

Music 100: Understanding Music

Spring 2001, Monday evenings 7-10 p.m. (0.5 credit)

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- This section features listening, reading, and assignments on a **course website** (the textbook and CD set are NOT required)
- Class time includes introductions to topics, listening, video excerpts, discussion, etc.
- **Listening** and **thinking** (and **making connections** between things) are paramount

Categories from which the topics are drawn:

- “**classical**” music, such as its periods (Renaissance, Baroque, Romantic, etc.), genres (vocal, instrumental, operatic, etc.), styles, and socio-historical contexts
- “**vernacular**” music, including various types of blues, jazz, film, and popular music
- “**world**” music (occasional examples, for comparison with the other two categories)



- Week 1: May 7 Explaining the website and course requirements (web & writing assignments and tests)
Introducing the periods and elements of music (including listening and discussion)
Medieval music: mass/chant, motets; chansons, troubadours, comparisons w. other music
- Week 2: May 14 Renaissance music: later masses, motets, and chansons; Italian and English madrigals,
musical instruments, cross-culturalisms
- May 21: no class Victoria Day holiday
- Week 3: May 28 Baroque music: opera (Italy/Italian), non-Italian opera, instrumental music, music/religion
Discussion of recording/concert reviews (newspapers, internet, etc.) and of example papers
- Week 4: June 4 Classicism I: chamber music, symphony, concerto, Enlightenment
- Week 5: June 11 Classicism II: opera; the piano and classical piano music
- Week 6: June 18 Romanticism: small forms, incl. character pieces for piano, art songs, and chamber music
- Week 7: June 25 Romanticism/Modernism: orchestral/programme music, opera, and nationalism/ballet
- July 2: no class Canada Day holiday
- Week 8: July 9 Vernacular I: minstrelsy, blues, gospel, ragtime, jazz, music theatre, film music
- Week 9: July 16 Vernacular II: Tin Pan Alley (pop songs), R&B, country, rock ‘n’ roll, rock, later pop,
soul, singer-songwriters, urban music (funk, dance pop, rap and hip hop, electronica, etc.)
- Week 10: July 23 Contradictions: later jazz & music theatre, folk & art rock, later pop fusions; technology

Requirements

- three web-based assignments: Weeks 3, 6, and 9—10% each
- Test 1: Week 5 (during class)—25%
- Term Paper on a composer, artist, concert, or style (5-6 pages): due Week 8—20% (including a 1-2 page, point form outline, due Week 7)
- Test 2: Week 10 (during class)—25%