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MUS 346.01: Advanced Functional Piano

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The University of Montana
Advanced Functional Piano, MUS 346-01, TR 12:10-1:00
Spring Semester, 2007
Dr. Christopher Hahn
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Required Texts:

“The Brown Scale Book” (available at Morgenroth Music)
Five Centuries of Choral Music
Harmonization at the Piano, 6th edition by Arthur Frackenpohl
Piano Proficiency Coursepack

Welcome to Advanced Functional Piano! The objective of our class is to develop functional skills to enable you to be comfortable and proficient with practical situations at the keyboard.

Topics

In addition to learning repertoire and technique, this class will address the issues that confront the typical “working pianist” with such topics as ensemble playing, sight-reading, harmonization, hymn playing, score reading, accompanying, ear training, transposition, jazz playing, and other creative activities.

Advanced Functional Exam

The topics of our class will be presented in a sequential order, leading to the Advanced Functional Exam during Finals Week. The content of the exam is outlined on the back of this syllabus.

Grading

Grades are based on playing examinations and weekly in-class quizzes.

20% WEEK FOUR EXAM—Scheduled during the fourth week of class

20% WEEK NINE EXAM—Scheduled during the ninth week of class

30% FINAL EXAM—Scheduled in two parts—part one during the last week of classes consisting of a public performance (duet, choral rehearsal, etc.); part two during finals week consisting of the **Advanced Functional Exam**

30% DAILY WORK, ATTENDANCE, AND WEEKLY IN-CLASS QUIZZES

--In-class quizzes will happen at the beginning of the first class of each week

Attendance

Regular class attendance is of utmost importance for making steady progress. Since all concepts are introduced as well as reinforced in class, you will want to make class attendance a priority. Please make every effort to notify me in advance if you have a schedule conflict so assignments can be made up.

Advanced Functional Exam

1) Technique

—demonstrate fluency in all areas outlined in Technical Requirements with good tone and appropriate fingering

2) Choral Score

—sight-read a four-part (SATB) open score (at least three voices simultaneously)

3) Harmonization

—prepare an interesting accompaniment in the left hand while playing a given melody at sight

4) Jazz Lead Sheet with Improvisation

—prepare a jazz melody with chordal accompaniment and demonstrate ability to improvise in either or both parts

5) 48-Hour Accompaniment

—prepare the piano accompaniment to either an art song or a major choral work in 48-hours

6) Popular or Broadway Selection

—prepare a popular or Broadway vocal repertoire song of your choosing

7) Transposition

—sight-read a simple melody and accompaniment up or down one half or whole step

8) Melody Playback

—play back either the upper or lower part of a two-part phrase after hearing it played twice

9) Chord Progressions

—prepare chord progressions in assigned keys

10) Ensemble

—prepare a duet or two-piano work with a partner for performance in an in-class recital during finals week