

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
MUSP 145/245/345/445
Chamber Ensemble (Piano)
Fall 2019

Dr. Arthur Houle
Office MPAC 130

Office Hours: As posted on office door, or by appointment
Class coaching times, as assigned to duos (MPAC 130): W 1:00 – 2:00
+ additional hour with duo partner
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Course Description

Study and perform a variety of 4-hand, 2-piano, 3-piano and/or repertory for piano with instrumentalist(s).

Some repertory may be played purely for sight-reading experience; other works will be performed publicly.

Topics addressed will include stylistic considerations such as rhythm, articulation, pedaling and phrasing; ensemble interaction/unity, balance, and blend; historical context; and rehearsal/performance protocols and techniques.

Course Rationale

Participation in chamber music ensembles is critical for the development of well-rounded musicianship skills, including listening, blending, playing together, and preparation. Ensemble experience also serves to improve a student's awareness of various styles and traditions and is indispensable for future music educators who may ultimately direct their own chamber ensembles. Furthermore, pianists with collaborative experience (as compared to soloists) are more likely to find employment in the music field upon graduation.

Course Format

Weekly coachings & performances.

Course Objectives and Outcomes

The student's performance and musicianship skills will improve as a result of performing in ensemble(s).

Students will demonstrate improvement, via group performance, in the following abilities:

1. Stylistic interpretation
2. Sense of rhythm
3. Listening
4. Balance and blend
5. Ability to perform cohesively with other musicians
6. Individual preparation
7. Piano technique
8. Stylistically aware creative embellishing and/or improvising when appropriate (e.g., jazz/pop or Baroque music with repeats)

Expectations/Time Commitment

High level of preparation of pieces selected for performance. Students should commit to *team* practice every week, along with solo practice to get the basics (notes, fingerings, dynamics, etc.) mastered. Assignments will be commensurate with each student's ability, potential and program of study. We cannot reach our full potential in the ensemble unless all members prepare their parts diligently outside of class time. The amount of outside class time practice needed will vary according on individual abilities and the level of the repertory. Rehearsal time is best used to work on refining our ensemble performance, not learning notes and rhythms. (As Franz Liszt would say, "Clean your dirty laundry at home.")

CMU general expectations statement (see also "Practicing" below):

An undergraduate student should expect to spend on this course a minimum of two hours outside the classroom for every hour in the classroom. The outside hours may vary depending on the number of credit hours or type of course. More details are available from the faculty member or department office and in CMU's [Curriculum Policies & Procedures Manual](http://www.coloradomesa.edu/facsenate/documents/CurriculumPoliciesandProceduresManualApril262012.pdf) (<http://www.coloradomesa.edu/facsenate/documents/CurriculumPoliciesandProceduresManualApril262012.pdf>).

Practicing

Practicing outside of class is essential for success. Two hours per week of practice is stipulated by the CMU statement above. It is highly recommended that you exceed this, however, especially early in the semester. Early semester practicing might be mostly you working out things on your own. As the semester progresses, however, more and more of your practicing will need to be with your ensemble partner(s).

When assigned a new piece, please complete the "prep" work ASAP:

- **Fingerings** (Within the *first* week, have at least a page or two marked with your fingerings)
- **Chords** (Write in chord analysis – at least a page per week.)
- **Blocks** (Mark off "blocks" where appropriate – at least a page per week.)
- **Phrases** (Are they all 4-bar phrases? Indicate all phrases with a slightly elongated bar line.)
- **Form** (ABA? Binary? Sonata? Rondo?, etc. Mark all sections of pieces.)

Borrowed Materials

If you borrow any materials from the instructor, you are responsible for returning (or reimbursing for cost, or replacing) all items by semester's end. Failure to do so may result in the withholding of your grade.

Assessment/Grading/Attendance

Final grades will be determined based on the following:

Attendance: 10% (Unexcused absences may lower your grade, especially if work is not made up.)

Performance(s): 90%:

All students must perform in at least one of the following:

- 11/20/19, 7:30 PM Student Chamber Ensembles Recital, Warehouse, GJ
- 12/7/19, 10 AM Aspen Ridge Alzheimers Care Facility, Grand Junction
- Cappella of Grand Junction Senior Living – day & time TBA
and/or
- Other campus and/or community venue(s) as approved by instructor

Recommended additional performance(s):

- **One or more Recital Hours (preferably in Recital Hall)**
(*highly* recommended, especially for performance majors)

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 second 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. Students wishing to withdraw must complete and submit the appropriate CMU form to the Registrar's Office by the established withdrawal deadline found on CMU's website.

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, 248-1856, at the start of the semester.

Tutorial Learning Center: TLC in HH 113

The 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 248-1392 with any questions.

The Writing Center HH 223

The Writing Center serves students across all disciplines and various stages of the writing process. We provide support for students to assimilate into the writing conventions of the university and their specific academic disciplines. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 10-5 pm. Tutoring in writing will be located at branch campus also. Workshops for students in APA/MLA and English Language Learner small group tutoring are available.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes:**Institutional:**

By effectively practicing assigned parts, rehearsing, and performing, this class will, in effect:

- Construct a summative project, paper or practiced-based performance that draws on current research, scholarship and/or techniques, and specialized knowledge in the discipline (applied learning; specialized knowledge)

Program/Department level:

Develop and express music judgments through solo performances (Intellectual Skills - Critical Thinking)

Specific to this course:

Upon completion of this course, students must be able to:

- Perform piano ensemble literature (works for 4 or more hands on 1, 2, or 3 pianos) at venue(s)/level(s) commensurate with their programs of study as outlined in the CMU [Piano Handbook](#) (see [Student Resources](#) page at www.coloradomesa.edu/music/StudentResources.html).
- Required performances (see below for dates) will demonstrate:
 - Musical interpretation appropriate to the style period of each piece
 - Preparation and technique sufficient for successful musical performances

CMU addendum for 145-245 levels:

YOUR SUCCESS AT COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY OR WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The faculty and staff are glad you have elected to attend Colorado Mesa University or Western Colorado Community College and want you to succeed in achieving your academic goals. The following information is shared with you to enhance the likelihood that you will be successful.

