

MUSIC 2b

Reading and Making Music: The Basics of Notation

SYLLABUS

Department of Music and Dance
Swarthmore College

M,W,F, 10:30-11:20
ROOM 407

Professor James Blasina

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Lang Music Building 414
Office Phone: 610.957.6003

Office Hours: Mon/Wed, 11:30-13:00
or by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed for students with little or no prior training in reading music. By the end of the course, all students should be proficient in reading all basic aspects of Western musical notation, and will have an understanding of the piano keyboard, sight singing, a grasp of beginning harmony, and some practice in musical composition. Students who wish to continue studying the construction of Western music, and who are confident in the skills learned in this class, are encouraged to go on to take Music 11 (Harmony, Counterpoint, and Form 1).

Materials and Resources

Textbook

Duckworth, *A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals*, 11th edition, available in the Book Store.

You must register for an account on the textbook companion website, which contains a wealth of practice materials. Note that I am able to track your access to the site and progress on the exercises.

<http://coursemate.cengage.com/CPReader/View/9781285835518/default.aspx?eISBN=9781285835518>
In addition to the code included with your textbook, you will need the following key to register:
CM-9781285835518-0000029

Writing Supplies

Music manuscript paper, a good supply of mechanical pencils, and several large, soft erasers are essential to the work of this class. Manuscript paper should have 12 staves per page, and should be printed with dark lines. (There is some available in the College Bookstore, or you may print your own from various online sources (Google “music manuscript paper”). **You may not hand in any assignments done with computer music notation software in this class.** Musical penmanship is therefore highly important, and you should profit from the book exercises to practice drawing specific musical signs.

All work must be completed in pencil. Assignments in pen will not be accepted.

Metronome (not required, but highly recommended): a digital metronome is an invaluable tool for your rhythmic development. You can buy decent metronomes for \$20 or so, though if you prefer not to, you can also: 1) check one

out from Underhill music library; 2) use a free online metronome, whenever you are near a computer; 3) if you have a smartphone, there are several free metronome apps that you can easily download.

Lang Music Building

This building is an excellent resource for your musical endeavors. There are many good pianos available in the practice rooms on the 4th floor on a first-come, first-served basis. Underhill Music Library has thousands of CDs, scores, listening stations, and online resources for your musical enrichment and practice in active listening.

Other Music 2 students

I encourage you to find a regular partner in our class with whom you can practice musicianship skills, ideally on a daily basis. But you may not collaborate with your partner or any other students on the specific written assignments for this course.

Music Theory Clinic

in Underhill Music Library (meeting time TBD). Upper level Music Majors who are veterans of our theory and musicianship sequence are on duty to assist you)

Stott Music Lesson Program

Students enrolled in Music 2 may be eligible to participate in this program, which partially funds ten half-hour private piano lessons during the semester. The Department of Music and Dance will pay one half of the cost; the student would have to pay \$187 for the full semester. This program is not normally able accommodate study of any other instrument, or vocal study. For more information, please speak to me and/or to the Music and Dance Administrative Coordinator, Bernadette Dunning.

Assignments

Daily Practice

This course is made up of class meetings, individual meetings, and a lot of independent work on your part. Practicing the musicianship skills that you will learn in this class is an essential component in reaching musical proficiency (and doing well in this class). I highly recommend short, concentrated, *daily* practice sessions to solidify everything that you learn and help you keep up with the fast pace of this class.

Written Assignments

You will generally have one written assignment per week, plus assignments in sight singing, playing the piano, and clapping/tapping rhythms. Written assignments will be available on Fridays and are due on Monday of each week. In general, they will cover material from the week they are distributed. During the week, I will often ask you to seek out a piece of music (recorded or written) to bring to class. I will occasionally assign composition exercises, readings, listening assignments, and videos to watch. Due to the cumulative nature of this material, LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, but your lowest written assignment grade of the semester will be dropped from your overall average.

Individual Assessments

Throughout the semester I will assign a series of exercises in practical musicianship, including singing pitches, clapping or tapping rhythms, and playing at the keyboard. We will practice these together regularly in class and in individual meetings.

The Exams

There are two exams in the course: a midterm and a final. Each exam will include written work (a culmination of the written exercises that you will have done all semester), plus musicianship skills (which I will test you on in individual meetings before each written exam).

Grading

Class Attendance and Participation: 10%

Weekly written assignments: 20%

Individual musicianship assessments: 15%

Biweekly Quizzes: 15%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Policy on Collaboration

You are strongly encouraged to work together to drill your music reading skills. However, all written assignments must be your work *alone*: you may not work with others on your written assignments. Academic integrity is hugely important, and is taken seriously by the College. If you have **any** questions at all about what constitutes appropriate or inappropriate collaboration, do not hesitate to ask.

Disability Accommodations

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Leslie Hempling in the Office of Student Disability Services (Parrish 113) or email lhempli1@swarthmore.edu to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs. As appropriate, she will issue students with documented disabilities a formal Accommodations Letter. Since accommodations require early planning and are not retroactive, please contact her as soon as possible. For details about the accommodations process, visit the Student Disability Service Website at <http://www.swarthmore.edu/academic-advising-support/welcome-to-student-disability-service>. You are also welcome to contact me privately to discuss your academic needs. However, all disability-related accommodations must be arranged through the Office of Student Disability Services.

Class Schedule

Music 2b meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30-11:20 am, in Room 407. Certain classes will be replaced by individual coaching and assessment sessions, which may take place during a scheduled class, or at an alternate time. Individual sessions will be announced in advanced and you will be required to sign up for a time.

Week	Week Start Date	Topic/Chapter
1	Aug 31	Chapter 1/2 The Basics of Music; The Keyboard Individual evaluations; introduction to solfeggio syllables M W F Individual Meetings
2	Sept 7	Chapter 1/2 The Basics of Music; The Keyboard M W F Quiz; Start Chapter 3, Simple Meter *Individual Meetings to be scheduled
3	Sept 14	Chapters 3 and 4: Rhythm and Meter Cont'd M W F *Individual meetings

4	Sept 21	Chapter 5, Pitch M W F Quiz
5	Sept 28	Chapter 6, Major Scales M W F Individual Meetings
6	Oct 5	Chapter 7, Major Keys M W F MIDTERM EXAM (in class)
FALL BREAK	Oct 12	NO CLASSES
7	Oct 19	Chapter 8, Intervals M W F Individual Meetings
8	Oct 26	Chapter 9, Minor Keys M W F Quiz
9	Nov 2	Chapter 10, Minor Scales M W F Individual Meetings
10	Nov 9	Chapter 11, Pentatonic and Blues Scales M W F Quiz
11	Nov 16	Chapter 12, Triads M W F Individual Meetings
12	Nov 23	Chapter 13, Triads Cont'd M W F NO CLASS NOV 27 (Thanksgiving Break)
13	Nov 30	Chapter 14, Chord Progressions M W F Quiz
14	Dec 7	In-Class Portion of Final Exam*

Final examination to be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. DO NOT plan any travel before the schedule is released.