



Course Description

MUC2601 | Introduction to Songwriting | 3.00 credits

This course explores the art and craft of popular songwriting. Students will learn the basics of lyric writing, chord progressions, melodic creation, and structure as they apply to popular song.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the strategies employed by effective songwriters by:

1. Describing the work habits utilized by effective songwriters
2. Keeping a journal of their songwriting activities

Competency 2: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the resources available for songwriters by:

1. Identifying trade publications that track the success of popular songs
2. Listing organizations that provide networking opportunities for songwriters

Competency 3: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the social and ethical issues faced by music creators by:

1. Describing the effect of various songs on the individual and society
2. Identifying the ethical issues inherent in the field of music creation

Competency 4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of harmonic structure commonly used in popular songs by:

1. Identifying common chord progressions
2. Composing short musical pieces based on common chord progressions

Competency 5: The student will demonstrate an understanding of formal structure in popular songs by:

1. Identifying the various sections that comprise various popular song forms
2. Composing musical pieces consistent with accepted popular song forms

Competency 6: The student will demonstrate proficiency in the creation of melodic content by:

1. Utilizing various creativity techniques to inspire melodic themes
2. Analyzing melodic ideas for memorability, phrase structure, stability, consistency with harmony, and aesthetic value

Competency 7: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the musical and aesthetic qualities that define different genres of popular songs by:

1. Differentiating among songs of various styles

Competency 8: The student will demonstrate proficiency in the creation of song lyrics by

1. Utilizing various creativity techniques to inspire lyric themes
2. Writing lyrics utilizing various rhyming configurations
3. Writing lyrics conveying various themes
4. Writing lyrics that convey various emotional qualities

Competency 9: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the role of the title in popular songs by

1. Identifying different types of song titles
2. Analyzing song titles for memorability and uniqueness
3. Utilizing various creativity techniques to inspire song titles

Competency 10: The student will demonstrate proficiency in the preparation of a song demo by:

1. Producing a simple arrangement of a musical composition utilizing a currently available recording medium

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society
- Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives
- Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities
- Use computer and emerging technologies effectively
- Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities