

Composition Workshop III
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This group class studies of the principles of musical composition through analysis and creative writing.

Upon completion of this course a student will: (1) learn about the use of common practice as well as modern harmony in composition, (2) learn how to use melodic, harmonic, rhythmic and textural components to generate musical form, (3) create longer musical pieces in closed or free form. The teaching component includes late 19th and 20th century harmony, the study of musical forms, and the analysis, guided listening, and discussion of examples from the repertoire. Students will be assigned composition exercises, describe and discuss their 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://davideverotta.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