

Introduction to Music (Music 1)

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TEXTS: Macan, Ed. *Introduction to Music Student Packet*, edited by Joseph Byrd.
College of the Redwoods, 2004
Zeidler, Franz. *Fun with the Recorder*. Mel Bay Publications.
Students are required to possess a soprano recorder for this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION. This course will focus on introducing students with little or no musical background to the fundamentals of music theory, terminology, and techniques of music reading and performance. Too often, courses such as this are taught in the abstract, giving students an intellectual understanding of music notation that is not grounded in singing or playing. Instead, this course will place considerable emphasis on practical music-making, including clapping exercises to develop rhythmic skills and instruction in elementary recorder and keyboard skills. This course will demand your constant participation, both in working through theory problems at the board and in playing music: this is not a typical lecture format! By the end of the term, students will have learned rhythm and pitch notation; be familiar with chromatic, whole tone, major, and minor scales; be acquainted with the circle of fifths, keys, and key signatures; be able to carry a part in recorder trios and quartets; and will have rudimentary knowledge of the keyboard.

GRADING.

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|---|---------|
| 1. Composite of eight quizzes (8 points each) | 64
% |
| 2. Final exam | 10
% |
| 3. Participation grade (based on attendance and quality of participation) | 8% |
| 4. Individual performance in rhythm (clapping) | 10
% |
| 4. Individual performance on recorder and keyboard | |

Final grades are letter grades. 90=A, 80=B, and so on. When figuring your composite quiz scores at the end of the term, **I will drop your lowest score - unless you were absent without prior notice**. NOTE: Students are expected to take quizzes on the day scheduled. I will announce a quiz in the class before it is due. *Missed quizzes may not be retaken. If you notify me the session before a quiz, I will make provision for you to take the quiz at the Academic Support Center.* Note that an A is virtually

impossible if you miss a quiz.

PARTICIPATION. Punctual attendance is absolutely crucial for success in this course, since material is presented in a graded, step-by-step format, and since the performance skills taught in this class are acquired through sustained, regular repetition. The participation component of your grade acknowledges the importance that regular attendance – together with participation in classroom activities – has on your successful mastery of the principles and techniques.

Participation credits are complicated. One thing is critical: attendance. If you miss class, you get deductions. If you attend every class, you get additions. I am very reluctant to flunk someone who has conscientiously attended every class; I regard it as my failure to teach. On the other hand, those who skip classes get no sympathy from me. If I discover them early, I drop them from the course; if I discover them too late to drop them, I fail them without mercy.

Please note that 26% of your grade is participation/performance: If you have had good attendance, and have been an active participant in class, you are likely to get a higher score.

NOTE: for the purpose of tallying your participation grade, *THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE.* To receive full participation credits for a given day, you must be here, and you must be participating. If you arrive in class after I have taken roll, you will be counted as absent unless you report to me after class. Also, if you leave early, you will be counted as absent. Finally, from the tenth class meeting on, if you do not bring your recorder to a class meeting, you will get a deduction from class participation.

CLASS SCHEDULE (approximate - remember that each quiz is announced at the prior session).

1. Intro to course; Basics of Rhythmic Notation (Chapter 1)
2. Chapter 1 continued
3. **Quiz, Chapter 1**
4. Begin Meter (Chapter 2)
5. Chapter 2 continued
- 6) Chapter 2 continued; begin counting music (Chapter 3); commence rhythm exercises 1
- 7) **Quiz, Chapter 2**
- 8) Chapter 3 continued (**we will continue to work on this chapter throughout the term**)
- 9) Begin treble clef (Chapter 4), commence rhythm exercisers II, #1-12
- 10) Begin recorder instruction (pp. 7-8); bass clef (Chapter 4)
- 11) C clefs (Chapter 4); Recorder, p. 9
- 12) Octave designation system (Chapter 4); divisions of beats in four (Chapter 3)
- 13) Octave designation system (Chapter 4); begin Whole & Half steps (Chapter 5)
- 14) **Quiz, Chapter 4**; Recorder, p. 11; Whole & Half steps (Chapter 5)
- 15) Whole & Half steps; commence rhythm exercises II, #13-20
- 16) Subdivisions of compound beats (Chapter 3) Recorder, p. 13
- 17) Chromatic Scales (Chapter 5)
- 18) Whole-tone Scales (Chapter 5); Recorder, p. 14,
- 19) **Quiz, Chapter 5**; Major scales, part I (Chapter 6)
- 20) Recorder, p. 16; Major scales, part I (Chapter 6)
- 21) Recorder, p. 17 (C scale); Tied rhythms (Chapter 3); Chapter 6 continued

- 22) **Quiz, Chapter 6**; Begin 4-part arrangement of “When The Saints Go Marching In”
- 23) Major Scales, part II (Chapter 7); Syncopation (Chapter 3)
- 24) **Quiz, Chapter 7**; Dotted Rhythms (Chapter 3)
- 25) Minor Scales (Chapter 8); finish Chapter 3 - triplets and duplets
- 26) **Quiz, Chapter 3**; Chapter 8 continued as far as possible
- 27) **Quiz, Chapter 8**; Review of performance requirements
- 28) Review for final; review performance materials
- 29) **Final Exam**

FINAL EXAM DAY - **Performance Finals**

NOTES: 1) Concerning the electronic keyboards in CA 104, a) do not put any beverage container, full or empty, on the instrument at any time; b) do not write on the keys, c) remove and insert headphone plugs *gently* into their jacks, and d) **DO NOT PLAY ON YOUR KEYBOARD** when we are not doing class keyboard instruction. Your cooperation will make life infinitely more tolerable for us all.

2) Courtesy is expected at all times. Not everyone will perform at the same level, and support and respect toward your colleagues is the only acceptable behavior.

3) Your continued attendance in this class after the first day, indicates that you have read and understood what is required by this syllabus.