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Fine Arts Center Instrumental Chamber Music 2000-2010 Course Syllabus

School Name: The Greenville Fine Arts Center

Course Name: Instrumental Chamber Music

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

Office Room Number: Suite #126

Phone number and extension: 355-2568

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

Class Time/Room Number: 1:15-2:10 m-f

Course Description

Fine Arts Center Instrumental Chamber Music (ICM) 2009-2010 is a class devoted to the rehearsal and development of chamber ensembles and the performance of music written or arranged for them. It is open to accomplished, motivated, and mature musicians who can successfully contribute to the development of a chamber ensemble (or ensembles). Individual study with a private teacher and training in music theory is strongly recommended. As ICM members you will explore music for ensembles and combinations that will include:



- Woodwind trio (two flutes and oboe)
- Percussion quartet
- Combinations of woodwinds/horn/percussion
- Baroque concerti for solo or combined flutes, oboe, and/or horn with marimbas taking on the roll of the string section
- Original works commissioned especially for the combined members of Instrumental Chamber Music 2009-2010. In the fall semester, the class will rehearse and then premier a new work by composer and Fine Arts Center alumnus **Alex Wroten**. Wroten's work will be written for two flutes, four percussion, horn and/or keyboard, double bass, as well as non-standard

instruments. (A double bass player from FAC's Strings Chamber Music will augment our class ensemble.) ICM will prepare and perform a brand new composition by Fine Arts Center Composer-in-Residence **Jon Jeffrey Grier** in the spring semester. Other works by Dr. Grier will likely be performed in 2009-2010.

- Solo selections

Chamber music is a democratic process that includes a gradual discovery of the music at hand and your role within it. Though your teacher will be on hand for coaching and guidance, you will rehearse and perform without a conductor. You will be encouraged to express yourself about the music you are rehearsing and also to respond creatively to the ideas of other members. Ultimately, our goal is to give you insight into your own artistic workings, to develop the means to articulate these ideas, and then to respond creatively to the ideas of other players in the process of building a musical consensus.

Major Assignments and Projects

- Each term you will be given a collection of chamber works with varying instrumentations. After studying and "trying out" these selections you, and the other members of the class, will select a program to rehearse and to prepare for public performance. With the assistance of your teacher, you will determine a rehearsal schedule and benchmarks (goals) that must be met in order for you to perform your concert successfully and with confidence. Works not selected for performance in one term may be carried over and performed the next.
- In Term II, interested class members will prepare audition materials for the All-County, Region I, and All-State Band Festivals
- Seniors auditioning for college starting in 2009 will be given time to play and by coached on their materials in a master class setting

Assessment

- Each week, ICM students will receive a grade based upon incremental achievement.

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- 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%

Tentative Course Outline

Note: All repertoire is subject to change depending on the evolving skills and needs of ICM students

TERM I: AUGUST 19 THROUGH OCTOBER 23

You will find these selections in your folders:

- Grier: Cripple Creek Counterpoint (all musicians)
- Vivaldi Op. 10 No. 2, Flute Concerto in g (Merritt; four marimbas, keyboard)
- Muczynski: Statements for Percussion (four percussionists)
- Hook: Six Trios, Opus 83 (flutes and oboe)
- Gordon: Brazilian Set (Wesley on vibes, Moses on bass marimba, John on horn)
- Traditional: Es scheint der Mond (all musicians)
- Prior: Piece for Three Pair of Hands Clapping (The Prior will be performed on “found objects,” such as cookware, waste baskets, plastic storage containers, or other items as selected by members of the class.)
- Wroten: Original Composition (The Wroten, not yet in your folders, will be a multi-movement work that will call upon musicians to perform on non-standard instruments – for instance, Alex mentioned crushing soda cans! – as well as your primary instruments. Rehearsal of the Wroten will begin in Term I but the work will not be performed until Recital No. 1 in January 2010.)

Additionally

- Solo selections will also be considered for performance.

Event(s)

- ICM Outreach Concerts: Friday, October 9, 2009 (tentative)

Suggested Timeline

- August 19 through 28: Musicians read and practice music in their folders. Your teacher will visit with you “doctor’s office style” to offer coaching and advice. Musicians may arrange informal meetings to play through ensemble selections. On Friday, 8/28, musicians and their teacher meet to select the program for their first performance.
- August 31 through October 8: Rehearsals. Musicians may select to set aside one or two days each week for individual studio and practice time.
- October 9 (not yet confirmed at the time of this writing): ICM Outreach Concerts

TERM II: THROUGH JANUARY 15

Repertoire

- Concerto repertoire: Telemann Horn Concerto TWV 51:D8, D major (John Belanger, four marimbas)
- Wroten: Original Composition (carried from Term I)
- Other selections carried over from Term I
- Alwyn: Oboe Sonata (McKenzie on oboe, two or more percussion players orchestrating the piano part on mallet instruments including marimbas, orchestra bells, chimes, etc.)
- Kraft: Suite for Percussion (all percussion players)
- Miehl: Chaconne in D Minor for Flute, Oboe, Violin, and Continuo (Amber on flute, McKenzie, two percussionists, John on keyboard)
- Other selections found by you and your teacher

Additionally

- Solo selections will also be considered for performance.

