

**Applied Music: Organ Studio and/or Harpsichord Studio - Dr. Miriam Zach  
Iowa State University, Spring 2024**

Meeting time and place: lessons arranged individually; Studio meets Friday afternoons

Credit hours: 1, 2, 3, or 4

Professor Dr. Miriam Zach, Charles and Mary Sukup Endowed Artist in Organ

E-mail: [minerva@iastate.edu](mailto:minerva@iastate.edu)

Office: Music 210 — Office Hours: by appointment via email

Prerequisites: audition

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

We will explore organ and/or harpsichord repertoire from Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Romantic, 20th- and 21st centuries Western historical style periods, hymnody, sight-reading, acoustics, pipe organ and harpsichord construction and maintenance.

**Activities include**

Being the music you are imagining, listening actively, daily playing an organ or harpsichord, reading, researching, asking questions, writing, creating, exploring, reviewing, critiquing, presenting, developing your corpus callosum

**Valued are**

effort, curiosity, teamwork, participation, preparedness, communication skills (ability to listen actively, speak, read, write, be the music), considering Obstacles as Creative Opportunities

**Technique**

Accuracy of notes in manuals and pedal; Evenness, clarity, and control of touch; Manual and pedal coordination with both feet

**Interpretation**

Projection of musical character and structure; Facility and appropriateness of registration; Stage presence and poise.

**Educational Goals include**

*Creative Thinking skills:* Ability to raise clear and precise questions, use abstract ideas to interpret information, consider the same set of data from various points of view, reach well-reasoned conclusions, and test alternative outcomes against relevant criteria and standards.

*Global Cultural Diversity:* Understanding of diverse values, and music within cultural and historical context.

*Collaboration:* Ability to work together with other people.

At the end of the semester you will be asked to complete a **Performance Course Report** including the following information:

\*performed in studio class; \*\* performed in church service; \*\*\* performed in concert;  
# memorized. Compositions begun and completed this semester; Compositions begun in a previous semester and completed; Compositions as yet unfinished; Technical studies.

## REQUIRED

Davis, Roger E. *The Organist's Manual* (ISBN 0-393-95461-7) New York: W.W. Norton, 1985 ([www.wwnorton.com](http://www.wwnorton.com)) This book includes manual and pedal technique, interpretation, compositions, hymnody, and organ building. It is available via interlibrary loan.

Organ Master shoes are available from [http:// store.organmastershoes.com/](http://store.organmastershoes.com/)

Schott, Howard. *Playing the Harpsichord*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1979. (ISBN 0-312-61636-8)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

There are many resources including scores, books, and recordings available from generous donors in archival collections (contact Dr. Miriam Zach), online, and in Parks Library <http://www.lib.iastate.edu/>

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

The final grade takes into account your creative effort based on the following assignments. Possible points are in ( ). Complexity of repertoire depends on a student's experience playing the pipe organ or harpsichord. "Advanced" is recommended for more experienced organists/harpsichordists. Caveat: Procedures are accurate as of January 9, 2024 but subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

## CREATIVE EXPERIENCES and PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Spring 2024 Organ Studio will meet weekly on Fridays (3:10-5pm) in the ISU Martha- Ellen Tye Recital Hall (MET), **OR** St. John's Episcopal Church, 2338 Lincoln Way, Ames  
Saturday, March 2 – 4:30pm MET – *28<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Women Composers*,  
contact Founder/Creative Director Dr. Miriam Zach, [minerva@iastate.edu](mailto:minerva@iastate.edu)  
Saturday, April 13 - 1:30pm MET - *Organ Studio Concert "Mimesis"* (art imitates life)

### Organ / Harpsichord Solo Repertoire

(4 solos from different style periods x 40 points each = 160 possible points)

Prepare, perform, and record at least four (4) 3-5minute organ or harpsichord solos manuals+pedals from different historical style periods representative of each style period. Here are Western music historical style periods. (AD=Anno Domini on the Gregorian calendar):

Medieval (0-1400 AD), Renaissance (1400-1600), Baroque (1600-1750),  
Classical (1750-1800), Romantic (1800-1900), French Impressionism (1874-1915),  
20th century (1900-2000), 21st century (2000 to present)

### Be able to research and write program notes (20 possible points)

on composers' lives and works within historical context, respecting coherence, grammar, punctuation, and usage of standard written English. (Advanced analysis: When presented with a printed composition OR listening to a musical excerpt, identify country of origin, composer, title, historical style period, genre, language, medium, style characteristics, e.g., harmonic and contrapuntal texture, form).

