

Music Appreciation & Performance I
Fall 2011, F Block Classroom: Room 212
Instructor: Eric de Lora Office Hours: Friday Lunch
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I know I'm no glamour girl, and it's not easy for me to get up in front of a crowd of people. It used to bother me a lot, but now I've got it figured out that God gave me this talent to use, so I just stand there and sing... and the only thing better than singing is more singing.

ELLA FITZGERALD, singer

Music is everybody's possession. It's only publishers who think that people own it.

JOHN LENNON, composer

Music doesn't lie. If there is something to be changed in this world, then it can only happen through music.

JIMI HENDRIX, guitarist

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is about experiencing music: thinking it, creating it, rehearsing it and performing it as well as listening to it, reading about it, and talking about it. Enjoy!

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Goals:

1. To fully understand and participate in the process of music-making.
2. To engage in an active, critical inquiry into the nature and role of music and its place in history.
3. To gain an increased understanding of the nature and the interpretation of primary and secondary musical and historical sources.
4. To evaluate effective musical choices by watching professional music performances.

Outcomes

Performance Skills:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to read and notate music.
2. Map musical events in a piece of music.
2. Working in small groups, students will organize, compose, perform and record one or more piece(s) for instrumentalists.
 - a. Students will demonstrate musical skills to perform a varied repertoire.
 - b. Students will demonstrate the skills to compose, arrange and/or improvise music for others.
3. Working in small groups, students will organize, compose, perform and record one or more piece(s) for vocalists.
 - a. Students will demonstrate musical skills to perform a varied repertoire.
 - b. Students will demonstrate the skills to compose, arrange and/or improvise music for others.

Appreciation Skills:

1. Identify and explain the music genres: Folk, Popular, Musical Theatre, Jazz and Rock.
2. Identify and explain different arrangement of known songs.
3. Identify and explain different dance styles.
4. Identify and explain different styles of musical theatre.
5. Identify and explain the music and the role it plays in a favorite film.
6. Write an essay on the current musical styles in America and the role it is playing in shaping our culture, if any.

COURSE MATERIALS

- Instrument
- Music, as assigned
- One blank notebook with ample supply of lined notebook paper
- Pencil, pen or other writing instrument

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: What Is American Music?

Week 2: Musical Elements: Melody, Rhythm, Meter, Harmony, Texture, Form,

Week 3: Folk (pre-1900 to today): Music of the People

Week 4: Popular (1900-1950): Tin Pan Alley and the Great American Songbook

Week 5: Popular (1950-today): Easy Listening to the Oldies

Week 6: Jazz (1900-1945): Ragtime, Blues, Dixieland, Swing

Week 7: Jazz (1945-today): Bebop, Cool, West Coast, Free Jazz

Week 8: Musical Theatre I: Musical Comedies from 1900-1960

Week 9: Musical Theatre II Musical Dramas from the 1940s to the 1990s

Week 10: Musical Theatre III The concept and Juke Box Age: 1960-2010

Week 11: R&R I: Rock and Roll in the 1950s

Week 12: R&R II: Rock in the 1960s: the Beatles, the Stones & Beyond

Week 13: R&R III: Disco, Punk, Metal and Beyond

Week 14: Film Music: 1929-2009

Week 15: What about now? (Rap, Hip-Hop, et al)

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The only way to improve as a performer is to perform, and that also includes composers and improvisers. Everyone performs something—either a solo or as a small group.

With that in mind:

1. Perform at one (1) *Wednesday All School* meeting a solo or group piece of your choice.
2. Perform at *Moments Musicaux* (Concert), November 4 at 7 PM, a solo or group piece of your choice.
3. Perform at the *December Jam* during lunch, December 9 at 11:45 AM.
4. Perform at the *January Jam* during lunch, January 6 at 11:45 AM.

The only way to improve as an appreciator is to spend time thinking, reading, listening about music, and that also includes composers and improvisers. Everyone will “heighten their understanding” and perception of music by:

1. Write a **3-5 page essay** on a current musical style in America and the role it is playing in shaping our culture, if any.
2. Attend **two (2) professional concerts** outside of class over the course of this semester and write a **2-3 page concert review on each one** (similar to what you read in the New York Times). Please ask me if you have questions about suitable concerts or events.
3. Write an **8-10 page research paper** on a musical style in America (Folk, Popular, Musical Theatre, Jazz, Rock, etc.). This may include a sub-genre, performer, composer, or any other aspect of interest to you, and should be different from the style chosen for the essay.

EVALUATION

Your final grade will come from:

20% Classroom participation/discussion

40% Performance activities (10% for each of 4 events)

10% Essay

10% Concert critiques

20% Research Paper

PRACTICES (thanks to Dave Ramin):

Regular attendance and active participation in class are vitally important to both you and your classmates. See Maybeck HS Attendance policy for guidelines. More than two unexcused absences will lower your grade. Tardiness is unacceptable and will also lower your grade. If you know you will miss a class, let me know by phone and/or e-mail immediately.

I hope you feel welcome in this class and help make others feel welcome too. It should be an intriguing class and I hope you have a positive, rewarding and even exciting time this semester. If not, please let me know. Never hesitate to talk with me before or after class, during office hours or any other time we can

arrange. My email is at the top of this syllabus for you to use. With this in mind, the primary rule in class is: Everyone, Everything Treated with RESPECT. Meaning:

- No personal put downs or purposefully hurtful comments.
- You can sit next to who you want to unless you get distracted.
- Do not disrupt the class. Comments on topic are cool – conversations off to the side and random comments are not.
- No one should have to raise their voice to be heard.
- Take care of the room and of each other.

Please come to class prepared. Meaning:

- Have your music, notebook, and a pencil or pen in hand, ready to learn.
- Go to the bathroom, eat snacks and get a drink before or after class. Our time together is limited and leaving the class will be disruptive and will often mean missing something important.

Always remember: Understanding something is not necessarily agreeing with it.