

M613
Seminar in Music Theory: Performance-Based Analysis
Spring, 2008

Meeting Time: Wednesdays, 7-9.40 PM
Room: Music & Dance, 228
Professor: Dr. Todd Rewoldt
Email: trewoldt@mail.sdsu.edu
Office Phone: 594.6043
Office: 221

Course Description:

How does the analysis of a composition influence one's performance? Furthermore, how does the experience of performing a composition numerous times influence the way a piece is analyzed? M613, Seminar in Music Theory: Performance-Based Analysis, is an analytical/performance intensive seminar designed to prepare students to critically analyze music from a theoretical/historical perspective, while making connections to live performance. In addition, students will gain greater competency with using online and library resources to analyze musical works.

Course Requirements:

Each student will present 3 compositions and/or major movements written specifically for their instrument (either as solo or chamber music) in the form of a "Lecture Recital."

Each student will perform (live) sections of the music that he/she has analyzed, and will discuss the relevance/impact that analysis has on their performance and/or how performance changes the way in which a composition is analyzed. Each presentation will last approximately 30 minutes, followed by a question and discussion period (15 minutes).

The Lecture Recitals will be accompanied by a highly detailed analysis (we will study various types), biographical essay of the respective composer, and a significant reference list.

Every student will need to make copies of the score (or portions thereof) that includes analytical markings for the other class members.

Students should make copies of all relevant materials. I expect all of you to be prepared for your lectures and the discussions.

Expect the professor to ask questions about your presentation! (Many of you will present pieces that I may not have studied).

Class Meetings/Topics

1.23.08: Investigation of analytical resources (electronic & paper). Selection of compositions for first Lecture Recitals. Lecture/Recital presentation of *Donald Martino's Concerto for Alto Saxophone: The Cadenza*.

1.30.08: Discussion/Presentation of analytical techniques. Span analysis example of Dimitri Shostakovich's *String Quartet* No. 11, Op. 122 in F minor. Voice reduction/Schenkerian analysis of Chopin's *Mazurka* Op. 68, No. 4 in F minor.

2.6.08: Presentation of micro/macro harmonic structures in Beethoven's Piano *Sonata* No. 30, Op. 109.

2.13.08: Student Presentations¹ (4).

2.20.08: Student Presentations¹ (4).

2.27.08: Student Presentations¹ (3).

3.5.08: Chance Music & Time-Point/Event Analysis: John Cage. Discuss articles/analysis by Judy Lockhead. Presentation of Cage's *Four*⁵. Confirm next round of presentations and discuss challenges.

3.12.08: Student Presentations² (4).

3.19.08: Student Presentations² (4).

3.26.08: Student Presentations² (3).

4.2.08: No Class (Spring Break)

4.9.08: No Class (Tour)

4.15.08: In class comparative analysis of two late string quartets by Haydn and Mozart.

4.23.08: Student Presentations³ (4).

4.30.08: No Class (Tour)

5.7.08: Student Presentations³ (3).

5.14.06: Student Presentations³ (4). During Final Exam Time 7-9 PM.

Student Outcomes: By the conclusion of this semester, you will be able to:

1. Critically analyze and discuss various theory-based journal articles.
2. Analyze musical compositions with a myriad of techniques such as “span” “event,” “micro/macro,” and “voice reduction/Schenkerian” analysis.
3. Present musical works in performance that demonstrate influences of analysis.
4. Discuss musical performances that challenge the role of theoretical analysis.
5. Have a collection of works and supplemental materials that are suitable for lecture-recitals, master-classes, and job auditions (Presentation Portfolio)

Recordings and Articles are on Reserve in the Media Library. I strongly suggest that you make photocopies of the articles and purchase the recordings for your own convenience (iTunes is *very* helpful!)

Grading

Attendance: 30% (Each unexcused absence will lower your grade by 10%)

Presentation Portfolio: 20%

Lecture-Recitals: 50%*

*Note – I am not grading on the “level” of your performance. However, I am grading on how well your performance conveys and supports your research. In addition, the effectiveness, organization, and thoroughness of your presentation.

This syllabus is subject to change.