



Music 001 - Introduction to Music

LINK TO THE SYLLABUS: <https://tricky-farmhouse-a70.notion.site/Music-001-725c3f828f06458695e83df8dff60f08>

Instructor: Nicholas Tran (he/they)

Classroom: MU 263

Email: ntran@gradcenter.cuny.edu

Virtual Office hours: By appointment

Lecture: 3:10 - 4:25PM, Tu/Th

Enrollment

Prerequisite(s): None

Credits: 3

Designation(s): Flexible Core - Creative Expression

Course Description

Music 001 (Intro to Music) explores several genres of music, designed to develop a basic technical vocabulary from which students may use to discuss and analyze music. Musical elements and listening skills will be developed throughout this course through written, listening, and performance assignments. This course also explores social topics in music, such as gender and politics. We will focus mostly on Western art music, with forays into popular music and musics from around the world. No musical or performance background is required for this course. Music 001 is a prerequisite for all elective courses in Music Literature (Music 12 and Music 111-241).

CW: This course contains a unit on music and its relation to LGBTQ+ studies, and gender/sexuality studies. If this is uncomfortable or triggering for you, please email me, and you will be excused from class. Alternative assignments and coursework will be made available.

Learning Goals and Objectives

- Develop a basic technical vocabulary about music
- Listen to various styles of music
- Practice deep listening skills
- Survey various types of music literature
- Explore and articulate relationships between music and its social context

Attendance

You are expected to attend lectures in order to participate in class discussions and performances. If you are going to be absent, please send me an email. I do not need to know any health or family or otherwise personal details.

Textbook, Readings, Videos, and Recordings

Required: [*Resonances: Engaging Music in its Cultural Context*](#), edited by Esther M. Morgan-Ellis.



This textbook is available for **FREE**.

Other required readings will be available online or supplied by the instructor.

Short videos will be available via YouTube.

Recordings will be available via YouTube. A playlist for the entire semester will be made available. Assignments will have hyperlinks to videos and recordings.

Assignments

Listening and Reading Worksheets:

Most weeks, students will be assigned readings, videos to watch, or pieces to listen to. You will answer a series of short questions about what you read, watched, or heard. This will be an opportunity for you to practice using technical terms to describe the music and will also be an opportunity for you to express your opinion about the music. Typically, your answers should be about 3 sentences long.

Participation:

Students are expecting to participate in class discussions and performances. Class performances are designed to simulate the physical and embodied nature of music making. You will be graded on preparation and participation—not how much you sound like a professional.

Final Project:

Students may choose one of the following final projects or propose a project of your own design.

Final Paper: Write a research paper on a topic of your choice (i.e. an album review, analysis of a piece of music, commentary on a social topic related to music, etc.). This is an academic paper and should contain at least 3 peer-reviewed sources (i.e. journal articles, book chapters, etc.). Your paper should not be a simple assemblage of facts but, rather, should contain a strong thesis that outlines your argument; the paper will be an opportunity for you to provide commentary on the topic of your choice. The paper should be 5-7 pages in length and written in Chicago format.

Composition and Presentation: Compose a piece of music that is at least 3 minutes in length. You may choose your instrumentation, notation style (if applicable), and have free rein over your creative decisions. You will share a performance or recording (midi is okay) with the class and give a 5 minute presentation about your creative process. The presentation need not be highly technical but should include vocab words that were discussed in class (i.e. sonata form, verse and chorus, rhythm).

Foley Artist Project: Choose a video or excerpt of a video that is between 3 and 5 minutes in length. Your task is to produce the sound design for the clip. You may present this to the class live or share a recording. The clip that you choose should have at least 3 different and distinct sounds. For example, you might find a clip from a movie where someone is walking into an office, sitting down in their chair, opening their laptop, and then typing. Your foley performance will include you making footstep sounds, audibly moving a chair, sounds for opening the laptop, and typing sounds.



Live Performance: Prepare a live musical performance for the class. This performance should be at least 3 minutes in length. You will also give a brief introduction about why you chose your piece(s) and what the practicing and rehearsal process entailed.

Playlist Project: Choose a social topic (i.e. gender, protest, love). Find at least 10 pieces that relate to that topic and write one short paragraph about each piece, relating the piece to the topic you have chosen. Each paragraph should include a description of the piece (what is it about and why did you choose the piece) and at least 2 vocab words from the semester. The playlist must include music from at least 2 different genres or time periods. Please also provide a link to your playlist.

Late Assignments:

You will receive two (2) late passes for the semester. Each pass grants you one additional week from the original due date to complete the assignment. This means that up to two assignments can be late without receiving a point penalty. To use a late pass, you must [fill out this Google form](#). Late passes DO NOT apply to the final project. All other late work will receive a 10 point penalty for each day it is late.

Extra Credit:

There will be plenty of opportunities for extra credit.

