Piano Ensemble Class – MUN 3453 (1 credit)

Monday 11:30AM - 12:20PM in Rehearsal Hall and/or M110

Instructor: Dr. Yun-Ling Hsu-Casimir
Classroom: Rehearsal Hall and/or M110
Office: PAC - M 110
Office Hours: TBA or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Piano Ensemble is a study of the collaborative piano, which a pianist works in
collaboration with one or more instrumentalists or singers. Collaborative piano is a term
that implies equality and teamwork. Students will be assigned with piano duet/ duo/ trio
works with musical partners at their level and/ or assigned with accompany in vocal and
instrumental. Students will practice assigned works regularly with their partners and
perform together in front of the class. At the end of the semester, all students will present
their works in final concert(s) to live audiences. Additionally, students will develop their
sight-reading skills through practicing ensemble pieces and sight-reading materials.
Sight-reading will be tested in the final examination.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
1. Becoming familiar with and perform collaborative piano repertoire;
2. Sight-read fluently at the keyboard;
3. Master the technical and musical aspects of the collaborative piano.

SUGGESTED BOOKS:
1. Accompanying Basics / by Joyce Grill;
2. The Art of Accompanying and Coaching / by Kurt Adler;

SUGGESTED SIGHT-READING MATERIALS:
1. Hymn Tunes for the Reluctant Organist arranged by Janette Cooper/ Oxford University Press
   (easy to moderate) by Konrad Max Kunz
3. Mikrokosmos Book - Level 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (easy to difficult) by Bela Bartok
4. 371 Four Part Chorals for Organ or Piano, Book 1 & 2 (moderate to difficult) by J. S. Bach
5. Hymnal

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6. Choral Music
7. Score Reading
8. Other sight-reading books or practices on internet
9. See more website links in “Free Resources” section at the end of this syllabus.

SUGGESTED WEBSITES:
1. Required and Preferred Skills for the Collaborative Pianist:
2. Skills for an accompanist:
   http://www.marthabeth.com/accompanist.html

DAILY PRACTICE REQUIREMENT:
A minimum of 2 hours of consistent daily practice (including sight-reading practice) is required. Regular, daily practice is more important than practicing long periods of time only a couple of times per week. Good practice is:

   - playing very slowly
   - playing hands separately
   - repeating difficult spots over and over until they are correct
   - not always starting at the beginning of the music

Good practice always produces good results, with a little bit of progress day-by-day.

“Amateurs practice until they get it right; professionals practice until they can’t get it wrong.”

“Daily Diligence in the practice room leads to correctness, and correctness breeds consistency breeds confidence.”

CRITERIA FOR GRADING:
- **Class Attendance** (required class attendance; optional attendance for performances by Dr. Hsu and piano students’): 25%
- **Performance of Ensemble Pieces** (individual student’s progress will be graded, also grade on weekly preparation, and overall consistency and rate of progress): 50%
- **Sight-reading Final Exam** (also grade on weekly preparation, and overall consistency and rate of progress): 20%
- **Writing Assignment**: 5%

ENSEMBLE REPERTOIRE:
General Rules
BM/ BME students require performing at least 3-4 pieces/movements and BA students require at least 2-3 pieces/movements within one semester. The difficulty level and the amount of the pieces is depending upon the student’s level and will be approved by the instructor. Each selected piece should not last more than 15 minutes. Each student will be assigned with one or more partners and is required to rehearse together with assigned partner(s) at least twice per week.
SPRING OF 2017 PIANO ENSEMBLE CLASS PROJECTS:
1. Instrumental or Voice Accompanying / Chamber Music Collaboration
   Selected students will be accompanying instrumental or vocal students. One pianist will be assigned one specific instrumental/voice student or a chamber music group to work with for the semester. The pianist will practice assigned music and practice weekly with the student/group, and also to accompany him/her/the group in lessons, masterclasses, area recitals, forums, and jury. Then, both will perform together on April 17 in the “Piano Studio & Ensemble Concert” in Rehearsal Hall.

2. Piano Duet, Duo, 2 Pianos 8 Hands Music
   Selected students will practice piano duet, duo, and/or 2 pianos 8 hands with one or more partner(s) and perform on April 17 Piano Ensemble Concert.

3. Large Ensemble Accompanying (wind, orchestra, percussion, etc.)
   Selected student(s) will practice with the large ensemble rehearsals and concerts.

SPRING of 2017 “PIANO STUDIO & ENSEMBLE CONCERT” – April 8, Saturday at 8:00-9:45PM “Piano Studio and Ensemble Concert” in the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Orlando.
All piano studio and ensemble students will perform ensemble music in the concert to live audiences in the Dr. Phillips Center. Dress rehearsal is Wednesday, April 5 @ 6:00 to 10:00pm in Dr. Phillips, and pre-concert sound-check starts @ 5:00 to 7:30pm.

ENSEMBLE REPERTOIRE LIST
Ensemble repertoire for this semester has been distributed to all students via emails on December 11 and January 9. For other recommended collaborative works (1 piano/4 hands, 1 piano/6 hands, 2 pianos/4 hands, and 2 pianos/8 hands), please see the “Ensemble Repertoire List” (Ask Dr. Hsu for a copy).

