

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
MUSL 138/238/338/438
COMPOSITION
SPRING 2018

Dr. Arthur Houle Office MPAC 130

Office Hours: As posted on office door, or by appointment

Class time (MPAC 130): Tues 3:30 to 5 PM (three consecutive sessions for the three students enrolled; all are welcome to attend the entire 90 minutes)

+ supplementary individual sessions as needed/requested, by appointment

208.343.4320

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Course Description

Students study music composition on a weekly basis. Various topics will be addressed depending on ability levels and individual interests.

Continuation of the study of Bela Bartok's Six-volume *Mikrokosmos*, which is, in essence, a primer on compositional techniques.

Special focus on sonata form: understanding the form so as to write a Clementi-style sonatina as final project.

Classes may also entail "hands on" learning and demonstrating musicianship skills at the piano (skills essential to being well-rounded musicians and composing). Since improvisation is, in effect, composition at high speed, classes will also involve improvisation.

Course Rationale

The student will gain skills and knowledge necessary for creating works of music from the basic elements of music, including pitch, harmony, rhythm, and form. Composition is (along with improvisation) one of the primary vehicles for musical creativity and can be a vital component of any musician's career, whether it be in composition, arranging, performance, or teaching.

Course Objectives and Outcomes

Students will improve their abilities to shape musical fragments into works of music, using concepts of musical development such as motive, repetition, variation, phrase structure, and form. To varying degrees based on ability, students will work towards ultimately achieving a unique compositional style and voice.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes

Applied piano and composition are akin pedagogically (and usually concurrent); both adhere to the following learning outcomes (see also Program Student Learning Outcome below):

4. Identify assumptions, evaluate hypotheses or alternative views, articulate implications, and formulate conclusions (intellectual skills – critical thinking)

Program Student Learning Outcome

As a result of several consecutive semesters of applied piano study, students will become well-rounded performers, able to proficiently perform and, in most cases, teach either privately and/or in institutional settings. As a result of this long-term learning process, students in applied piano will:

1. Develop and express music judgments through solo performances

Assessment

Grades will be based on progress and implementation of suggestions and assignments. The final grade will be negatively affected by absences as described in the attendance policy below. See also immediately below re: public performances of compositions.

Recital Hour/Studio Master Class, Concert Attendance, and Composition Performances

All music majors are required to attend the weekly recital hour or studio master class at 3:00PM every Wednesday. Music majors are also required to attend approved concerts each semester they are enrolled as full-time students. Please consult the Music Student Handbook for the exact policy; completion of this requirement is tracked via your registration in MUSA 101.

By the second semester of study (with any instructor), students in Composition will be expected to arrange for at least one performance of an original composition during a recital hour, scheduled concert, Wednesday Music Club competition (see below) and/or community venue (e.g., for local senior citizen residences such as Aspen Ridge*). First semester students are also highly encouraged to perform (or arrange to have someone else perform) one or more works publicly. Failure to have a work performed (after 1st semester) will result in the final grade being lowered one letter grade.

***Highly recommended community performance venue:**

- 5/5/18 10 AM Aspen Ridge Alzheimers Care Facility, Grand Junction

Attendance Policy

No excused absences will be granted except for Colorado Mesa University sponsored events, and classes cannot be rescheduled due to lack of preparation or failure to appear. Each unexcused absence may result in a full letter-grade drop for the semester. Students who accumulate four or more unexcused absences will receive a failing grade. Students should arrive to classes on time; excessive tardiness may also result in grade reduction. In case of an emergency or serious illness, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. In order for any legitimate absence to be excused, the student must, if at all possible, contact the instructor *before* the scheduled lesson time.

Musician's Safety and Health

The CMU Music Department is committed to informing students of health and safety issues inherent to performing and listening to music. This includes but is not limited to students taking responsibility for safely maintaining hearing, vocal and musculoskeletal health as well as injury prevention. While these topics will be addressed during applied lessons and master classes, ultimately it is the responsibility of each student to take action.

Students should consult the Student Resources page on the Music Department website for links to useful and important information.

Withdrawal Statement

Regular class attendance is expected. CMU is required by law to verify the enrollment of students who participate in Federal Title IV student aid programs and/or who receive educational benefits through other funding sources. CMU is responsible for identifying students who have not attended or logged into a class for which they are registered. At the conclusion of the first week of a semester, instructors will report any registered students who have "Never Attended" a class so that those reported students will be administratively withdrawn from that class. However, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw, using the appropriate CMU form, from any class which she/he is no longer attending or risk receiving a failing grade in that class. Student's wishing to withdraw must complete and submit the appropriate CMU form by the established withdrawal deadline.

General Student Services Educational Access Services:

If you are a student with a documented physical or learning disability and need an accommodation for this class, you must contact the Educational Access Services Office, 248-1801, at the start of the semester.

The **Tutorial Learning Center (TLC)** is a **FREE** academic service for all Colorado Mesa University students. Tutors are available on a walk-in basis for many courses. Do you have a quick question? Do you need homework clarification or feedback on a paper? Are you reviewing for a test? Help is available at the TLC!

At the main campus, come to Houston Hall 113 to meet with one of our friendly peer tutors. We are open on Monday through Thursday from 8am-6pm and Fridays from 8am-5pm. We are also open Sundays from 1pm-6pm! Tutoring at branch campuses and distance tutoring is also available. Check out the website for schedules and locations at www.coloradomesa.edu/tutoring or call (970) 248-1392 with any questions.

Research Assistance at the Tomlinson Library:

CMU's librarians love helping students find the right books and articles for any purpose, and will help you understand assignments and cite the articles and images that you use in your papers. We are here for you! Find us: in the Library at the Research Help Desk; 24/7 at coloradomesa.edu/library; by email at library@coloradomesa.edu; or at 970.248.1860.

Student Services:

The Office of Student Services works to support CMU students in all aspects of college life, by offering a vast array of services, resources and programs that make each student's time at Colorado Mesa University as exciting and successful as possible. Student Services works collaboratively with faculty, students, and staff to create a campus community that fosters the growth of students as strong individuals and productive citizens. To learn more, go to <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/student-services>.

Financial Aid:

Financial aid staff is dedicated to assisting you in sorting through the various forms of student financial aid. We believe that by helping you take advantage of a variety of available resources, you will find an education at Colorado Mesa University is attainable. Our office is located in the lower level of Lowell Heiny Hall, Room 116. Our phone number is (970)248-1396, or you may contact us via email at financialaid@coloradomesa.edu

Advising Center:

Advisors can assist students with course selection and registration, major exploration, and identifying strategies for academic success. The Advising Center is committed to promoting academic success and in facilitating students to attain their educational goals. We are located in Lowell Heiny Hall, on the lower level, room 127. Our phone number is (970)248-1177, or toll free at 1-800-982-6372 (option #7 or extension 1177). Our FAX number is (970)248-1267. You can also reach us via email at advising@coloradomesa.edu. Appointments are scheduled from 9:00 to 4:00, Monday through Friday. Please call a week or two in advance of your desired appointment date to schedule. Bring your picture ID, as failure to do so may result in a rescheduled appointment.

Business and Financial Services Office:

The Business and Financial Services Office is located in the lower level of Lowell Heiny Hall. Our staff is available to assist you Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, MST. Our phone number is (970)248-1567, our FAX number is (970)248-1136, or you may contact us via email at businessoffice@coloradomesa.edu.