Turning In Assignments:

All written assignments are to be turned in **online** through Blackboard OR you may email your assignment directly to me **with the assignment title in the subject line. Assignments are due by the end of each class (4:25pm).**

Grading

Breakdown		Scale	
Participation	300 points	A	1350-1500 points
Reading/Listening Worksheets	710 points	B	1200-1349 points
Participation	300 points	C	1050-1199 points
Final Project	490 points	D	900-1049 points
Total Points	1500 points	F	<899 points

Plagiarism

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. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism—passing off someone else’s work as your own, which often occurs through copying and pasting passages from webpages into your own assignments— obtaining unfair advantage, and/or falsification of records and official documents. If you share an assignment with a classmate and they copy your work, with or without your permission, both of you can be penalized.



Accommodations and Resources

Need accommodations?

If you have any kind of disability or any other condition that negatively affects your access to education, or you find yourself not able to fully access the space, content, and experience of this course, please feel free to contact me to discuss accommodations for your access needs. I also encourage you to register with the QC Student Services Office if you have a diagnosis, as they can help you document your needs and create an accommodation plan: <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/sp/>. It is never too late to request accommodations – our bodies and circumstances are continuously changing.

Need a laptop to complete your online work?

If technological difficulties persist, or you need to borrow an online device from QC, please contact the information technology help desk: <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/its/>.

Need someone to talk to?






In times like these, many students are dealing with feelings of depression, anxiety, and stress. At no cost, the Counseling, Health, and Wellness Center allows students to consult a nurse about health, diet, and reproductive concerns and discuss academic and personal issues with licensed mental health professionals, among other services. Contact them via email (CounselingCenter@qc.cuny.edu), by phone: (718) 997-5420, or visit the website: <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/cs/>





Need help with writing?

For one-on-one help with topics like sentence structure, grammar, and spelling, please make a free appointment online with the campus writing center: <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/academics/wc/>

Course Schedule

Schedule

 Class	 Dates	 Notes	 Reading/Videos Due	 Assignment Due
<u>1</u>	@08/25/2022	Syllabus Day		
<u>2</u>	@08/30/2022	Elements	<i>Resonances: 23-42</i>	Reading Worksheet #1
<u>3</u>	@09/01/2022	Elements	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JCRvUJUBQ0	Listening Worksheet #1
<u>4</u>	@09/06/2022	Elements	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tGEDgkZIC8	Listening Worksheet #2
<u>5</u>	@09/08/2022	Elements	https://www.musicgateway.com/blog/how-to/what-is-rhythm-why-is-it-so-important	Reading Worksheet #2
<u>6</u>	@09/13/2022	Storytelling and Film	<i>Resonances: 44-48, 61-68</i>	Reading Worksheet #3
<u>7</u>	@09/15/2022	Storytelling and Film	https://nyphil.org/~media/pdfs/program-notes/1920/Berlioz-Symphonie-fantastique.ashx	Listening Worksheet #3
<u>8</u>	@09/20/2022	Storytelling and Film	Gjerdingen, Ch 7-9	No homework; Bring materials for sound design!

<u>Aa</u> Class	 Dates	 Notes	 Reading/Videos Due	 Assignment Due
<u>9</u>	@09/22/2022	Music and the Nation	<i>Resonances: 307-317</i>	Reading Worksheet #4
<u>10</u>	@09/27/2022	NO CLASS		
<u>11</u>	@09/29/2022	Music and the Nation	ESC - Guest Lecture	
<u>12</u>	@10/04/2022	NO CLASS		
<u>13</u>	@10/06/2022	Final Project Topics Due Protest and Politics	TBA	Listening Worksheet #4
<u>14</u>	@10/11/2022	Protest and Politics	TBA	Listening Worksheet #5
<u>15</u>	@10/13/2022	Performance	<i>Resonances: 217-244</i>	No homework
<u>16</u>	@10/18/2022	Performance	TBA	Spoken Word Ensemble
<u>17</u>	@10/20/2022	Experimental	TBA	Listening Worksheet #6
<u>18</u>	@10/25/2022	Experimental	TBA	Listening Worksheet #7
<u>19</u>	@10/27/2022	Experimental	TBA	Listening Worksheet #8
<u>20</u>	@11/01/2022	Queer/Gender/Sexuality	TBA	Listening Worksheet #9
<u>21</u>	@11/03/2022	Queer/Gender/Sexuality	Cusick, "On a Lesbian Relationship with Music: A Series Effort Not to Think Straight"	Reading Worksheet #5

<u>Aa</u> Class	Dates	Notes	Reading/Videos Due	Assignment Due
<u>22</u>	@11/08/2022	Queer/Gender/Sexuality	Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution”	Reading Worksheet #6
<u>23</u>	@11/10/2022	Queer/Gender/Sexuality	TBA	Listening Worksheet #10
<u>24</u>	@11/15/2022	Music and Art	TBA	No Homework
<u>25</u>	@11/17/2022	Music and Art	TBA	Graphic Scores
<u>26</u>	@11/22/2022	Music and Art	TBA	No Homework
<u>27</u>	@11/24/2022	NO CLASS		
<u>28</u>	@11/29/2022	Final Project Presentations		
<u>29</u>	@12/01/2022	Final Project Presentations		
<u>30</u>	@12/06/2022	Final Project Presentations		
<u>31</u>	@12/08/2022	Final Project Presentations		
<u>32</u>	@12/13/2022	Final Project Presentations Last Day		