

## **Music 102-FY: Introduction to Music**

Class meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:20-12:50 p.m., Campus Hall, Room 104

Instructor: Prof. David Schulenberg (email: dschulen@wagner.edu)

Office hours: TBA

*Please note: this syllabus will be updated for spring 2020. Dates, times, and assignments are all subject to revision!* This is a special section of MU 102, “Introduction to Music,” primarily for first-year students, especially those who have declared or are considering declaring a Music major. The course is a survey of European music history, focusing on so-called classical music from the past thousand years. It is open to all first-year students, regardless of major; some prior training or experience in music will be helpful but is not necessary, as the course begins with a brief introduction to fundamental concepts and terminology used in serious discussions of music. This is followed by study of selected works from the Middle Ages to the present.

**Course objectives.** At the completion of this course, you should be able to:

- recognize aurally a broad range of types of Western art music
- understand fundamental elements of that music
- appreciate the place of that music within its historical and cultural context
- write and speak about that music using commonly accepted terminology.

**Work for the course** includes reading, listening, two written assignments, a quiz, and midterm and final examinations. Students also attend a number of performances of classical music.

Listening to assigned recordings and performances is the most important work. The first paper and the examinations are based primarily on the listening assignments, which are available online.

The second paper is a *concert report*: a combined research paper and concert review in which you report on a live concert performance of a major classical work that you have attended. The choice of concert and work are up to you. The concert report gives you a chance to express your reaction to the music and the performance. It also reflects your research into the history and background of the work.

Most readings are from the instructor’s textbook, which will be available online. It includes the texts (lyrics) for most of the vocal compositions under study.

During the semester you are expected to attend at least three classical concerts or comparable musical performances and to show me copies of your concert programs, ticket stubs, or other proof of attendance. Concert attendance counts as part of your class attendance grade. Many free concerts are given on campus and can count toward this requirement. Your concert report should be about a work heard on one of these concerts.

**Class policies.** All assignments are due *in class* on the dates shown in the syllabus. Please come

to class prepared to discuss and ask questions about both the reading and the listening assigned for that day. Absences and work received late will earn a reduced grade unless you have made prior arrangements with me, or in case of a documented medical excuse or other emergency. All students are expected to abide by Wagner's Student Honor Code, which forbids plagiarism.

*Email and internet.* Please do not submit work as email attachments unless I specifically ask you to do so. Also, please do not send me email messages asking questions about matters discussed in class, in the textbook, or in handouts and assignment sheets; I will not respond to such messages. Although you may use music downloads and websites for some purposes of the course, successful completion of assignments will require you to obtain information that is available only from printed books and articles, CD recordings, and other hard-copy sources. Websites are not acceptable sources for papers except as noted below. *Phones and laptop computers may be used by those seated in the first three rows only, to take notes or, when prompted, to conduct class-related web searches.*

**Grades and attendance.** Your final grade will be based on the two papers (10% and 25%, respectively), one quiz (10%), midterm (20%) and final examinations (25%). Class attendance and participation are worth 10%. Attendance is mandatory, and grades will be reduced for unexcused absences. *Anyone arriving to class late or leaving early will be marked absent. You will also be marked absent if you use a cellphone or text messaging in class, or if you leave the room more than once during a class period.* Make-up exams will not be given; students excused from tests will instead be assigned additional written work.

**Music reference books.** The Library possesses reference works on music that will provide assistance with unfamiliar terms and names. Two standard works are:

*The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 2d ed., ed. Stanley Sadie, 29 vols. (London: Macmillan, 2001). This is the standard English-language music encyclopedia, especially notable for its biographies of composers, including detailed lists of their compositions. An updated electronic version known as *Grove Music Online* is part of *Oxford Music Online*, available from the “Databases” section of the Horrmann Library website (<http://wagner.edu/library/databases/>).

Also available as part of *Oxford Music Online* is *The Oxford Dictionary of Music*, useful for finding definitions and short explanations of musical terms and names.

**The course calendar** below lists assignments and topics. You must listen to each work and do the reading before coming to class. Listening assignments will be made available online.

## Course Calendar

All reading assignments listed below are from the coursepack. In addition to reading the assigned pages, also read the libretto (text and translation) for any vocal work included in the listening assignment.

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|----|-----------------------|---|
| 1  | Aug. 26               | Introduction; melody and pitch. Read pp. 1–6.   |
| 2  | Aug. 28               | Texture, meter, and tempo; sound. Read pp. 6–14. Listen: examples 1–5   |
| 3  | Sept. 2               | Musical ideas. Read pp. 15–19. Listen: music examples 6–9   |
| 4  | Sept. 4               | DIAGNOSTIC QUIZ   |
| 5  | Sept. 9               | <b>Music of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance</b><br>Read pp. 20–26. Listen: chant, early polyphony (organum, motet)            |
| 6  | Sept. 11              | Read pp. 26–30. Listen: songs by Machaut, Jacopo da Bologna   |
| 7  | Sept. 16              | Read pp. 30–34. Listen: motet by Josquin  |
| 8  | Sept. 18              | Read pp. 35–39. Listen: madrigals by Marenzio, Monteverdi   |
| 9  | Sept. 23              | Film on Gesualdo  |
| 10 | Sept. 25              | <b>Baroque music</b><br>Film: Monteverdi, <i>Orfeo</i><br>Read pp. 39–41. Listen: Monteverdi, <i>Orfeo</i> , act 2<br>PAPER DUE   |
| 11 | Sept. 30              |   |
| 12 | Oct. 2                | EXAM  |
| 13 | Oct. 7                | Go over exam  |
| 14 | Oct. 9                | Read pp. 42–44. We will study Lully's <i>Persée</i> in class  |
|    | [Oct. 14: Fall Break] |   |
| 15 | Oct. 16               | Read pp. 42–49. Vivaldi, concerto <i>Spring</i> from <i>The Four Seasons</i><br>CONCERT REPORT: TOPIC DUE                         |
| 16 | Oct. 21               | Read pp. 49–52. Listen: Bach, Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue  |
| 17 | Oct. 23               | <b>Classical and Romantic music</b><br>Read pp. 53–58. Film: <i>Don Giovanni</i> Listen: Mozart, <i>Don Giovanni</i> (selections) |
| 18 | Oct. 28               | CONCERT REPORT: OUTLINE DUE   |
| 19 | Oct. 30               | Read pp. 59–63. Listen: Beethoven, Symphony no. 3, “Eroica”   |

- 20 Nov. 4
- 21 Nov. 6 Read pp. 63–69. Listen: Schubert, *Die schöne Müllerin* (selections)
- 22 Nov. 11 Film: *La traviata*
- 23 Nov. 13 Read pp. 69–74. Listen: Verdi: *La traviata*, act 1
- 24 Nov. 18 **Music since 1900**
- 25 Nov. 20 Read pp. 74–80. Listen: Stravinsky, Schoenberg, Ives  
Read pp. 80–82. Listen: Jolas, Wilson, Reich
- 26 Nov. 25 CONCERT REPORT DUE Final review  
[Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Day]
- Dec. 4 FINAL EXAM