1. Attend class.

Institutional research shows that class attendance and participation are closely linked to your success as a student (i.e., the better your attendance, the better your grade is likely to be). When you are always present, you will understand the course content and how it contributes to your growth as a college student. You are required to attend this class regularly, adhering to the attendance policy established in this course syllabus by your instructor. Additionally, you should review the Attendance Policy of the institution's [Catalog](#) for further details on expectations. For online courses, check with your instructor and/or class syllabus for expectations delivered in that format.

2. Prepare for and participate in class.

It takes more than showing up for class to succeed. You need to be prepared to actively participate in class. Your instructor has given you a schedule of course topics for the semester, along with readings and/or activities that should be completed prior to coming to class. If you aren't clear about these expectations, talk with your instructor. In general, you should follow the 2:1 rule: two hours of study/homework time for every 1 hour of classroom time. This can vary some from week to week, but on average, most instructors will assume you are putting in the time and keeping pace with the class. So make the effort to stay current and don't leave everything to the end of the term.

By meeting deadlines and managing your time wisely, you will get much more from the class and earn higher grades. Assume that faculty members will not accept late homework and don't offer extra credit assignments. Some may – and by reviewing the syllabus you will know their policies – but instructors have no obligation to do so. A final note. If you need help with study skills, time management, note-taking and the like, consider registering for SUPP 101, a course that helps first-year students with their transition to college life.

3. Use technology to support your success.

All members of this class are expected to show respect to each other and to contribute to a positive academic learning environment of the class. Please turn off cellphones or set them to silent when you are in class. Text messaging, checking email, working on social networking sites, and performing non-class related activities on any electronic device (cell phone, laptop, iPad, etc.) is disruptive and not acceptable behavior during the class session. Check your course syllabus for the consequence of using these devices during class time.

4. Take advantage of campus resources.

We offer numerous academic support resources to help you. The staff of [Tomlinson Library](#) can assist you with finding information resources either in person or online. The [Tutorial Learning Center](#) offers *free, walk-in* tutoring for a wide variety of subjects. Maybe it's just a math problem that's not making sense, or perhaps having a peer take a look at your assignment is what you need. The TLC can help with the smallest issue or provide you with tutoring if you have a particularly challenging course. Get help before a small problem becomes a big one. Stop by and see the services they offer, most of which are provided by other students. If your semester gets a little overwhelming, contact the [Office of Student Services](#) for assistance. Need to engage in some activity outside of classes? Stop by the [Maverick Center](#) for a good workout, or find students with some similar interests by joining a [student club](#).

5. Build relationships with your instructors, advisor, and other students.

- a. Your best guidance for success will come from your instructors, and research tells us that your interactions with faculty members is the most important determinate in college success. Instructors genuinely want you to be successful and will do what they can to help you reach your goals. Locate their contact information on the syllabus and store that information in your phone. Each instructor keeps office hours that they set aside to meet with students. If you cannot meet during their office hours, schedule an appointment in advance. For more information on why you should get to know your instructor, go to *Why You Should Meet Your College Professors at:* <http://www.cliffsnotes.com/Section/id-310989,articleId-122943.html>.
- b. Plan to meet with your advisor at least once a semester. At a minimum, consult with your advisor on your schedule for the next semester before registration opens. Popular required courses fill quickly, so if you delay registration, you might not get your preferred courses and could possibly delay your graduation. Advisors provide valuable assistance in determining which courses you need to take for your degree and the best order to take courses. Advisors can also direct you to the most appropriate networks when you are in need of assistance.

If you do not know the name of your advisor, log into MAVzone:

<http://luminis.mesastate.edu/cp/home/loginf> and click on the Student Academics tab. Scroll down the Academic Profile column to Advisors; directly email your advisor by clicking on the envelope icon.

- c. Connect with other students in all your classes. You and your peers have similar goals and will face similar challenges; this can help you feel less alone in solving problems. Being active in a study group can enrich your understanding of course materials and can provide extra motivation and support to succeed. Learn more about the value of creating a study group at *Fight for First Year in College: Form Study Groups at:* http://www.academictips.org/acad/first_year/formstudygroups.html

6. Use financial aid wisely.

Be aware that your decisions about attending class and considering whether to add or drop a class can affect your financial aid. Discuss potential changes with your advisor before making them. You must complete at least 12 credit hours each semester to be considered full-time, often a requirement to receive financial aid. Part-time students should check with the [Office of Financial Aid](#) for credit hour requirements. Audited classes do not count for enrollment purposes.

To retain your aid for the next term, you are required to make satisfactory academic progress toward your degree and maintain the following minimum grade point averages below. **If you receive all F's for one term, you will be suspended from financial aid and must repay all Title IV funds.**

Cumulative Credit Hours Earned	Minimum GPA
1 to 15	1.70
16 to 30	1.80
31 to 45	1.90
46+	2.00

To remain eligible to receive financial aid, students must be successfully completing 75% of classes attempted. Aid will be suspended until the student successfully increases the completion rate to 75%. Be sure to report any changes in your enrollment, residency status, or receipt of additional resources in writing to the Office of Financial Aid. Financial aid is not available if you have not graduated from your program but exceed the total undergraduate cumulative hours as show below.

Baccalaureate degree:	170 hours
Associate degree:	80 hours
One-year certificate:	40 hours