

# MUSIC 171 (Spring 2020)

## Sight Singing I

**Tuesdays and Fridays 12:15 – 1:05 PM**

**Room 308**

**Instructor:** Eric Chernov

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

**email:** [chernove@ursatz.com](mailto:chernove@ursatz.com)

**Office:** 211

**Office phone:** N/A

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**class open forum address:** [171@lists.ursatz.com](mailto:171@lists.ursatz.com)

### Supplies (bring with you to all classes)

**Textbooks:** Berkowitz, Fontrier, Kraft. et al. *A New Approach to Sight Singing*. Sixth Edition.  
New York: W. W. Norton & Co Inc. (ISBN: 978-0393284911)

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

A working, portable metronome 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<sup>1</sup>

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 *the Sight Singing* component of the course will be assessed as follows:

**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**

**B+ = 87-89**

**B = 83-86**

**B- = 80-82**

**C+ = 77-79**

**C = 73-76**

**C- = 70-72**

**D+ = 67-69**

**D = 63-66**

**D- = 60-62**

**F = 0-59**

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<sup>1</sup> The final dictation grade for the semester will be furnished to Dr. Chernov by the dictation lab's instructor. That number will count for 33.33% of the semester's grade, as outlined above.

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.

ACSM policy mandates that 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.

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:

<https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/academic-integrity-policy/>

Students may write in analysis, counting, etc. on prepared keyboard assignments. Students may *not* write in the names of notes in any form (e.g., letters, solfege syllables, etc.) on prepared keyboard assignments.

## Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Special Services Office, Kiely 171; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of classes.

For more information about services available to Queens College students, contact:

Mirian Detres-Hickey, Ph.D., Special Services Office; 171 Kiely Hall;

718-997-5870 (8:00am to 5:00pm); email: [Mirian.detresHickey@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:Mirian.detresHickey@qc.cuny.edu)

## 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™, Apple Watches, etc.) are to be used in the classroom.

Audio recordings of the class are permitted.

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

Photographs of the material on the board may be taken *with the permission of the instructor*. This permission must be acquired for each instance. The taking of photographs without permission 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:

Apr 07 (Tue) Wednesday Schedule  
Apr 10 (Fri) Spring Break  
Apr 14 (Tue) Spring Break

### LAST CLASS OF THE SEMESTER:

May 12 (Tue)

### MIDTERM EXAM:

Mar 13 (Fri)

### FINAL EXAM:

May 15-22 (exact date/time TBA)