

Music 211, 212, and 213—Musicianship I, II, and III

Fall 2015—West Los Angeles College

Instructor

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Office: Fine Arts Building, Room 102
Availability: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30–10:00am

Class Meetings

Fine Arts Building, Room 203
Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00–9:25am

Required Course Texts and Materials

- Edgar Crowe, Annie Lawton, and William Gillies Whittaker, eds., *The Folk Song Sight Singing Series*, vols. 1–4 (London: Oxford University Press, 1933–34).
 - I will provide you with a copy of these texts in class.
- Pencils with erasers and blank staff/manuscript paper.
 - Bring these with your sight singing music to every class session.

Optional Course Text

- Richard N. Kahn, *Fundamentals of Music: A Modern Approach* (Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt, 2011).
 - Available at the bookstore on the first floor of the Student Services Building. Not required, but you might want to use this to brush up on your music theory.

Course Description

These courses are designed to help students develop and refine musicianship skills beyond those covered in Music 200 (Introduction to Music Theory). These include theory review, singing, ear training, conducting, music dictation, rhythm, and keyboard proficiency.

Course Objectives

- Demonstrate the ability to hear music with understanding, as well as recognize patterns and musical function, by: 1) taking dictation of melodies, in major and minor keys, featuring leaps, rhythmic subdivisions, chromaticism, and modulations; 2) taking dictation of rhythms with divided beats and syncopations in a variety of meter signatures and tempos; 3) aurally identifying all intervals up to the octave, qualities and inversions of triads, and dominant seventh chords; and 4) aurally identifying and transcribing common harmonic progressions up to four voices.
- Demonstrate the ability to “audiate” a musical score by: 1) performing rhythms with divided beats in a variety of meter signatures and tempos; and 2) sight singing melodies, in major and minor keys, featuring leaps, rhythmic subdivisions, chromaticism, and modulations.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will acquire the ability to sight read and sight sing simple exercises and melodies; differentiate between keys, major and minor, and appraise simple diatonic harmony; perform rhythm in duple and triple time; and demonstrate basic keyboard proficiency.

Divisional Learning Outcomes

- Secure technique.
- Practice and develop creative routine.
- Learn self-assessment for personal fulfillment and growth.

West Los Angeles College (WLAC) Learning Outcomes

- Communication: Effectively communicate thought in a clear, well-organized manner to persuade, inform, and convey ideas in academic, work, family, and community settings.
- Self-awareness/interpersonal skills: Apply self-assessment and reflection strategies to interpersonal, work, community, career, and educational pathways.
- Technical competence: Utilize the appropriate technology effectively for informational, academic, personal, and professional needs. Use competent technique in a musical performance.
- Aesthetics: Use multiple modes of inquiry and approaches to experience and engage with the arts and nature; develop and express personal creative visions throughout all aspects of one's life.

Grading

Your final grade will comprise the following components, each out of 100 points:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1) Two Musicianship Quizzes | 66% (33% each) |
| 2) Participation and Professionalism | 34% |

At the end of the term, I will use the following percentage breakdowns to assign letter grades. I will not give any incompletes.

A: 90–100% B: 80–89% C: 70–79% D: 60–69% F: 59% and below

It is your responsibility to keep track of all important dates. Make-up quizzes will be granted only at my discretion, and you must provide written proof (e.g. doctor's note, police report, etc.) of a significant emergency that prevented you from coming to class.

I reserve the right to administer pop quizzes and/or assign additional written homework, at my discretion, if I feel that students are not coming to class prepared.

Musicianship Quizzes

There will be two quizzes, each covering half of the course's material. You will be asked to identify such musical elements as major and minor scales, intervals, and triads; take dictation of simple melodies, harmonic patterns, and rhythms; and sight sing simple melodies in class. You will be responsible for only the material covered in class and in your course text.

I will help you develop sight singing, dictation, and ear training skills through in-class exercises (see Participation and Professionalism below). But keep in mind that these skills are difficult to master, especially in the short span of 15 weeks, and will require you to practice outside the classroom every day on your own time.

Participation and Professionalism

The best way to learn music is not only through study but application ("doing"). It is very important that you are an active participant in this course. We will engage with music through various "hands-on" activities, such as sight singing, rhythmic exercises, dictation, and other in-class assignments.

Naturally, this starts with your attendance; simply put, you cannot master the course material if you are not present to learn about it. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate and review what you have missed. I adhere strictly to the attendance policies

set forth in Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Administrative Regulation E-13, and *reserve the right to exclude* any student who has not been coming to class.

I expect students to display a professional attitude at all times. Remember that leaving early or arriving late is considered both unprofessional and an absence. Please be courteous towards your classmates and instructor. Do not carry on private conversations while someone else is speaking, read newspapers, take a nap, surf the internet, send text messages, eat smelly or crunchy foods, etc. You will be asked to leave if your behavior is disruptive and this will negatively affect your grade.

