

**MUSIC 171: Sight Singing I (Section 01)**  
**Mr. Stephen Gomez**  
**Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College, CUNY**

Fall 2021  
2 Units  
Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:35 am–10:25 am  
Online (synchronous)  
Zoom meeting ID: 966 793 5024

**Instructor Information**

[sgomez@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:sgomez@gradcenter.cuny.edu) • Office hours: by appointment only (email me for extra help and we will set up a Zoom meeting or chat after a regular class meeting) • Link to course Spotify playlist: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5Wh8xYJRxYlA19C8lbFsHv?si=912571bc459541e5>

**Student Learning Objectives**

- 1) Understand and demonstrate fluency in the basic use of diatonic solfege syllables in major and minor keys
- 2) Develop and demonstrate confidence in performing melodies (sung and conducted) in front of class
- 3) Develop and demonstrate confidence in note naming and solfege sight-reading in alto, bass, and treble clefs
- 4) Conduct in common simple and compound meters while performing rhythms and melodies
- 5) Vocally realize rhythms involving common rhythmic patterns and some syncopation in a variety of simple and compound meters with a strong sense of metric steadiness

**Course Description**

The main goals of this course are for students to become more confident, musical, and deeply-understanding musicians. This will be accomplished by improving students' ears through introduction and application of the diatonic solfege system, lots of singing, and reflection upon the practice process itself. Sung material includes various exercises, melodies written to emphasize specific skills within the tonal language of Western classical music, and actual tunes and excerpts from the repertoire.

We are in unique circumstances right now, and few classes are affected more directly than a sight singing one. But just because we cannot meet in person does not mean we cannot have a meaningful learning experience and become better musicians. Remind yourself at the outset of this semester what your goals are in terms of improving as a musician and take responsibility for your own learning in this class (and every other class you take this semester).

**Required Materials**

- Berkowitz, Frontrier, and Kraft, *A New Approach to Sight Singing*, 6th ed. (New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1997)
- Pencil and eraser (if you do not have easy access to printing, then a tablet with stylus will work, but it is recommend that you try to do work on hard paper with pencil)
- Piano or keyboard (this can take the form of a real piano or keyboard *or* a keyboard app; GarageBand has a suitable electronic keyboard)

**Grading Breakdown (MUSIC 171 grade=2/3 sight singing + 1/3 dictation)**

- Homework Assignments—45%
- Hearings (3)—30%
- Classwork and Participation—25% (graded once each for first half and second half of semester)

In accordance with School of Music policy, a minimum of 65% in each component of the course (both sight-singing and dictation) and a minimum overall average grade of C- (70%) in MUSIC 171 is required in order to continue into Music 172 (Sight-singing/Dictation II). The grade of INC may not be given. The course may not be taken more than twice without the permission of the Chairperson.

**Homework Assignments**

Homework assignments will consist of recordings (roughly one per week) of yourself performing assigned melodies and/or rhythms, uploaded to Blackboard. Also under this category fall your recordings for our collaborative chorale projects (more on this in class). Each homework recording will be graded holistically on a scale from 1–10; if you submit a recording on time and with honest effort, it will be very unlikely that you receive lower than an 8/10. The single lowest homework assignment will be dropped from your course grade at the end of the semester. Chorale project recordings are not eligible to be dropped.

You must be present in class on the date that you hand in an assignment in order to receive credit for it. You may turn in homework assignments late for a penalty of one point for each school day it is not handed in. After ten (10) real calendar days, it will automatically receive a 0/10. If you are unhappy with your grade on an assignment you originally turned in on time, you may *resubmit* that assignment as many times as you like within two weeks of the initial due date to try to receive an improved grade.

**Hearings**

Three times throughout the semester (see schedule, below) you will be given one-on-one hearing exams consisting of prepared melodies and rhythms as well as sight reading. No midterm and final exam for this course, but the hearings are the biggest exam-like things closest in importance to the traditional weight of midterms and finals

**Attendance and Classroom Policies**

Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. You are allowed two (2) unexcused absences over the course of the semester, no questions asked. Beyond these, you are expected to attend every class meeting. If you have to miss class, please email me as soon as you're sure you can't make it. The key here is honest and timely communication. You are expected to be at class on time, ready to participate. If you show up to a class more than ten minutes late, your attendance/participation grade for the day will be negatively affected. I will start class promptly at 9:35 am each meeting.

We are in unique circumstances right now, such that the responsibility of learning falls on you—the individual student—more so than normal. I cannot control your behavior or learning environment during class, and I understand that everyone has a different living situation/space to work at home. But if possible, I would *highly recommend* you to set yourself up in the following way for each class meeting:

- Attend class in a quiet and private space
- Attend class from a laptop or tablet (instead of a phone) if possible
- Turn your Zoom camera on
- Sit up in a chair at a desk or table
- Have your class materials out and easily-accessible
- Turn off and put your phone away during class

### **CUNY Statement on Academic Integrity/Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York. Penalties for academic dishonesty include academic sanctions, such as failing or otherwise reduced grades, and/or disciplinary sanctions, including suspension and/or expulsion.

Queens College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The college is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Queens College Academic Integrity Procedures.

### **Queens College Counseling, Health, and Wellness Center**

Website: <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/StudentLife/services/counseling/Pages/default.aspx>

Statement from the Queens College Counseling site: “The Counseling, Health and Wellness Center in Frese Hall seeks to support the physical, psychological, educational, and social well-being of Queens College students. It comprises five departments: The Office of Special Services, The College Counseling and Resource Center, Minority Student Affairs, Health Services, and Peer Support Services. Here, students can seek accommodations and support for their disabilities; consult a nurse and health educator about health, diet, and reproductive concerns; discuss academic and personal issues with licensed mental health professionals; receive pre-professional personal advisement for minority students; and learn about the peer support services program. Each department attempts to address students’ overall adjustment to college and assist them in any way it can to facilitate that adjustment. All services are confidential and free of charge.”

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) statement**

Website: <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/StudentLife/services/specialserv/Pages/default.aspx>

Students who require special accommodation because of physical, mental, or other disability are encouraged to contact the Queens College Office of Special Services for Students with Disabilities, which will be online this fall but still open to assist students. Every effort will be made to accommodate students with documented disabilities. Please get in touch with me and the director of the Office of Special Services—Dr. Mirian Detres-Hickey at [QC\\_SPSV@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:QC_SPSV@qc.cuny.edu) or (718) 997-5870—as soon as possible if you need accommodation regarding this course.

### **Scheduled Meeting and Important Dates (subject to change)**

F-8/27: Welcome!	T-10/12	F-11/19: Hearing #2
T-8/31	F-10/15	T-11/23
T-9/7: HW #1	T-10/19: HW #5 (Chorale	T-11/30: HW #10
F-9/10	Project #1)	F-12/3
T-9/14: HW #2	F-10/22	T-12/7: HW #11 (Chorale
F-9/17	T-10/26: HW #6	Project #2)
T-9/21: HW #3	F-10/29	F-12/10
F-9/24	T-11/2: HW #7	TBA: Hearing #3 (during final
T-9/28: HW #4	F-11/5	exam time)
F-10/1	T-11/9: HW #8	
T-10/5	F-11/12	
F-10/8: Hearing #1	T-11/16: HW #9	