

Dear Music students,

Please read through the announcements from the Music Department below.

Announcement from the Wind Ensemble conductor, Prof. Kevin McKeown:

On Monday, November 6th, members of the United States 300th Army Band will be on campus to perform chamber music and give a presentation on careers in music. The performance will be at 6 pm in MM220, and all music students are invited to hear this accomplished ensemble, the “Infinity Winds.”

Announcement from the dept. chair, Prof. Michael Dessen:

In addition to many other regularly offered electives, the Music Dept. is offering several new undergraduate courses in winter quarter under “topics vary” course numbers (MUS 47, 48 and 148). Here is some information on those courses:

MUS 148—Studies in Ethnomusicology: Advanced Concepts for Creative Music-Making

This course is designed and taught by Paul Roth, a musician and scholar. It does not require any pre-reqs other than being a music major, and as he notes in his course description, students are not required to have prior experience with jazz performance, even though it focuses on jazz-related music. Here is the course description:

“MUS 148 is an advanced jazz theory course. Rather than address conventional topics in jazz harmony, however, our targeted musical growth looks elsewhere. Throughout the 10-week quarter we deeply consider theoretical perspectives related to 1) sound, and how to develop a profound sonic presence on our instrument; 2) rhythm and phrasing; 3) playing solo and playing collectively; 4) using non-conventional music notation frameworks; 5) conceptualizing jazz and social justice (#jazzwithoutpatriarchy, jazz and socio-musical worldmaking), and others. These areas of study let us think/play beyond understandings of “jazz” itself towards realms of creative music-making and their socio-cultural contexts more broadly. The course is, as such, open to ALL musical backgrounds, whether you’re comfortable with jazz improvisation or you’ve never played jazz or improvised before (expect time for optional, low-stress playing in class). I’ll emphasize that a diverse class of varied experiences will enrich our musical learning together, and I encourage you all to take this upper-division course if you’re able! Feel free to email me with questions (Paul Nicholas Roth, pnroth@ucsd.edu), and I look forward to working with you.”

MUS 47 - The Computer as a Creative Musical Agent

This is a new course designed and taught by Steven Lewis, a PhD student in our Integrated Composition, Improvisation and Technology program (ICIT). It is a lower-div course open to all UCI students. Here is the course description:

“How does the medium of the computer shape the way that music and interactive art is made? In this

class, the computer will be conceptualized as an implement of creative accomplishment - a creative tool which requires active artistic engagement and critical inquiry. From this framework, we will forgo our perceptions of the computer as an instrument to deliver an experience of passive, curated consumption, and explore what it means to have developed a creative orientation to human-computer interactivity, specifically as it relates to the development of music technologies from the mid-20th Century to today. We will explore the origins of electronic music and the digitization of sound to recognize and critique the current trajectory of computer-mediated performance and composition practices. This course will cover the challenges of discussing the topics of designing, deploying, and evaluating interactive human computer systems in various fields, such as performance, composition, education, and research. It will also provide a historical overview of music and computing as it relates to the concept of human-computer or human-machine interaction, and trace contemporary musical and artistic practices that center the computer as a creative agent to their origins in electronic and digital technologies, and acoustic music practices."

MUS 48 - Brazilian Music

This is a new course designed and taught by Joao Martins, a PhD student in our History and Theory of Music program (HTM). It is a lower-div course open to all UCI students. For more details on the course, please contact Mr. Martins: duartemj@uci.edu

"In MUS48: Brazilian Music, students will learn how to play and identify essential Brazilian genres and their rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic patterns in connection with the socio-historical context in which those genres developed. Our learning process will replicate in many ways the aural tradition of the folkloric styles of Brazil and will accommodate different musical skill sets/levels."