



Fine Arts Center

Percussion Advanced II-IV

2011-2012 Course Syllabus

School Name: The Greenville Fine Arts Center

Course Name: FAC Percussion Advanced II-IV

Instructor: Gary A. Robinson, D.M.A.

Office Room Number: Suite #126

Phone number and extension: 864-355-2568

Email Address: grobinso@greenville.k12.sc.us

Class Time: 1:30-2:25 m-f

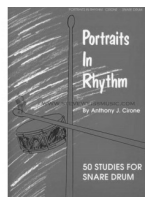
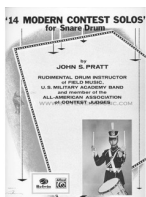
Course Description

Percussion Advanced II-IV brings together skilled, experienced percussionists with one to three years of percussion training at the Fine Arts Center. Students entering the class do so having excelled in rudimental and concert snare drum, two and four-mallet marimba, timpani, and drumset. While some members of the class are preparing for college auditions, others simply wish to achieve in and experience percussion playing on a significantly high level. Given the students' in-depth backgrounds and the constraints of time and classroom space, the course will address each of these fundamental captions in percussion playing, as it is possible to do so:

- Concert and rudimental snare drum
 - Two and four-mallet marimba
 - Timpani
 - Drumset (probably individual projects)
- Standard percussion battery instruments such as bass drum, cymbals, and triangle, especially as they as used in percussion ensemble
- Mallet percussion ensemble

Grading terms I and III will focus on technique and repertoire for snare drum, mallet percussion, timpani and, as much as we are able, drum set. A typical Term I/III week might progress as follows: Monday = class snare drum work; Tuesday = class mallet percussion work; Wednesday = individual studio time; Thursday = timpani and review; Friday = in-class performances and master classes. In term II, special attention is paid to solo repertoire needed for college auditions, as well as auditions for County, Region, and State band festivals. (ALL Percussion Advanced II-IV are required to prepare for and to take January auditions for these band festivals.) Time permitting, the class will also rehearsal one percussion ensemble and/or mallet percussion ensemble work for performance in FAC's December showcase and our January percussion recital. Term IV is similarly dedicated to preparing solo and ensemble repertoire for performances in May. A typical Term IV week might progress as follows: Monday = percussion ensemble; Tuesday = mallet percussion ensemble; Wednesday = individual studio time; Thursday = percussion ensemble; Friday = mallet percussion ensemble

Required Textbooks



- Pratt, John S.: 14 Modern Contest Solos for Snare Drum; Belwin (Warner Brothers Publications)
- Cirone, Anthony; Portraits in Rhythm, Alfred Music

- Ford, Mark: Technique Through Music; published by Innovative Percussion, Inc.OR
- Schmitt, Matthias: Sechs Miniaturen für Marimba Solo
- "Masterpieces for Marimba," arranged by Thomas McMillan (Alfred Publishing Company).

Fee

There a \$25 fee expected from each participating student. This fee will come back to students in the form of materials purchased for them throughout the year.

Required Materials And Equipment



- a drum set
- a Remo practice pad and stand. The stand is mandatory, as all of our manual development is undertaken standing.
- a metronome and a set of earphones, such as the outstanding Boss DB-30 Dr. Beat Pocket Size Metronome. STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN METRONOMES FOR PRACTICING AT FAC.
- hearing protection (foam inserts or muffs)
- one pair of Cooperman Nick Petrella snare drum sticks or the Innovative Percussion CL-2L, available online at vendors
- one pair of lightweight drum set sticks, such as almost any 5a or 7a or the equivalent stick with a wooden bead. Please do not buy nylon-tipped sticks.
- a music stand
- highly recommended: a mirror, like the kind you can purchase cheaply from a discount store



(Walmart, Kmart, etc.) the drummer can use to watch him/herself play at the practice pad or the drum set.

- two pairs of medium-hard marimba mallets such as the Innovative Percussion IP275
- NOTE: may wish to go ahead and purchase the packet of "preferred" marimba, timpani, and xylophone mallets, with options to add snare drum sticks, as assembled by Percussion Source:
 - Vic Firth M138 Medium Poly Orchestral Mallet
 - Innovative Percussion IP803 Medium Hard Mallets (2 pairs)
 - Clevelander CD-B4 Medium Felt Ball Timpani Mallets
 - Innovative Percussion Chris Lamb #2 Laminated Birch Concert Snare Sticks
 - Vic Firth Ralph Hardimon SRH Marching Snare Sticks

For students and families who foresee continuing in the FAC percussion program for a third and perhaps a fourth year, I recommend strongly that they begin looking into the purchase of a **marimba** for home practice. In fact, easy access to a marimba outside of my classroom would be highly beneficial for current Percussion I/II students. The Fine Arts Center percussion program has four full size and two smaller practice marimbas on hand for its students to use during classroom instruction. The presence of these instruments, however, does not answer the need for my students – or any student on any instrument, for that matter – to have an instrument at home to use for individual practice, for exploration, for personal expression, and for enjoyment. Student model instruments are available from manufacturers such as Adams, Korogi, and Majestic, for about the cost of a good quality drum set, and can be ordered from many vendors like those listed below. Used instruments also become available on occasion. I will be glad to help any family who decides to “take the plunge.”

