

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

A.S. DEGREE



Music Performance - Course Descriptions

MUS 101 Music Appreciation - 3 Credits

Interest, taste and discrimination in music and its relationship to other art forms; survey of style periods of Western Music; Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Twentieth Century; survey of musical forms, instruments of the orchestra, and music in national cultures; biographical sketches of composers; listening to records essential. Three class hours. (SUNY- H)

MUS 108 College Chorus - 1 Credit

Performance of a wide variety of choral music. Musical selections range from traditional to contemporary and include such diverse styles as madrigals, songs, chorales, folk music, jazz and rock. Three class hours. (May be repeated for additional credit.) (SUNY-A)

MUS 109 Music Theory I - 4 Credits

Instruction in music theory, ear-training, and sight-singing based on the techniques of the Common Practice Period. Activities include: sight-singing of diatonic melodies, melodic, harmonic and rhythmic dictation, study of intervals, scales, triads, the dominant seventh chord and non-harmonic tones in analysis, and the connection of triads in four-voice writing. Computer software is incorporated to reinforce music theory concepts and for ear training practice. Four class hours. (SUNY-A)

MUS 110 Music Theory II - 4 Credits

This course is a continuation of the ear training, sight singing and written materials of MUS 109 in greater depth and detail. Instruction is based on the techniques of the Common Practice Period. Principles of

harmonic progression, diatonic common chord modulation, non-harmonic tones, the Classic Period, developmental techniques and small homophonic forms. Computer software is incorporated to reinforce music theory concepts, for ear training practice, and to typeset homework assignments. Four class hours.

Prerequisite: MUS 109 or permission of the instructor.

MUS 113 Song Writing - 3 Credits

The study of successful song forms and creative imitation of student's own experience into original parodies and songs. Three class hours. (SUNY-A)

MUS 118 Broadway Musicals - 3 Credits

A survey of musicals, revues and Broadway shows which represent the growth and development of American musical theatre as an art form. Students will learn to recognize and identify the characters, plot, best-known show tunes and other important facets of musical theatre. Three class hours.

MUS 119 Music in World Cultures - 3 Credits

A diverse overview of classical, popular, and folk music traditions comprising all of the major world cultures. The objectives of the course are to look closely at how we define what music is and what social and cultural roles it serves in our lives. Students will listen to music from other cultures and discuss how the music reflects differences in the way that another society defines music and its role in their lives. This process will also show how diverse and global our own musical traditions already are. The course will also explore the role of music as ritual, mode of communication, work accompaniment and artistic expression. Three class hours, two experiential hours. Offered both Fall and Spring Semesters. This course satisfies the requirement for a social science elective. (SUNY-ARTS and SUNY-HUMANITIES)

MUS 120 Jazz in American Society - 3 Credits

A survey course in the evolution of jazz in America. Historical significances are identified and traced from rhythmic worksongs and spirituals of the late 1800s through avant-garde jazz of the 1970s. Specific concentration as to personalities and musical styles occurs for the major eras and trends in jazz; e.g., Ragtime, Dixieland, Swing, Bebop, Progressive, Modern, Third Stream, Rock, Jazz. This course satisfies the requirement for a social science elective. Three class hours.

MUS 121 Voice Class - 3 Credits

Group instruction in the mastery of vocal techniques, the study of common vocal problems, the development of basic musicianship and the cultivation of expressive singing ability. Students will perform songs covering a wide variety of moods, styles, and textual subjects. Three class hours.

MUS 122 Piano Class I - 3 Credits

Group instruction in fundamental piano technique designed for the beginner. Pupils learn to read music, improvise chordal accompaniments, and develop technical proficiency through performance of elementary piano music. Two class hours, one laboratory hour. (SUNY-A)

MUS 123 Piano Class II - 3 Credits

A continuation of MUS 122. Group instruction designed to develop piano proficiency at the advanced beginner level. Includes further development of technical and music reading skills including improvisation. Two class hours, one laboratory hour.

Prerequisite: MUS 122 or performance equivalent to MUS 122, or permission of instructor.

MUS 124 Guitar Class I - 3 Credits

An introductory course in the fundamentals of guitar playing, designed for the beginning student. A dual approach to the instrument will be taught: 1) as an accompaniment for singing; the student will learn chords, progressions, strums, and finger-picking; 2) as a solo instrument; the student will learn the fundamentals of reading music, as applied to the guitar; e.g. staff- notation, meters, rhythms, scales, positions with emphasis on developing dexterity. Three class hours. Students must provide their guitars. (SUNY-A)

MUS 125 Guitar Class II - 3 Credits

An intermediate course in guitar playing designed for the student with more than an elementary knowledge of guitar technique. Emphasis on the guitar as a solo instrument - including scales in all positions, technical reading studies, solo playing, with emphasis on the development of right hand dexterity. Spring semester only. Three class hours. Students must provide their own guitars.

