

Western University Don Wright Faculty of Music

The 21st Century Musician Course

Fall 2026

Graduate Course Code: 9721

Instructor: Dr. Angela Park

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TA: Wang Ruoyun

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Office Hours: TBC

Course Time: Thursdays, 12:30-2:20pm

Course Location: TC101

GROUP Sessions:

Each student is assigned to ONE of the following group times: TBD

Course Description

An exploration of the classical music industry within the context of the current cultural and economic climate. Students will examine how they can tailor their skills and passions to create their own diverse, fulfilling, and sustainable professional paths. Topics will include networking, creating a personal portfolio, researching and writing grants, forging community partnerships, website design, time management, and financial aspects of sustaining a career path in the performing arts. Special guests will bring in their expertise on various topics. Attendance is mandatory with one excused absence. There will be a 1 hour session each week for students to meet with the instructor or TA in small groups.

Course Requirements

Regular attendance and active participation in class and in small group meetings.
Completion of assignments and in-class activities.

Course Material

Required textbook: ***Creative Success Now: How Creatives can thrive in the 21st Century*** by Astrid Baumgardner (Indie Books International, 2019) ISBN-10: 194748074X. ISBN-13: 978-1947480742

Purchase link for hard copy and Kindle options:

https://www.amazon.ca/Creative-Success-Now-Creatives-Century/dp/194748074X/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=astrid+baumgardner&qid=1596911944&sr=8-2

Students are welcome to purchase or use second-hand copies of this book.

Course Timeline

1	Thursday, September 10	Intro to course content. Beginnings, Networking, Personal Portfolios, Informational Interviews
2	Thursday, September 17	Musical Entrepreneurship, Community Engagement and Unique Locations, Performance Project
3	Thursday, September 24	Campus Scavenger Hunt
4	Thursday, October 1	Guest Derek Andrews - Entrepreneur, Music curator, Arts manager, Juror for arts council panels
No small group meetings Oct 5-9. Instead, sign up will be sent out for individual sessions with Prof. Park to go over <i>Personal Portfolio drafts</i> .		
5	Thursday, October 8	Touring, Time Management Guest Gillian Derer - Social Media for the 21st Century Musician
	October 12-16	READING WEEK
6	Thursday, October 22	Guest Speaker Astrid Baumgardner - Happiness and Entrepreneurship: How to Build Optimism Into Your Career
7	Thursday, October 29	Grants and Funding, Website
8	Thursday, November 5	Guest Jean Sophie Kim - pianist, guest for the Fridays at 12:30pm concert on November 6 Recording, Commissioning
9	Thursday, November 12	Guest Chris Enns - Finances as a Freelancer
10	Thursday, November 19	Performance Project Presentation Day 1

11	Thursday, November 26	Performance Project Presentation Day 2
12	Thursday, December 3	Finding Opportunities, Resources, Reflections

Learning Outcomes

1. Acquire skills to complete a personal portfolio, and create promotional materials.
2. Learn how to create, develop, plan, and implement a successful artistic project.
3. Learn how to analyze and set priorities to manage multiple streams of artistic activity.

Assignments and Grading

Grade %	Name of Assignment	Due Date(s)
15%	#1 Informational Interview	September 23 (Part 1) November 25 (Part 2)
15%	#2 Personal Portfolio	September 30 (Part 1) October 21 (Part 2)
20%	#3 Performance Project	October 28 (Part 1) November 19/26 (Part 2, Presentations in class)
15%	#4 Touring Application	November 11
10%	#5 Final Reflection	December 9
25%	Class and Small Groups Attendance (10%) and Participation (15%). Participation mark includes completion of assigned work to be reviewed in class/group sessions.	Weekly

LATE POLICY - Assignments submitted after the deadline will have 10% taken off the mark. All assignments must be submitted by the last day of classes (December 9, 2026) to be considered for marking.

Graduate Level Grading scale: A=80-100%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, F=0-59%.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

Health/Wellness Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support for a complete list of options about how to obtain help: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>.

Accessible Education (AE)

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education (AE), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AE and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the Wellness and Wellbeing website: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/index.html>
To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of generative AI on any assignments or projects in this course will be treated as a scholastic offence (see previous note on Academic Offences).