Most important, come to class ready to share your thoughts, opinions, criticisms, and reactions! Do not be afraid to ask questions if you are unsure about anything. The classroom is a safe zone.

Other Class Administrative Policies

- Cellular phones, computers, and other electronic devices: All phones, texting devices, and electronics must be *silenced or turned off and put away* while you are in class. You are welcome, however, to use a laptop or tablet computer *for note-taking purposes only*. I reserve the right to restrict use of all electronic devices if I feel that students are abusing this policy.
- E-mail etiquette: In our age of seemingly limitless technology, it is all too easy to write an e-mail as if it were a glorified text message. Please treat your communications with me as seriously as you would writing a letter to a parent, teacher, or any other authority figure. In other words, be sure to use complete sentences, appropriate language, and proper punctuation. Also, do not forget to sign your messages with your name; I cannot tell who you are from only a username or e-mail address. I will do my best to respond to you within 24 hours. But remember that, like you, I need to sleep, so please do not bombard me with last-minute messages.

Disability Statement

If you are a student with a disability who requires special classroom accommodations, please contact Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) as soon as possible. DSPS is located in the Student Services Building, Room 320. They can also be reached by phone: (310) 287-4450 or e-mail: dsps@wlac.edu. All information remains confidential. For more information, see the DSPS website: <http://www.wlac.edu/dsps/index.aspx>. It is also important that you speak to me as soon as possible in order to ensure that I make the proper provisions.

Financial Aid

If you need financial assistance for books and other college expenses, please contact the Financial Aid Office. They are located in the Student Services Building, Room 210. The office can also be reached by phone: (310) 287-4532. For more information, see their website: <http://www.wlac.edu/financial-aid/index.aspx>. You may also text "WLAC" to (310) 740-7906 to get your number in line for the Admissions, Financial Aid, or Business Offices.

Academic Honesty

Forms of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: cheating (failure to observe the rules of an academic exercise, such as looking at your neighbor's paper during a test); multiple submissions (submitting the same assignment for different classes); and plagiarism (taking someone else's words or ideas and passing them off as your own). If you use someone else's work as a reference, you must cite the original author properly.

Anyone found committing an act of academic dishonesty will: 1) receive an Incomplete on the assignment in question; and 2) be referred to the Vice President of the Academic Senate for further disciplinary action, following due process. For more information, see the documents “Academic Integrity” and “Plagiarism” at the WLAC Academic Senate website:
<http://www.wlac.edu/committees/academic-senate/Index.aspx>.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change, at my discretion.

Class Schedule

Week 1

· Tuesday (September 1) & Thursday (September 3)—Skills Assessment; Introduction to Ear Training: Things to Listen For

Week 2

· Tuesday (September 8) & Thursday (September 10)—Preparation for Dictation: Listening to, Remembering, and Singing Back Simple Melodies

Week 3

· Tuesday (September 15) & Thursday (September 17)—Listening to Rhythmic Patterns; Clapping Exercises; Begin Dictation of Simple Rhythms

Week 4

· Tuesday (September 22) & Thursday (September 24)—Continue with Dictation of Rhythms; Begin Sight Singing Simple Melodies on “La”

Week 5

· Tuesday (September 29) & Thursday (October 1)—Continue with Sight Singing Simple Melodies on “La”

Week 6

· Tuesday (October 6) & Thursday (October 8)—Begin Sight Singing Simple Melodies Using Solfège Syllables in Movable “Do”

Week 7

· Tuesday (October 13)—Review for Musicianship Quiz no. 1
· Thursday (October 15)—**Musicianship Quiz no. 1**

Week 8

· Tuesday (October 20) & Thursday (October 22)—Listening to Intervals; Ear Training Exercises to Identify Intervals

Week 9

· Tuesday (October 27) & Thursday (October 29)—Listening to Triads; Continue with Sight Singing and Dictation of Melodies and Rhythms

Week 10

· Tuesday (November 3) & Thursday (November 5)—Continue with Listening to Triads, Sight Singing, and Dictation of Melodies and Rhythms

Week 11

· Tuesday (November 10) & Thursday (November 12)—Continue with Sight Singing and Dictation of Melodies and Rhythms

Week 12

· Tuesday (November 17) & Thursday (November 19)—Listening to Cadences; Begin Dictation of Simple Harmonic Progressions

Week 13

· Tuesday (November 24)—Continue with Listening to Cadences and Dictation of Simple Harmonic Progressions

· Thursday (November 26)—**NO CLASS:** Thanksgiving

Week 14

· Tuesday (December 1) & Thursday (December 3)—Continue with Sight Singing and Dictation of Melodies, Rhythms, and Harmonies

Week 15

· Tuesday (December 8)—Review for Musicianship Quiz no. 2

· Thursday (December 10)—**Musicianship Quiz no. 2**