Prerequisite: MUS 124 or permission of the instructor.

MUS 126 Applied Piano Minor I - 1 Credit

A practical course in piano skills (scales, arpeggios, improvisation and accompanying) designed for students currently studying a major applied instrument or major vocal applied. Students should possess skills in music theory and be able to read music. Fall semester only. One and one-half laboratory hours. (SUNY-A)

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

MUS 127 Applied Piano Minor II - 1 Credit

A continuation of MUS 126 for students currently studying voice or an instrument. Spring Semester only. One and one-half laboratory hours.

Prerequisite: MUS 126 or equivalent, or permission of instructor.

MUS 129 MIDI Recording Techniques - 3 Credits

An introductory course in computer-assisted music production. Students will learn the fundamentals of the Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) as they pertain to MCC's own MIDI studio. Using the synthesizer, drum machine and tone generator, students will produce high quality demo tapes of the music of their choice. Three class hours. (SUNY-A)

Prerequisite: Basic keyboard proficiency or permission of instructor.

MUS 131 Studio Production - 3 Credits

Designed to give the students practical experience in recording live music using digital multi-track recorders. The students will understand the use of microphones, mixers, multi-effects units and MIDI (Musical Instruments Digitally Interfaced) applications. Students will be given an overview of how past, present and future technological changes in the music industry impact recording techniques. Three class hours.

Prerequisite: MUS 129 is strongly recommended.

MUS 132 Percussion Class - 3 Credits

Group instruction in basic percussion techniques. Includes learning the rudiments (rolls, flams, ruffs, paradiddles, etc.) of reading drum music. Two, three, and four part ensemble experience in various styles. Developing four-limb coordination for drum-set playing and learning basic rock, Latin, and jazz rhythms on the set. Correct playing techniques for some of the secondary percussion instruments: hand cymbals, bass drum, triangle, tambourine, maracas, claves, cowbells, guiro, cabasa, and conga. Three class hours.

MUS 133 Lyric Writing - 3 Credits

This course will improve the student's ability to write words to music. Students will enhance their skills not by reading about lyric writing but by completing dozens of writing exercises and assignments. The results will be lyrics that are clear, concise and creative. Besides the usual topics of meter, rhyme and form, students will learn topics not widely known outside of songwriting circles. These topics include how to start writing a lyric quickly, how to write more effective lyrics by examining the words within the title, pulse points, how to develop a song one line at a time, finding the lyrical approach, blocking a song, the importance of contrast along with other tricks, tips and techniques used by professional writers.

Discussions will include work habits, breaking writers block and career opportunities. The ability to read and write music is helpful but not necessary. This course will focus on the written word.

Prerequisite: ENG 101 or permission of the instructor

MUS 140 Jazz Ensemble - 1 Credit

Rehearsal and performance of jazz, Latin, and pop instrumental, music for big band (piano, bass, drums, saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and guitar). Rehearsals include study of playing with good time, intonation, jazz inflections, articulations, and correct interpretation of classic jazz literature to modern styles. Concert performances include major concerts twice each semester in MCC's Theatre, and there is the potential for additional on-campus or off-campus performances. (This course may be repeated for credit.) Three laboratory hours, 10+ experiential hours.

Prerequisite: Prior experience in a jazz band or permission of instructor. Recommended corequisites: MUS 143/144 is highly recommended .

MUS 141 Madrigal Singers - 1 Credit

A select group of singers rehearsing and performing vocal music from the Medieval and Renaissance time periods. Emphasis will be on developing musicianship and ensemble singing with the goal of understanding these musical styles and experiencing the joy of public performance. May be repeated for additional credit. Fall Semester only. Three class hours.

Prerequisite: Audition or permission of instructor.

MUS 142 Musical Production - 3 Credits

A select group of actor/singers and musicians whose main goal is to rehearse and perform a Broadway musical production. Students will learn the vocal and dance portion of performing in a full scale musical production. Students will experience costumed and staged live performances. May be repeated for additional credit. Three class hours.

Prerequisite: Audition or permission of instructor.

MUS 143 Jazz Improvisation I - 3 Credits

An introductory level course that explores the theory of jazz. This class will use standard jazz tunes as vehicles to explore harmony, melody, rhythm, improvisational concepts, basic keyboarding skills, and composition in a functional way. Modes of the major scale, ii-V-I's, and the blues scale will be discussed as well as major, minor, and diminished chord structures with sevenths. Theory discussions and written assignments will be combined with ear training, listening examples, and playing standards in class so as to increase the student's ability to improvise in an instrumental jazz group. Three class hours.

Prerequisite: MUS 109 or permission of instructor.