**Pipe organ / harpsichord construction and maintenance.** (20 possible points)

**Hymnody** (each hymn 10 points x 6 hymns= 60 possible points)

Be able to trace the history and literature of hymns, texts and music, for example, a Baroque chorale prelude by Buxtehude or J.S. Bach. Be able to select hymns for the church year, e.g. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and for Life Events, for example, Weddings, and Memorial services. Prepare and perform six hymns during the semester each with introductory chorale prelude, both feet playing pedals, sensitivity to text, choice of registration, and awareness of the effect of acoustic environments on accompanying congregational singing. (Advanced: Improvise, modulate)

**Sight-reading** (4 sight-reading passages x 10 points each = 40 possible points)

two short passages of organ music on three staves maintaining a steady tempo with accuracy of notes and rhythm

(Advanced: Be able to play at sight a passage of music in open score on four staves using G and F clefs)

(Advanced: Play the continuo part of a chorale or short instrumental movement from a figured bass, given the melody, bass and figures.)

**300 Total Possible Points**

### **GRADING CHART**

A You attend class regularly and contribute positively. All assignments are turned in on time, complete, accurate in content, and presented in a professional manner. Combined grade average on assignments and class presentations is A or close to it.

B You complete all required assignments but one or more of the following may apply:

- (1) assigned work is mostly but not consistently thorough, accurate, or of high quality,
- (2) attendance and class involvement is inconsistent.

C You complete most of the required assignments but one or more of the following may apply: (1) the quality of the work is generally marginal, and (2) attendance and class participation is irregular.

D One or more of the following may apply: (1) all assignments are not completed or are of mostly poor quality, (2) attendance and class participation is poor.

F Most course requirements are NOT met satisfactorily.

A 279-300 A- 270-278 B+ 261-269 B 249-260 B- 240-248 C+ 231-239 C 219-230  
C- 210-218 D+ 201-209 D 189-200 D- 180-188 F 0-179

## **ATTENDANCE**

*Carpe diem*, be here now, mindful and respectful of those around you. Objectives will be met by actively participating in each lesson or performance at agreed-upon lesson or performance times. ISU Music Hall is scheduled to be open in Spring 2024 for classes to be in-person on campus in the MET or practice rooms. Also lessons will be in St. John's Episcopal Church near campus that is generously offering time and access to their pipe organ. Organs in Music 212 and 214 will be available for solo practice and teaching with materials for maintaining public health that include signing in, hand sanitizer, and social distancing. Practice-time sign-up sheets are posted inside on Music 212 and 214 doors. Church public health guidelines include signing in, hand sanitizing, and social distancing. If you must miss a class hour due to an excused absence (religious, health-related, or participation in an approved academic or athletic event) you should contact the instructor via email with a written excuse, in advance whenever and as soon as possible. If a student is absent six or more times without official documentation (e.g. Student Health, Dean of Students) s/he will be at risk of failing the course. Assignments will be made up only at the discretion of the instructor, and only with a doctor's written note or evidence of a family emergency. Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies.

Iowa State University is committed to proactively facilitating all students' well-being. Resources are available on the **ISU Student Health and Wellness website** (<https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu>). If you are not feeling well, you should stay home and focus on your health. Should you miss class due to illness, it is your responsibility to work with your instructor to arrange for accommodations and to make up coursework, as consistent with the instructor's attendance policy.

## **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.

## **Accessibility Statement**

Iowa State University is committed to advancing equity, access, and inclusion for students with disabilities. Promoting these values entails providing reasonable accommodations where barriers exist to students' full participation in higher education. Students in need of accommodations or who experience accessibility-related barriers to learning should work with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to identify resources and support available to them. Staff at SAS collaborate with students and campus partners to coordinate accommodations and to further the academic excellence of students with disabilities. Information about SAS is available online at [www.sas.dso.iastate.edu](http://www.sas.dso.iastate.edu), by email at [accessibility@iastate.edu](mailto:accessibility@iastate.edu), or by phone at 515-294-7220.