

Iowa State University
MUS 327B: Functional Piano for Voice Majors
Course Syllabus, Spring 2024
F 1:10-3pm
Estes Hall Piano Lab 034

Professor: Dr. Christina Svec
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Office Hours: T 1-3pm; Th 2-3pm; F 11-1pm, additional times available by appointment

NOTE: Syllabus subject to change

Course Description:

Emphasis on sight-reading, three and four-part score reading, improvisation, accompanying, and advanced harmonization.

Course Objectives:

After completing MUS 327B, students will be able to:

- Identify their individual level and style of keyboard proficiency, including strengths, coping strategies, and paths for continued development.
- Assess keyboard needs in real-time scenarios and adapt their skills to best meet those needs.
- Navigate a wide range of accompaniment roles in vocal music, including studio lessons and choral rehearsals.
- Functionally accompany from 2-4 part open choral scores, lead sheets, and standard vocal/piano repertoire.
- Lead vocal warm-ups and rehearsals from the piano.

Required Materials:

Most musical material will be provided in class or through Canvas. The following resources will also be needed.

- Nesheim, P., and Noble, W. (1995). *Building beautiful voices* [director's ed.]. Roger Dean Publishing Company.
- Additional octavos to be distributed during class

Attendance Policy:

All students are expected to attend class regularly. On your 4th unexcused absence, your grade will be lowered one letter grade. Your grade will be lowered one letter grade for each subsequent absence. Excused absences are accompanied by university- or department-endorsed letters. All other absences are considered unexcused.

Grades and Grading Policy

Grades will be based on class participation and the assignments and exams as detailed below, for a total of 645 points. This point system would convert directly to a letter grade as follows:

Grading Scale (%):

A (90-100%)

B (80-89%)

C (70-79%)

D (60-69%)

F (59% and below)

Assignments

Scale and Chord Progression Review	50 points
Vocalise Performances	100 points
Happy Birthday	50 points
Choral Score Analysis	50 points
Choral Score Reading	200 points
Playing Canons	150 points
Rehearsal Tracks	50 points
Total Points	650 points

Scale and Chord Progression Review 50 points

Perform all major and minor scales in 2 octaves, progressing from CM-BM and cm-bm.

Perform I-IV-I-V-I and i-V-i in all keys, progressing from CM-BM and cm-bm.

Vocalise Performances 100 points

You will be responsible for leading one vocalise of your choice from each BBV chapters 3-12.

You can also choose to perform either the accompaniments located in the 2nd half of the book or the exercise as written in the front of the book. Start in the given key and modulate 5 half-steps either ascending or descending (whichever is most appropriate). Each performance will be worth 10 points.

Happy Birthday 50 points

Be prepared to lead our class in Happy Birthday from a lead sheet. We will be singing along with your accompaniment in class, so make sure that you give us an appropriate cue. Please provide an accompaniment that will include chords. Providing the melody is optional. You will lead the class in Happy Birthday 3 times. Your final grade will be given after Take 3.

Playing Canons 150 points

You will be responsible for playing one part and singing a second. Next, you will play the canon in two parts, playing one part in each hand. Finally, you will play two parts and add yourself as a third part.

Choral Score Analysis 50 points

For 1 of your chosen octavos, fill out and provide all information located on the Formal Score Analysis form. You will be submitting: (1) your marked score, and (2) the formal score analysis form located in Canvas.

Choral Score Reading

200 points

You will choose/be assigned 2 choral octavos for which you will prepare the accompaniment. You will be leading each piece twice from the bench during 327b. Additionally, you will be serving as the accompanist twice per piece during MUSIC 375, Choral Methods for Instrumentalists, which meets on Fridays at 8am. This will take place between weeks 8-15 of the semester. We will work together to ensure the schedule works for you!

Rehearsal Tracks

50 points

Record rehearsal tracks for one of your two choral octavos. Using GarageBand, record the piano accompaniment (reduced or full), and each part on a separate track. When recording the parts, you can sing or play on the piano.

Piano Lab Practice & Piano Tutoring:

For the Spring 2024 semester, Ellie Grace Lashier (sophomore piano major) will be serving as the piano tutor. You may contact her at elashier@iastate.edu to set up a time for tutoring in the piano lab or practice room.

You can also have someone in the office open the piano lab for you when classes are not being held there. Be sure to follow all cleaning protocols when you are done practicing.

Classroom Policies:

- No food or drinks are allowed in the piano lab. Bottles with lids may be kept at the side of the room away from the pianos.
- Only keep your required materials at your piano. Other materials should be kept away from your piano and out of the aisles.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices should only be used during class for recording class piano announcements and notes.
- At the end of every class, place headsets on hook underneath piano, turn off piano, and place bench underneath piano.

Free Expression

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

Additional Recommended Syllabus Statements

<https://www.celt.iastate.edu/instructional-strategies/preparing-to-teach/how-to-create-an-effective-syllabus/recommended-iowa-state-university-syllabus-statements/>