MUS 144 Jazz Improvisation II - 3 Credits

A continuation of MUS 143 that examines the theory of jazz. This class will use standard jazz tunes as vehicles to explore harmony, melody, rhythm, improvisational concepts, basic keyboarding skills, and composition in a functional way. In addition to modes of the major scale, ii-V-I's, blues scale, and seventh chords being reviewed, extensions 9, 11, 13, modes of the melodic minor, and the diminished scale will be introduced. Theory discussions and transcription/composition assignments will be combined with ear training, listening examples, and playing standards in class so as to increase the student's ability to improvise in an instrumental jazz group. Three class hours.

Prerequisite: MUS 143 or permission of instructor.

MUS 145 Jazz Combo - 3 Credits

Rehearsal and performance of traditional jazz standards, Latin, avant-garde and pop instrumental, music for small combo (piano, bass, drums, guitar, and some horns such as saxophone and trumpet). Rehearsals include study of playing compositions with an emphasis on improvising in a small group format. Correct interpretation of classic jazz literature to modern styles is studied in this context of a small combo. Concert performances include major concerts twice each semester in MCC's Theatre, Atrium, or Student Center and there is the potential for additional on-campus or off-campus performances. (This course may be repeated for credit.) Three laboratory hours, 10+ experiential hours.

Prerequisite: Prior experience improvising in a jazz band or permission of instructor; corequisite: MUS 143/MUS 144 is highly recommended

MUS 146 Vocal Jazz/Show Choir - 1 Credit

A select group of singers and instrumentalists rehearsing and performing vocal music from the jazz and show choir repertoire. Emphasis will be on developing musicianship and ensemble singing with the goal of understanding these musical styles and experiencing the joy of public performance. May be repeated for additional credit. Spring Semester only. Three class hours.

MUS 150 History of Rock 'n Roll - 3 Credits

A survey course that traces the roots of rock 'n roll from its origins in blues and rock 'a billy through to present day styles. In addition to the musical styles, the course will also look at the cultural, economic and social influences that shaped this American musical phenomena. This course satisfies the requirement for a social science elective. Three class hours.

MUS 151 Music Performance and Lessons - 2 Credit

Provides students with an opportunity to develop their music abilities through solo or ensemble performances before college audiences, through individualized private study of instrumental or vocal music under the supervision of qualified teachers, and a final exam jury before the music faculty. A

minimum of 15 one-hour lessons is required per semester. Cost of lessons is not included in MCC tuition. One class hour plus one hour of private instruction. (May be repeated for additional credit.) (SUNY-A)

Prerequisite: Music Department audition.

MUS 153 Electric Guitar and Electric Bass - 3 Credits

A study of the many aspects of playing the electric guitar and/or the electric bass. Students will learn music theory, guitar symbols, melodies, scales, and arpeggios. Emphasis is on the practical application of music fundamentals when playing by ear, imitation of styles (jazz, pop, rock, folk), and solo group improvisation. Students supply their own instruments and/or equipment. Three class hours. (SUNY-A)

Prerequisite: Student should have some knowledge of guitar playing.

MUS 154 Classical Guitar - 3 Credits

A study of classical guitar techniques and music literature, with emphasis on the execution of dexterity, a thorough understanding of music fundamentals and the performance of a wide variety of classical solo and ensemble music. Students provide their own guitar. Spring semester only. Three class hours. (SUNY-A)

Prerequisite: Student should have some knowledge of guitar playing.

MUS 155 African-American Music in America - 3 Credits

A comprehensive survey into the musical idiom that comprises the African-American musical landscape. This course will discuss the important contributions that led to the development of the Negro spiritual, ragtime, blues, jazz, and the hip-hop cultural phenomenon. A historical study of the relationship that African-American music has had on western composers including Igor Stravinsky, Darius Mihlaud, and Claude Debussy. This course satisfies the requirement for a social science elective.

MUS 159 Aural Skills I - 1 Credit

This course reinforces Music Theory concepts and develops skills in sight singing as well as melodic and rhythmic dictation. *Corequisite: MUS 109 or permission of instructor*

MUS 160 Aural Skills II - 1 Credit

This course is a continuation of Aural Skills I. It reinforces Music Theory concepts and develops skills in sight singing as well as melodic and rhythmic dictation.

Prerequisite: MUS 159 or permission of instructor; corequisite: MUS 110 or permission of instructor

MUS 161 Guitar Ensemble - 1 Credit

Rehearsal and performance of a wide variety of music literature composed and arranged for four or more guitars. Minimum requirements include reading and playing in first position, reading of basic rhythm pattern including eighth and sixteenth notes. (Course may be repeated for additional 1 credit.) Three class hours. Students must provide their own guitar.

MUS 190 Music Rehearsal and Performance - 3 Credits

Rehearsal and performance of specialized musical groups for significant musical events; i.e., Broadway musicals, instrumental and vocal ensembles organized to perform music in a specific style. 45 to 135 class hours. This course can be repeated for additional credit.

