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Incorporating Sight-Singing, Melodic/Harmonic Dictation, and Formal Listening Skills into a First-Semester Aural Skills Course

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EAR TRAINING 1

Fall Semester



DESCRIPTION A basic course in the skills of reading and hearing music, employing Dalcroze techniques for the development of musicianship. To be taken in conjunction with Music Theory 1-2. Open to undergraduate students only. 2 credits.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES This class will help you become a better music listener, thinker, and sight-reader. It is my hope that classroom activities will have powerful implications in your own playing, teaching, and concert-going experiences. Throughout, we will think critically about how composers use melodies, rhythms, harmonies, and formal designs to create emotion in listeners.

Ear Training 1 (fall semester) focuses on diatonic and triadic music. Upon completion of this course students will be able to do the following when hearing musical stimuli:

1. Notate a rhythm in simple and compound meters, single division of the beat (Week 3 quiz for simple meter, Midterm dictation exam for compound meter)
2. Notate a major-mode melody in simple meter, single division of the beat, with leaps between notes of the I and V chords (Week 5 quiz)
3. Identify the meter of a musical recording (Week 5 quiz)
4. Identify melodic and harmonic intervals less than an octave (Midterm dictation exam)
5. Notate diatonic harmonic progressions (triads only) with all Roman Numerals except iii and vi (Week 9 quiz in the major mode, Final exam in the minor mode). These quizzes also test the student's knowledge of chordal inversion, cadences, and non-harmonic tones. Progressions including the submediant and mediant chords are learned in the spring semester. Chordal sevenths are also added in the spring semester.
6. Identify whether a melody begins on ^1, 3, or 5 (Week 9 quiz)
7. Notate melodies heard in the minor mode, single division of the beat, with leaps between notes of the I and V chords (Week 11 quiz in simple meter, Final exam in compound meter)
8. Identify the mode of a musical excerpt (Final exam)
9. Learn to diagram the form of a musical period, including cadence identification and determining the length of musical phrases (Final exam)
10. Throughout, students will learn to sight sing diatonic major and minor mode melodies on moveable-do solfège syllables in simple and compound meter with leaps only between notes of the I and V chords, single division of the beat, in bass and treble clefs (Chapters 2–6 of Rogers/Ottman). Students are required to conduct while sight singing at all times. The student's ability to sight sing melodies of this nature is tested in weekly assignments and during individual midterm/final exams. Other singing exercises such as improvisation and duets will be practiced intermittently.

INSTRUCTOR Dr. Jenine Brown
317 LH (location of classroom)
201 LH (location of office)
Jenine.Brown@jhu.edu
Email is preferred. I will respond within 24 hours.

COURSE MEETINGS Our class meets every day, Monday through Friday, at 9:30am, 10:00am, or 11:30am.
Classroom location: 317LH

OFFICE HOURS Please make an appointment.

GRADING 20% of overall grade: Individual exams (including both prepared and unprepared sight-singing exercises). 2 of them * 10% each

- The Midterm individual examination will take place during October 8–9.
- The Final individual examination will take place during December 10, 12, and 13.
- These 10-minute exams will help you sight sing music more fluently.

40% of overall grade: Dictation tests

- The Week 3 quiz will take place on 9/14, and is 5% of your total grade.
- The Week 5 quiz will take place on 9/28, and is 5% of your total grade.
- The Midterm dictation exam (Week 7) will take place on 10/12 and is 10% of your grade.
- The Week 9 quiz will take place on 10/26, and is 5% of your total grade.
- The Week 11 quiz will take place on 11/9, and is 5% of your total grade.
- The Final dictation exam (Week 15) will take place during Finals Week (12/12–12/13), and is 10% of your total grade.
- These quizzes will help you to notate melodies, rhythms, and harmonies.

40% of overall grade: Assignments (8 of them * 5% each)

- These assignments will ask you to think more broadly about particular compositions and to listen to the repertoire closely. You will also be asked to sing melodies using moveable-do solfège syllables.
- In most assignments, you will be asked to record a video of yourself singing exercises from our Rogers/Ottman text. I'll need to see your face and your conducting arm. Videos will be uploaded to Blackboard.
- Assignments are 5 points apiece and each error is a 0.2-point deduction. A more detailed rubric can be found under "Assignments" in our Blackboard class.
- Homework will be due by noon on most Thursdays throughout the semester: 9/13, 9/20, 9/27, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, and 11/15.