WRITING ASSIGNMENT:
Complete a paper (minimum one-full page typed) with topics related to piano ensemble/collaborative and will be approved by the instructor. Possible topics: “What did you learn from piano ensemble class this semester?” or “Your goal as a collaborative pianist – list a specific area(s) you want to focus on (for example: vocal/ instrumental accompanying, vocal/ opera coaching, choir/ orchestral pianist, dance accompanist)”

Note –
A is Superior (100.00-90.00=A)
B is Excellent (89.99-80.00=B)
C is Average (79.99-70.00=C)
D is Poor (69.99-60.00=D)
Less than a D is unacceptable for music majors.

ATTENDANCE:
Weekly class attendance are required. Attendance for performances by Dr. Hsu and piano students are strongly encouraged but not required (see performance dates in the tentative course calendar at the end of this syllabus). Prompt consistent class
attendance is required. ONE excused absence is allowed without penalty. Any additional unexcused absences must be accompanied by medical documentation, by prearrangement, or will result in the lowering of the student’s final grade by one-half letter grade. Tardiness is unacceptable. The first tardiness infraction will result in a warning. Each additional tardiness infraction will result in the lowering of the student’s final grade by one-half letter grade.

No other excuses of any kind, including work, car problems, childcare issues, etc., will be accepted. If your work or other personal issues do not allow you to attend class at the scheduled times, you should consider withdrawal from the course.

MAKE-UP EXAM/ PERFORMANCE:
Students are required to be present for all exams/ performances. When a student must miss an exam/ performance due to emergencies or illness, I request at least 24-hour advance notice. Make-up exam/performance will be allowed only in the following cases, all of which require documentation:
1. Sustained illness requiring treatment by a physician. (Produce a note from the attending physician)
2. Death in the immediate family within the week prior to the exam. (Copy of the obituary required)
3. Officially sanctioned UCF activities in which you are a regular team or group member. (Produce a note from the sponsor or coach)
All make-up exams/ performances must be scheduled within a week of the absence, and will be administered at the convenience of the instructor.

RECORDING ACADEMIC ACTIVITY – Very Important!!
All faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, the instructor will TAKE AN ATTENDANCE in Webcourses@UCF (Canvas) during the first week of class after you add the course and you may receive a message about it from the instructor. If this message requires a reply from the students, you must complete it no later than Friday, January 13. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A DELAY IN THE DISBURSEMENT OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID.

FREE RESOURCES:
• Collaborative Piano:
  Required and Preferred Skills for the Collaborative Pianist:
  Skills for an accompanist:
  http://www.marthabeth.com/accompanist.html

  • Free Public Domain Sheet Music: http://www.imslp.org/
  • Sight-reading:
  10 Ways of improving your sight reading skills:
  http://www.musictheory.net/
  http://www.emusictheory.com/ - click “Free Resources”
http://www.sightreadingpractice.com/
http://www.practicesightreading.com/
http://gmajormusictheory.org/Freebies/freebies.html - This website has some terrific short arrangements for sight-reading practice.

- Metronome:
http://webmetronome.com/

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:
(Also, see a complete dates and schedules in a separated calendar of “Piano Department Recitals, Performances & Events”.)

Week 1: Jan. 9 – Dr. Hsu is absent due to her trip to Beijing, China. No class (Practice on your own)

Week 2: Jan. 16 – Martin Luther King Day, no class (Practice on your own)

Week 3: Jan. 28, Saturday at 7:00PM in VAB Auditorium – the Third Annual “UCF Piano Day - André Laplante Piano Recital”

Week 4: Jan. 29, Sunday at 11:30AM-2:00PM in RH – “UCF Piano Day - André Laplante Piano Masterclass”

Week 7: February 23, Thursday at 8:00PM in RH – Faculty Chamber Recital
Dr. Hsu performs with Keith Koons, clarinet, Si-Yan Darren Li, cello, for a clarinet sonata and a trio by Brahmas.

Week 10: March 13-18 – Spring Break, no class

Week 11: March 21, Tuesday at 8:00PM in RH – Collide Contemporary Music Series: Faculty Chamber Recital
Dr. Hsu performs with Dr. Nora Lee Garcia, Dr. Keith Koons for a premier performance of a new trio piece (for flute, clarinet & piano) by Pierre Jalbert

March 22 – Withdraw Deadline

Week 13: April 8, Saturday at 8:00-9:45PM “Piano Studio and Ensemble Concert” in the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Orlando.
All piano studio and ensemble students will perform ensemble music in the concert to live audiences in the Dr. Phillips Center. Dress rehearsal is Wednesday, April 5 @ 6:00 to 10:00pm in Dr. Phillips, and pre-concert sound-check starts @ 5:00 to 7:30pm.

Week 16: April 24 – Classes end; FINAL EXAM: Sight-reading exam & Writing Assignment Due
April 25 – Study Day, no class

*Instructor reserves the right to alter syllabus, elements or topic of the course based upon the needs of the class*