MUS 201 History of Music I - 3 Credits

Music from antiquity through 1750, covering Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque style periods; essential score reading and listening to records outside of class. Fall semester only. Three class hours. This course satisfies the requirement of humanities or social science credit. (SUNY-WC)

Prerequisites: Completion of a music theory course or music appreciation, and elementary skill in music reading or permission of the instructor.

MUS 202 History of Music II - 3 Credits

Music from 1750 through the present covering Classical, Romantic and Twentieth Century style periods; essential score reading and listening to records outside of class. Spring semester only. Three class hours. This course satisfies the requirement of humanities or social science credit. (SUNY-WC)

Prerequisite: MUS 201 or permission of the instructor.

MUS 209 Music Theory III - 4 Credits

A study of diatonic seventh chords, borrowed chords, secondary dominants, augmented sixth chords, chromatic and in harmonic modulation and musical forms of the Classic and Romantic Periods, sight-singing and harmonic and melodic dictation related to chromatic harmony, early 20th century techniques. Computer software is incorporated to reinforce music theory concepts, for ear training practice, and to typeset homework assignments. Four class hours.

Prerequisite: MUS 110 or permission of the instructor.

MUS 210 Music Theory IV - 4 Credits

Studies of 20th century techniques, with student compositions performed and evaluated in class. Computer software is incorporated to reinforce music theory concepts, for ear training practice, and to typeset homework assignments. Four class hours.

Prerequisite: MUS 209 or permission of the instructor.

MUS 221 Voice Class II - 3 Credits

Intermediate collegiate level study of vocal music with emphasis on developing diction, breath control, increasing vocal resonance, improving stage presence, and cultivating accuracy, artistry and musicianship. Students will study a wide variety of vocal materials; e.g., Elizabethian lute songs, classical and romantic art songs, as well as standards, "pop" styles, and Broadway show tunes. Three class hours.

Prerequisites: MUS 121, prior vocal experience, or by audition.

MUS 226 Applied Piano Minor III - 1 Credit

A course designed to increase essential keyboard skills and score reading; improve technique through the study and performance of collegiate level intermediate difficulty piano studies; and provide instruction in proper methods of accompanying, melodic and harmonic improvisation, and transposition. Fall semester only. One and one-half laboratory hours.

Prerequisite: MUS 127 or equivalent, or permission of instructor.

MUS 227 Applied Piano Minor IV - 1 Credit

A continuation of practical keyboard studies at the advanced intermediate (collegiate) level of study. Continued development of keyboard skills including SATB vocal score reading, harmonization, improvisation, transposition, and modulation. Instrumental score reading and instrumental accompaniment. Spring semester only. One and one-half laboratory hours.

Prerequisite: MUS 226 or equivalent, or permission of instructor.

MUS 229 MIDI Recording Techniques II - 3 Credits

This course is a continuation of MUS 129 class and lab, using computer-based sequencing software connected to synthesizer keyboards and other related devices. Lecture and demonstration of more advanced parameters of software used will be studied and applied. Musical factors such as composition, arranging, and song forms will be discussed to further the overall finished production of students' projects. Basic keyboard/theory proficiency are required. Offered every Spring Semester. Three class hours.

Prerequisite: MUS 129.

MUS 231 Studio Production II - 3 Credits

A continuation of MUS 131. This course offers more in-depth study and application of recording instruments and vocals using microphones, digital multi-track recorders, effects units, 24-channel recording console, DAT (digital audio tape) and CD-R (compact disk) recorders, computer hard disk recording and editing, and MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) synthesizers. Musical production techniques as well as technical concepts will be discussed to provide the student with an understanding of the entire recording and production process. Offered every Spring Semester. Three class hours.

Prerequisite(s): MUS 129 and MUS 131.

MUS 253 Music Business - 3 Credits

This course will introduce the student to the different facets of the music business. The course will aim to increase the participant's knowledge of the inner workings of the business, as well as how they relate to one another. Areas of concentration are music publishing, income sources, recording studios, copyrights, recording companies, and other related avenues. Whether the student wants a career in teaching or performing, this course will give an overview of some of the things to expect. Three class hours.

MUS 259 Aural Skills III 1 Credit

This course is a continuation of Aural Skills II. It reinforces Music Theory concepts and develops skills in sight singing as well as melodic and rhythmic dictation.

Prerequisite: MUS 160 or permission of instructor; corequisite: MUS 209 or permission of instructor

MUS 260 Aural Skills IV 1 Credit

This course is a continuation of Aural Skills III. It reinforces Music Theory concepts and develops skills in sight singing as well as melodic and rhythmic dictation.

Prerequisite: MUS 259 or permission of instructor; corequisite: MUS 210 or permission of instructor

MUS 290 Independent Study - Variable Credit

See the Department Chairperson.