

Composition Workshop II
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Learn about the principles of musical composition through analysis and creative writing. In this group class, we will analyze relatively complex musical compositions; write melody, accompaniment, and motive variations; and create longer musical pieces for solo instrumental, vocal or small ensemble performance. We will learn about advanced elements of composition, including vocal writing, musical forms (e.g. pop songs, Sonata form, structured open forms, and Ostinato-Variations such as Chaconne, Passacaglia, and 12-bar blues), with guided listening and discussion of examples. You will be assigned composition exercises, describe and discuss your work with the class, and work on a final composition project.

We will have weekly assignments of short exercises and/or music analysis as well as a final project of a longer length. Weekly assignments are not meant to be particularly creative, just short exercises. Students are expected to:

- Bring a recording of the assignments (mp3 player, iPod, laptop, phone, etc.) or be willing to provide a live performance
- Notate their compositions, or provide a graphic description, or a diagram
- Provide copies of the material for the other students.

If you plan to perform your assignment you should bring your specific instrument to class.

Main topics covered in class:

- Melody Writing
- Polyphonic Writing (counterpoint – functional harmony – non-functional harmony)
- Musical Language (how can instrumental music be understood?)

Class Web Site

http://daveverotta.com/A_folders/Teaching/CW.html

Notation Software

Finale: www.finalemusic.com

Sibelius: www.sibelius.com (not recommended unless you have it already)

Musescore: <http://musescore.org> (not as good as Finale or Sibelius but it is free)

Music Editing

Garage Band: www.apple.com/ilife/garageband/. For windows: garagebandforwindows.wordpress.com

Final Cut: www.apple.com/finalcutpro/ or iMovie www.apple.com/ilife/imovie/ or similar video program that provides control on the audio tracks.

Musical Scores

International Music Score Library Project: imslp.org