Some Recommended Vendors

- Mallet Instrument Service, Charlotte, NC, (<http://www.malletinstrumentservice.com>)
- Steve Weiss Music (<http://www.steveweissmusic.com>)
- Percussion Source (<http://www.percussionsource.com>)
- Lone Star percussion (<http://www.lonestarpercussion.com>)
- Pecknel Music (1312 North Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville 244-7881)
- Palmetto Music (5 Wade Hampton Blvd, Greenville, 232-1726)
- Music innovations (150 Tanner Rd # G, Mauldin, 286-8742)

All Students Are Expected To Practice At Home

Progress and development as a musician always includes individual practice time. There are no exceptions to this “law” because the physical and neurological development that is a part of playing an instrument requires a great deal individual problem solving and repetition. Understanding that students have to balance many responsibilities and commitments, it is still vitally important that they find some time each day to practice. Two hours daily – combining studio time at the Fine Arts Center and home practice – is a good benchmark. (When I have the “liberty” of practicing as much as I need to, I personally find that three hours of practice a day insures that I will improve noticeably.) **Consistent and adequate practice may, in fact, require life style changes on the part of both the student and family.** Please be prepared for this! I can assure you, however, that the skill, poise, discipline, and intellectual acuity that is an outgrowth of regular and **correct** practice is well worth the time and effort.

Tentative Course Outline

TERM I: AUGUST 17 THROUGH OCTOBER 21

- Review standard 40 snare drum rudiments
- Learn two or more rudimental solos from Pratt's *14 Modern Contest Solos*
- Learn four concert snare drum etudes from Anthony Cirone's *Portraits in Rhythm* including and especially etude #24, page 26, required for band festival auditions
- Review major scales on marimba
- Work systematically through reading exercises from any appropriate method book for two-mallet marimba
- SPECIAL PROJECT: Prepare Handel IV in D major, required for band festival auditions, as it appears in Masterpieces for Marimba (see pages 20-21); special presentation of violin style & articulation by John Ravnar; research project including historical background, representative audio and video files
- Learn one or more solo(s) on four-mallet marimba
- Broach timpani technique in a weekly master class setting

TERM II: THROUGH JANUARY 13

- Rehearse one percussion ensemble work for upcoming performances, focusing especially on techniques for standard percussion battery instruments (cymbals, bass drum, triangle, etc.)
- Rehearse one mallet percussion ensemble works for upcoming performances; possible coordination with sextet from Winds & Brass Chamber Music class
- Continue preparation for collegiate and other auditions scheduled for January through March
- Continue timpani coaches as needed and possible
- Perform in FAC Winter Showcase, Friday, December 16, FAC Recital Hall, 1:40 PM
- Perform in Recital No. 1; Wednesday, January 18, 2012, FAC Recital Hall, 7:00 PM

TERM III: THROUGH MARCH 16

- Similar to Term I
- Friday, January 27 2012, 1:00 PM: possible educational concert performance with the Young Artist Orchestra at the Peace Center's Dorothy Gunter theater, 1:00 PM

TERM IV: THROUGH MAY 18 (LAST DAY FOR UNDERCLASSMEN AT FINE ARTS CENTER)

- Rehearse one or more percussion ensemble works for upcoming performances
- Rehearse one or more mallet percussion ensemble works for upcoming performances; possible coordination with sextet from Winds & Brass Chamber Music class
- Continue preparation of individual projects
- Perform in Recital No. 2; Wednesday, May 9, 2012, FAC Recital Hall, 7:00 PM
- Perform in FAC Spring Showcase, Friday, May 11, FAC Recital Hall, 1:40 PM

PERFORMANCES: Summary

- Winter In-School Honors Showcase: Friday, December 16, 2011; 1:40 PM, FAC Recital Hall
- Recital No.1: Wednesday, January 18, 2011; 7:00 PM, FAC Recital Hall
- Friday, January 27 2012, 1:00 PM: possible educational concert performances with the Young Artist Orchestra at the Peace Center's Dorothy Gunter theater, 10 AM and 12:00 PM
- Recital No.2: Wednesday, May 9, 2012; 7:00 PM, FAC Recital Hall
- Spring In-School Honors Showcase: Friday, May 11, 2012, 1:40 PM, FAC Recital Hall

Major Assignments and Projects

- Each week, students will perform parts of ongoing projects for each other, and will receive a grade based upon incremental achievement.
- At the end of the first and third quarters, each student will be responsible to perform, for his/her peers, a program consisting of materials representative of the preceding nine weeks, and will receive a grade based upon their achievements. Performance in the quarterly recital may be substituted for this in-class performance.
- At the end of the second and fourth quarters, each student will be responsible to perform, for his/her peers, a program consisting of materials as representative of the preceding semester. This performance will be counted as a semester exam. Performance in the quarterly recital may be substituted for this in-class performance.

Grades are weighted as follows:

Term: weekly assignments = 80%, term test or recital performance = 20%

Semester I: Term I = 40%, Term II = 40%, semester or recital performance = 20%

Semester I: Term III = 40%, Term IV = 40%, semester or recital performance = 20%

Final: Semester I = 50% and Semester II = 50%

Other

Attendance and Tardy Policy: refer to Fine Arts Center handbook

Classroom Rules and Expectations:

- Report on time to each class. Please let me know in advance if you must miss the class for any reason.
- each class, bring all appropriate sticks and mallets, your class anthology, other current class materials, and a pencil.
- If you are asked to work on your own or in a small group, use your time wisely and constructively.
- No food or beverages – with the exception of water – are allowed at the Fine Arts Center
- Be kind and thoughtful to your classmates.
- Strive always to do and to be your best

Plan for Routine Communication With Parents:

- Periodic e-letter sent to my students and families with assignments, schedules, and notices of events
- Occasional posting of the above and additional information on my blog: <http://www.facorchestra.blogspot.com/>
- **Quarterly Fine Arts Center Newsletter is mailed to all parents of Fine Arts Center students.**
- Parents are contacted promptly in the event of academic or disciplinary problems.
- A log of parent phone calls is maintained in teacher's office.