will feel supported to learn and prosper as we journey through these changes”? We consider the quality of our collective experience to be paramount. This includes both students and teachers. Some of what we will undertake will be an experiment: there will continuously be room for refinements in the way we explore, and readjustments to our route. We can help each other best by sharing feedback about how this journey unfolds.

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.

**Academic Consideration for Student Absence:** Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student’s final grade. **Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus.** Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student’s final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. **Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.**

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office. For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:


**Academic Consideration for Missing Work:** In cases where students are unable to submit work due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online self-reported absence is submitted, or if appropriate supporting documentation is submitted to the Associate Dean’s office, and the accommodation is granted, then the missed assessments may be rescheduled or discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course, at the discretion of the instructor. If neither a self-reported absence nor an appropriate supporting document is submitted to the appropriate office, then the missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

**Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page ([https://www.uwo.ca/health/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/)) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.**
Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar. http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo

COVID-19 INFORMATION

i) Contingency Plan: In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor.

ii) Recording of Online Activities: All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

iii) Online Etiquette: Some components of this course may involve synchronous online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

• Use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
• “Arrive” to class on time
• Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
• To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
• Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:
• If you wish to speak, select the blue “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question.
• Kindly remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking.
• Self-identify when speaking.
• Kindly remember to select the “raise hand” function again to lower your hand, mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise).

General considerations of “netiquette”:
• Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
• Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
• Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of “Zoom-bombing” a class, or of other serious online offenses, may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

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.

Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the system requirements for Zoom. Information about the system requirements are available at the following link: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us

* Please note that Zoom servers are located outside Canada. If you would prefer to use only your first name or a nickname to login to Zoom, please provide this information to the instructor in advance of the test or examination.

Miscellaneous

Everyone is responsible to bring stands to all rehearsals. This is now mandated as a health practice within the faculty because of covid – 19.

Punctuality for rehearsals is always important, but is even more critical, due to lost class time to allow for ventilation. 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 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 and 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 equitable access to EMS rooms for practice and rehearsal is monitored by the TA, using an on-line sign up system. Joe and Borys also have manager status of this system.

Storage of instruments, other than bass, theorbo and keyboard instruments, will be at the responsibility and discretion of individual students.
EMS Dress Rehearsals, Concert Dates and Other Important Events

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

* Concert Dates:

* Friday, October 30 - Dress Rehearsal: 3:30 - 5:30, Concert 7:30 p.m.

The following event has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown:

The Western/Tafelmusik Residency: January 14 – 17

* Sunday, January 17 – Dress Rehearsal: 1:30 – 3:00, Concert 4:00 p.m.

Any remaining events educational events, such as on line workshops associated with this residency are as yet to be confirmed. A performance of the residency concert repertoire will be scheduled as soon as circumstances permit. The “performance” may take the form of a recording to be generated for EMS auditing.

The following co production had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown:

The Early Music Studio and Opera Western present baroque opera highlights at the Opera Gala

* Concerts: Friday, March 12, 7:30 p.m., & Saturday, March 13, 2:00 p.m.

N.B. new EMS dress rehearsal and concert date –

* Monday, April 12, Dress Rehearsal: 3:30 – 4:15, Concert 4:30 – 5:30

Small scale, “in house” EMS recitals:

I. Keyboard solos – early in the Winter term, tbc

II. Small chamber groups, 1 or 2 movement selections, supported by mini lessons: early or mid Winter term, tbc.