



Course Description

MUC2102 | Composition Skills 4 | 2.00 credits

This course is a continuance of Composition Skills 3 at a more advanced level. Students receive private lessons in music composition. Students are encouraged to apply their theoretical skills to a diverse media, including writing for a variety of small ensembles. This will culminate into a mini recital at the end of the term which will also help prepare the student to effectively coordinate and organize performances of his or her own works in front of an academic and general audience. In the process the student learns to work with a variety of performers and appreciate exposure and feedback from a diverse group of people.

Course Competencies

Competency 1: The student will build on competencies learned in MUC2101 and further develop weekly skills of composition by:

1. Writing serial rows and short works emulating serial techniques of Schoenberg, Webern, Berg
2. Creating a pre-compositional plan
3. Developing a pre-compositional plan

Competency 2: The student will develop basic skills of compositional balance by:

1. Using symmetry or asymmetry to balance phrasing and other formal sections of a work
2. Using unity and contrast within a work through rhythmic motives, dynamics, and articulation to create contrasting structural areas
3. Orchestrating for various instruments or voices and learning the range, register, transposition, and sounds of each register, special techniques, and possibilities within each instrument used in the work

Competency 3: The student will develop melodic ideas culminating in a climax at the beginning, middle or end of a work by:

1. Using appropriate musical notation in the work
2. Economizing motivic and thematic ideas within a work
3. Creating various types of melodic contour within a work
4. Developing the use of inversion, retrograde and retrograde inversion, canonic imitation, and transposition
5. Pacing creative materials and ideas for larger scale/multi-movement works, including development of a melodic idea

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities