Music 440 – Seminar in Music Theory - Spring Semester 2013

“Glinka, The Mighty Five and Tchaikovsky – 19th Century Russian Music”

MWF – 8:00-8:50 am; Music Hall Room 130

Instructor: Dr. Julie Sturm
Office Hours: MWF 9 a.m., T/TR 9-11:30 a.m., or by appointment; Room 251
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Overview:
Musical life in mid-19th century Russia encompasses a fascinating time of amazing changes in Russian musical style. The decade of the 1860s marked a turning point in the development of music, as so much else, in Russia. At a time when the emancipation of the serfs and other major reforms were altering the very foundations of the Russian social, economic and political order, the musical world of St. Petersburg underwent a revolutionary transformation that changed forever the cultural life of the Russian Empire and eventually ended its colonial status in relation to the musical world of the West.

This seminar will focus on analysis of works and portions of works by Glinka, the Mighty Five or Mighty Handful (Balakirev, Cui, Rimsky-Korsakov, Mussorgsky, and Borodin), and Tchaikovsky, all of whom contributed to the birth and development of Russian Nationalism in music.

Through the study of the history and music of these composers, we will gain insight into the compositional style and life of these important 19th Century musicians.

Class Time and Student Reports:

We will begin the semester with a brief analysis review, which will include several homework assignments. The course will include directed analysis class/homework assignments to help further develop analytical skills. The rest of the course will be devoted primarily to student seminar reports on a wide variety of associated topics.
1. Each student will be required to present an in-class report to the seminar twice during the semester.
2. A handout containing an outline of each report (complete with bibliography) should be prepared to give to all seminar participants on the day of the presentation, or emailed as a pdf for print out, one class prior to your presentation.
3. In addition to faculty and student presentations there may be several guest lectures during the seminar time. (TBA)
Seminar Reports:

1. Each student will be required to present two seminar reports on a topic associated with one of the composers listed above.
2. One of these reports must cover a selected work or a comparison of works by one of the listed composers and **must contain musical analysis.**
3. The second may be similar in nature or, more biographical in nature, including a report on/about other aspects of history (art, economics, literature, printing, travel, communication forms, mannerisms, dress forms of the day, the role of women in 19th century Russian music) which may have influenced these composers, always coming back to the world in which they found themselves and how this may or may not have affected their compositional output/inspiration.
4. You will need to keep an ongoing bibliography of **all** your sources. (They may **not all** be online sources. We will plan some library research days.) You will be expected to maintain a notebook of class notes and you must present a complete bibliography at the end of each presentation.

Since this course is a seminar, **regular attendance and participation is required.** It is imperative that you arrive at the seminar on time (8 AM!) Once the reports begin I will hand out forms to be filled out and returned to me at the beginning of each new session. These will be graded for content and will provide each presenter with feedback on his/her presentation.

Presentations must begin by

**Texts and scores for studied works:** I will discuss how to find, purchase, or borrow these materials. Biographies and other resources also will be referenced.

**Final grade:**
- Seminar Presentation #1 20%
- Seminar Presentation #2 20%
- Homework (includes class prep) 20%
- Two Exams 25%
- Class Participation and Attendance 15%

**Disability Statement**

*If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please request that a Disability Resources staff send a SAAR form to me verifying your disability and specifying the accommodations you will need.*

This syllabus is subject to change except grading requirements.