Events

- Fine Arts Center Winter Showcase, Friday, December 18, 2009

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- Region I Band Auditions, January 9, 2010
- Greenville-All-County Band Auditions: January 15, 2010, Mauldin HS

Suggested Timeline

- Like in Term I, musicians will take the first week in the cycle to read and explore their new music, after which they will determine an appropriate rehearsal schedule. Musicians may select to set aside one or two days each week for individual studio and practice time.
- Winds & Percussion Recital No. 1; Wednesday, January 20, 2010, FAC Recital Hall, 7:30 PM

TERM III: THROUGH MARCH 22

Repertoire

- Concerto repertoire: Festing: Concerto Opus 3 No. 10 (Merrit and Amber, flutes; McKenzie on Flute II if appropriate; four percussion players on marimbas)
- Grier: Original Composition
- Other selections carried over from Term II
- Debussy/Michael Boo: Clair de Lune (four marimba players)
- Miehlung: Chaconne in D Minor for Flute, Oboe, Violin, and Continuo (Amber on flute, McKenzie, two percussionists, John on keyboard)
- Other selections found by you and your teacher, especially one work featuring John on horn

Additionally

- Solo selections will also be considered for performance.

Events

- Winds & Percussion Recital No. 1; Wednesday, January 20, 2010, FAC Recital Hall, 7:30 PM
- All-State Band Auditions: Lexington High School (Lexington, SC) January 23, 2010
- All-County Band Clinic, February 2010 TBA
- Region Band Clinic, February 25-27, 2010
- All-State Band Clinic: Furman University, March 12-14, 2010
- ICM Outreach Concert; Friday, March 19, 2010 (or TBA; location TBA)

Suggested Timeline

- Like in Term II, musicians will take the first week in the cycle to read and explore their new music, after which they will determine an appropriate rehearsal schedule. Musicians may select to set aside one or two days each week for individual studio and practice time.
- ICM Outreach Concert; Friday, March 19, 2010 (or TBA; location TBA)

TERM IV: THROUGH MAY 21 (LAST DAY FOR UNDERCLASSMEN AT FINE ARTS CENTER)

Repertoire

- Concerto repertoire: Festing: Albinoni: Concerto a Cinque Opus 9 No. 11 in Bb (McKenzie on oboe; four marimbas, John on keyboard)
- Grier: Original Composition (carried over from Term III)
- Other selections carried over from Term III
- Hasenpflug: Bicksa (four percussion players. This is a difficult and complicated work which can be replaced with something more appropriate if needed)
- Other selections found by you and your teacher, especially one work featuring John on horn

Additionally

- Solo selections will also be considered for performance.
- Wesley Strasser and Merritt Huff may choose from a number of advanced flute & percussion compositions to prepare and perform, including Murray Houllif's "Concert Duet," Mario Gaetano's "Three Inventions for Flute and Percussion," or Lynn Glasscock's "Three Days in May"

Events

- Generation-to-Generation Concert, Thursday, April 22, 2010, FAC Recital Hall, 7:00 PM
- Winds & Percussion Recital No. 2 Wednesday, May 12, 2010, FAC Recital Hall, 7:30 PM
- Fine Arts Center Showcase; Friday, May 14, 2010

Suggested Timeline

- As above

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Required Materials And Equipment



- your instrument in good repair and working condition
- all necessary accessories, including mallets for percussionists
- a chromatic tuner like the Korg CA30 or CA40, the Sabine MT9000 or the Boss TU80
- a battery-powered metronome. It is very common to combine a chromatic tuner and a metronome into a single unit, as do the Korg CA40, the Sabine MT9000 and the Boss TU80
- a fingering chart for your instrument

All Students Are Expected To Practice At Home



ICM students know that 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 of individual problem solving and repetition **Don’t** do this in rehearsals, however! Bring your achievements to rehearsal and add to the progress of the ensemble; work out problem spots in your music and avoid being a drag!

Required Textbooks

Any reference materials to help solve problems on your instrument

Fee

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

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.
- **Don’t EVER come to class without our music – don’t ever FORGET it at home!! We will NOT have extra copies of your music on hand and if you DO forget yours, rehearsal for that day will be severely compromised!**
- Bring your tuner and metronome to class.
- Bring a pencil to class, also
- If I am not there to coach you for part of a rehearsal, use your time productively.
- 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:

- Occasional e-letter sent to my students and families with assignments, schedules, and notices of events
- 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.