



The City College of New York, Fall 2023

Music 26100: Ear Training 1

[time and place]

Instructor Annie Beliveau (office hours by appointment)

Course description:

Welcome to Ear Training! This is the first of two ear training courses and a companion course to Harmony 1. The goal is to help you express musical ideas more fluently in performance, notation, and description. We'll work on rhythm, sightreading, prepared performance, and transcription. The department uses scale-degree numbers as a central framework.

Mistakes are welcome in the learning process. I ask you to sing so that I can better understand how you're hearing musical ideas. It's about communication, not vocal technique. Singing in front of other people can still be a vulnerable experience, so let's make this a space that supports all our efforts as musicians.

Learning goals:

By the end of the course, you should be able to perform and recognize

- Syncopated rhythms in simple and compound meters
- Triplets
- Triads and their inversions
- Diatonic chord progressions in major and minor
- Arpeggiation
- Some seventh chords
- Basic melodic analysis

Materials you'll need:

- A metronome or metronome app such as Simple Metronome
- A way to record yourself singing (such as a basic voice memo app)
- Staff paper or a notation program (I'll provide a PDF and some copies)
- A pencil and eraser
- The handouts I give out, send by email, and/or post on Blackboard. I recommend that you keep all handouts in a folder and bring it to each class.

Disability accommodations:

If you need accommodations for this course, let me know as soon as possible! We can work with the AccessAbility Center and Student Disability Services: <https://www.cuny.cuny.edu/accessability>.

Health considerations:

If you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or another contagious illness, or if you're too sick to participate, **do not** come to class. Email me right away to let me know, and catch up on what you missed by talking to a classmate or emailing me.

Masks are optional in all courses. This course may carry above-average risk because we will be singing. Our classroom has an air filter. If major life difficulties arise that limit your ability to complete work on time, please email me and we will work together to find a solution. Please communicate early and often!

Student responsibilities:

- Participate in musical activities such as singing and tapping rhythms
- Participate in full-group and small-group discussions
- Support a non-judgmental class climate
- Submit assignments and exams on time
- Let the instructor know if something is particularly challenging so that we can consider scheduling an office-hour meeting

Instructor responsibilities:

- Support a non-judgmental class climate
- Make course materials accessible
- Give useful assignments
- Communicate evaluation systems in advance and evaluate according to those systems
- Give feedback on assignments promptly
- Make time to answer questions outside of class, including by email



How assignments work:

1. The weekly assignment should be submitted on Blackboard by 11:59PM on Thursday unless otherwise noted.
2. Some parts of an assignment will ask you to make audio recordings. Record yourself singing (or playing, as noted) the provided melodies using an app like Voice Memos or Audacity. Do not use any software to change your pitches or rhythms. I am the only one who will listen to the recordings.
3. Other parts of an assignment may ask you to transcribe melodies or bass lines on a musical staff. You can do this neatly by hand, take a picture of your work, and export it as a PDF, or use a notation program (such as the browser-based tool included in noteflight.com's free membership) and export a PDF. If any file is too large to submit, feel free to send a link to it.
4. Each part of an assignment should be submitted as a separate file or link with a descriptive name. The assignment instructions will include naming guidelines. These help me listen efficiently.
5. Late submissions don't receive feedback or passing grades (except in cases of major life difficulties, following a conversation with me).
6. Feedback on assignments will be sent within a day or two.

Instruments and technology:

You may sometimes find it helpful to use a musical instrument or app when working on sightreading or transcription. You're welcome to bring your instrument or device to class. There will be times when I ask you not to use these tools, and just to audiate (imagine the sound) or sing.

From time to time, I may film myself teaching or have an in-person observer. Any videos will not be shared publicly.

Tech resources:

The Music Library in Shepard Hall has a computer lab downstairs with resources including GarageBand, Logic Pro X, Sibelius, and Finale.

Advice on practicing:

Consistently practicing ear training for a short time every day will support more growth than practicing for a long time once a week. Cramming for exams is unlikely to be effective. The weekly assignments are designed to build comfort with the specific skills tested. There are also lots of free resources out there that can support your practice, such as [MusicTheory.net](https://www.musictheory.net) and [Complete Rhythm Trainer](https://www.complete-rhythm-trainer.com).

Grades:

Your grade is based on your work alone (there's no curving). Each exam will be accompanied by a rubric sent in advance. Exams have a take-home portion and an in-class portion.

Weekly assignments and quizzes	15%
Participation in class	15%
Midterm exam	35%
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

Calendar:

Please check <https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/registrar/academic-calendar> to see when classes are in session. I will email reminders about weeks when classes aren't meeting Monday and Wednesday.

The midterm will happen around the 3rd week of October and the final will happen around the last week of classes.

Outside-of-class resources:

Mental health:

- In an emergency, text CUNY to 741741 or consider calling Public Safety at 212-650-7777.
- Resources are available (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/accessibility/mental-health-resources/>) including the Counseling Center in Marshak J15.

Food insecurity:

- Benny's Pantry (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/bennysfoodpantry/>) is located on the ground floor of the North Academic Center (NAC) and is open to anyone in the CUNY community. Additional emergency support for financial, health and housing needs is also available through Benny's. Please contact Dee Dee Mozeleski at dmozeleski@ccny.cuny.edu or Charles Ramirez cramirez@ccny.cuny.edu for more details.
- You may also be eligible for SNAP (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>).

Financial insecurity:

- Emergency Grants including Petrie Grants (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/health-wellness/emergency-grants-program>)

Housing insecurity:

- Healthy CUNY (<https://www.healthycuny.org/resources-housing-homelessness>)

Gender-based harassment or violence:

- Office of Diversity and Compliance resources (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/affirmativeaction/get-help-now>)