Extra credit:

- I also offer two extra-credit assignments out of 3 points. These assignments are still graded with 0.2 points off per error.
 - Assignment #9 can boost your grade by 3%. Due 11/29.
 - Assignment #10 can boost your grade by 3%. Due 12/6.

Grading Scale:

93–100%	A	90–92%	A-	87–89%	B+	83–86%	B	80–82%	B-
77–79%	C+	73–76%	C	70–72%	C-	67–69%	D+	63–67%	D
60–62%	D-	0–59%	F						

Music Theory Department Policy stipulates that all courses must be completed with a grade of C- to advance (70 points or more by the end of the semester).

GUIDELINES **Attendance:**

- You can miss 10 classes with no penalty. If you miss 11 classes, for any reason (excused or unexcused), your overall grade will be lowered by 1%. Subsequent absences will also lower your grade by 1%, per absence. If you miss more than 12 classes (nearly one class per week), you will automatically fail this class.
- Three or more tardies (late by 3 minutes or more) will equal one absence.
- If you are absent, you are still required to turn in assignments to Blackboard by their due date. If you are absent on the date of a quiz, it is your responsibility to reschedule the quiz with the GA (you may only do this once per semester; additional missed quizzes will unfortunately receive a zero).

Late work:

- I allow one missed exam or quiz to be rescheduled per semester. Missed exams will not be rescheduled after you've used your "one free makeup."
- I also allow one assignment "redo" each semester. If you turned in the assignment on time, you can redo the assignment and will be graded out of 5 points. If you never turned in the assignment, you will be graded out of a maximum of 4.5 points.
- Late work is due by 11:59pm on the last day of class (Monday, Dec. 10).

Getting help outside of class:

- If you need extra help outside of class, I recommend that you meet with the GA and myself. We are happy to meet you on a weekly basis to help you improve.
- Our Blackboard class includes multiple practice dictations prior to each quiz.
- You might also make use of the free tutoring service through Dr. Mathews' office. Contact me and I can pair you with a tutor for weekly ear-training lessons.
- Other resources include free online tutoring via Skype:
<http://musictheorytutor.weebly.com/>
- There are many free websites for more melodic dictation practice, including:
<https://www.teoria.com/en/exercises/md.php>

**ACADEMIC
INTEGRITY**

Students enrolled at Peabody are obliged to refrain from acts that threaten the academic integrity of the Conservatory such as cheating or plagiarism. Violations are reported to Academic Affairs for adjudication and documentation in the student academic record. Please familiarize yourself with this and all other academic regulations at:

<http://www.peabody.jhu.edu/academicaffairs>

**DIVERSITY &
DISABILITY
STATEMENT**

The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University values diversity and inclusion. We are committed to a climate of mutual respect and civility among members of our community. Peabody recognizes that disability is an aspect of diversity. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment or achievement related to your disability, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students are also welcome to contact Kyley Sommer, Director of Student Affairs in the Office of Student Affairs, in person, via email at ksommer@jhu.edu, or by phone at (667) 208-6700 for further information about academic adjustments or accommodations.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- One textbook is required. You'll use this textbook for four semesters of ear training in my classes.
 - Author: Nancy Rogers and Robert Ottman
 - Title: Music for Sight Singing, 10th edition
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Music-Sight-Singing-Student-Whats/dp/0134475453>
- Please also bring typical things to class (e.g., paper, pencil, staff paper) so that you can take notes and practice dictations. You can print out staff paper from our Blackboard class page.
- You are expected to regularly check our class webpage in Blackboard. Additional course materials (practice dictations, PDFs, handouts, scores, recordings, etc.) will be posted there as well as your grades and assignments.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK / DATE		TOPIC /ASSIGNMENT/QUIZ
01	8/27	Chapter 1 Identifying and performing rhythms in simple meter Introduction to conducting patterns
02	9/3	Chapter 2 Major scales and key signatures Introduction to moveable-do solfège, singing stepwise melodies in treble and bass clefs Intro to notating pitch patterns Intro to rhythmic dictation
03	9/10	Chapter 3: Singing major melodies including leaps within the tonic triad while conducting Thursday Assignment #1 Due (see Blackboard for instructions) Week 3 Dictation Quiz on Friday: Rhythmic dictation in simple meter (single division of the beat), and dictation of a four-measure pitch pattern in a major key (all stepwise except for leaps between notes of the tonic triad)
04	9/17	Chapter 3 Introduction to simple intervals from the major scale Introduction to melodic dictation Thursday Assignment #2 Due
05	9/24	Chapter 4 Introduction to compound meter Thursday Assignment #3 Due Week 5 Dictation Quiz on Friday: Determining the meter of a musical excerpt, and a melodic dictation in simple meter (single division of the beat) with leaps between notes of tonic and dominant
06	10/1	Practice for the Midterm individual and dictation exams Intro to all intervals within an octave
07	10/8	Midterm individual exam on Monday and Tuesday: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sing a prepared major-mode melody in simple meter from Ch. 3, ○ Sing a prepared major-mode melody in compound meter from Ch. 4, ○ Perform a two-voice rhythm from Ch. 4 in compound meter, and ○ Sight sing two unprepared melodies in the major mode (one in simple meter, one in compound) <p>Practice for the Midterm dictation exam on Wednesday and Thursday</p> <p>Midterm dictation exam on Friday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Melodic dictation in compound meter (single div. of beat) with leaps between notes of I and V, ○ Melodic dictation in simple meter (single div. of beat) with leaps between notes of I and V, and ○ Identify intervals smaller than an octave

08	10/15	<p>Introduction to triad quality and hearing whether R/3/5 is in the soprano Introduction to Roman Numerals and harmonic dictation Introduction to chordal inversion and figured bass Thursday Assignment #4 Due</p>
09	10/22	<p>No class on Friday due to Fall Break Harmonic dictation Thursday Assignment #5 Due Week 9 Dictation Quiz on Friday: identification of triad quality, identification of the starting note of a melody (whether it is the root, 3rd, or 5th), and a seven-chord harmonic dictation in a major key (triads only; can include passing, neighbor, and cadential 6/4 chords)</p>
10	10/29	<p>Chapter 5 Introduction to the minor mode: sight singing and melodic dictation Thursday Assignment #6 Due</p>
11	11/5	<p>Harmonic dictations in the minor mode Chapter 6: Singing and notating melodies with leaps from tonic and dominant Thursday Assignment #7 Due Week 11 Dictation Quiz on Friday: Melodic dictation in the minor mode (simple meter, single division of the beat, leaps between notes of I and V)</p>
12	11/12	<p>Introduction to cadences Thursday Assignment #8 Due</p>
13	11/26	<p>No class 11/19–23 due to Thanksgiving Break Introduction to period types Practice for the final exam Thursday Assignment #9 Due (this is extra credit)</p>
14	12/3	<p>Practice for the final exam Thursday Assignment #10 Due (this is extra credit)</p>
15	Finals Week: 12/12+ 12/13	<p>Final individual exam on 12/10, 12/12, or 12/13 (depending on when you sign up):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Perform a “play and sing” in the major mode (compound meter, single division of the beat), ○ Sing a prepared melody from Chapter 5 (minor mode, compound meter), ○ Sing a prepared melody from Chapter 6 (major mode, simple meter, single division of the beat, leaps between notes of I and V only), and ○ Sight sing two unprepared melodies from Chapter 6 <p>Final dictation exam on 12/12 or 12/13, time and location TBD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Melodic dictation in minor (compound meter, leaps between I and V only), ○ Diatonic harmonic dictation in minor (13 chords, triads only) with some passing and neighbor tones in the soprano, ○ Identify two cadences and naming a period (parallel or contrasting) from a musical recording, and ○ Identify the mode (major or minor) and starting note (^1, 3, or 5) from a musical recording