

MUSIC 171 (Fall 2016)

Sight Singing I

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 1:40 – 2:30 PM

Room 310 (Thurs room 263)

Instructor: Eric Chernov

website: <http://www.ursatz.com>

email: chernove@ursatz.com

Office: 211

Office phone: N/A

Office Hours: by appointment

class open forum address: 171@lists.ursatz.com

Supplies (bring with you to all classes)

Textbooks: Berkowitz, Fontrier and Kraft. *A New Approach to Sight Singing*. Fifth Edition.
New York: W. W. Norton & Co Inc. (ISBN: 0-393-91150-0)

Other: Staff paper, pencil(s), eraser(s).

A working, portable metronome (which may be a phone app) will be shown to the teacher no later than the end of the second week of classes. This does not need to be brought to every class, but will be an integral part of the student's weekly homework.

GRADING

This course consists of two components: Dictation and Sight Singing.

You will get a separate grade for each component, which is then averaged as follows:

Sight Singing (and other performed work) counts for 66.67% (two thirds) of the grade.

Dictation work counts for 33.33% (one third) of the grade.

The grade for *each* component of the course will be assessed as follows:¹

Homework assignments and in-class work: 65%

Mid-term exam: 15%

Final exam: 20%

Participation: [see Attendance Policy, below]

Thus, if you make an 88 in ear training, but an 80 in dictation, your final grade would be:

$$(88 \times .6667) + (80 \times .3333) = 58.6696 + 26.664 = 85.3336$$

Final letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:

A+ = 97-100	A = 93-96	A- = 90-92	D+ = 67-69	D = 63-66	D- = 60-62
B+ = 87-89	B = 83-86	B- = 80-82	F = 0-59		
C+ = 77-79	C = 73-76	C- = 70-72			

¹ If you have another professor for the sight singing portion of the course, please consult their syllabus. In either event, the dictation grade will still be calculated in this manner and the grade will be furnished to the instructor at the end of the semester.

Weekly assignment grades convert letters to the *highest* associated number for calculation purposes (A+ = 100; A = 96; A- = 92; B+ = 89; etc.) except for F, which will convert to 0.

An overall grade of C- or better **as well** as passing grades (minimum of D) in **both** sight singing and dictation are required in order to continue to the next course in the sequence.

Per this policy, a student whose **final average** is C- or higher, but who does not have **at least** a D in either sight singing or dictation will receive a **final grade** of D.

CLASS POLICIES

Solfege:

The writing in of solfege syllables on any music is strictly prohibited.

Students who have used books with syllables written in should see me immediately to discuss rectifying the situation.

Syllable writing-in may consist of any of the following:

a full syllable (for example, "La"), an abbreviation (for example, "L"),

a syllable written-in and then erased, or even a syllable using another alphabet (for example, Cyrillic (л), Greek (λ), Hebrew (ל), etc.)

Students with syllables written in will receive a zero (0) on the assignment.

The writing in of letters (note names) on music is also prohibited.

Students *may* (and **SHOULD**) write other things on their music, however.

(For example: fingerings, countings, analytical markings, etc.)

Homework:

Please note that homework assignments will be posted on my website in the "courses" section.

Sight singing is a *performance* class, meant to impart good performance practices.

There is no excuse for not being prepared. See attendance policy, below, for more detail.

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken at every class. Students will be allowed 4 unexcused absences from MUS 171.

In general, students will have a week to prepare the *prepared* assignments, with Tuesdays being devoted mainly to melodic material and Fridays being devoted mainly to duets and sing-and-plays.

Sight singing is a *performance* class, meant to impart good performance habits.

As such, the following attendance policies should be noted:

Students will be allowed to make up 2 missed sing-and-play assignments. These must be made up within a week of the original due date. *It is the student's responsibility to arrange the make-up appointment.* Sing-and-plays which do not get made up will be marked as a "0" in the grade book. Any additional missed sing-and-play assignments beyond the 2 in which make-ups are allowed will be marked as a "0" in the grade book. In short, the student is responsible for, and will receive a grade for, *all* sing-and-plays.

Except for the above sing-and-play policy, a student who is absent will not have an opportunity to perform the missed material. There will not be a failing grade entered for other missed material; there will simply be less grades in the book to calculate the homework average.

Dictation material cannot be made up. A student may miss 3 dictation days.

A 4-point reduction on the student's final sight singing grade will result for each additional dictation session missed.

Students are expected to show up to class *on time*.

A 2-point reduction on the student's *final* course grade will result for every 2 instances of tardiness.

MATERIALS COVERED

MUS 171 covers the various first sections of the textbook. It is an introductory course in ear training consisting of solfège, sight-singing, prepared singing assignments, rhythmic studies, some basic conducting (as well as the combination of these) and dictation. There is a heavy emphasis in the first semester of the sequence (i.e., MUS 171) on *technique*.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to adhere to the college's academic integrity policies.

A copy of those policies may be found here: <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies.html>

In-Class Technology Policy

Students are expected to have cell phones, digital cameras, laptops, etc. put away during class time (though they may be kept on). During quizzes and exams, these devices are to be put away and *turned off*.

NO so-called "wearable" computers (e.g., Google Glass™) are permitted in the classroom.

NO photographs or videos may be taken during class. Photographs or videos taken in class will result in failure on all work for that day (first offence) or failure of the course (second offence).

Email

Students are *strongly* encouraged to enter my email address and the class open forum address into their email address book and/or on their "safe list." This is particularly true of those with AOL accounts. Notifications from ISPs that legitimate emails sent from me or the class open forum have been tagged as spam will result in the removal of the student's address from the open forum list. This could result in missing important class announcements, for which I take no responsibility.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

NO CLASS:

Oct 4 (Tue)	Rosh Hashanah
Oct 6 (Thu)	Monday Schedule
Oct 11 (Tue)	Kol Nidre
Nov 24 (Thu)	Thanksgiving
Nov 25 (Fri)	Thanksgiving

SPECIAL TO NOTE:

Oct 14 (Fri) – Tuesday Schedule

LAST CLASS OF THE SEMESTER:

Dec 9 (Fri)

MIDERM EXAMS:

Oct 20 (Thur) Dictation
Oct 21 (Fri) Sight Singing

FINAL EXAMS:

Dec 8 (Thur) Dictation
Dec 13-21 (exact date/time TBA) Sight Singing