

MUSIC 172 (Spring 2026)

Sight Singing and Dictation II

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 11:10 – 12:00

Rm. 351

Instructor: Dr. Eric Chernov
Office: 211
website: <https://www.ursatz.com>

Office Phone: N/A
Primary email: eric.chernov@qc.cuny.edu

Office hours: Fridays, 12:10-13:10 *and by appointment*

class open forum address: 172@lists.ursatz.com

Supplies:

Textbooks: Berkowitz, Fontrier, Kraft. et al. *A New Approach to Sight Singing*. Seventh Edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Co Inc. (ISBN: 978-1324071563)

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

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:

Homework assignments and in-class work: 65%
Mid-term exam: 15%
Final exam: 20%
Participation: [see Attendance Policy, below]

Thus, if you earn an 88 in sight singing, 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		

Weekly sight singing (and other performed) 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 F.

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 172.

In general, students will have a week to prepare the *prepared* assignments, with Tuesdays being devoted mainly to melodic material and Thursdays being devoted mainly to 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 fewer 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 172 covers the various second sections of the textbook.

MUS 172 aims to impart to students:

- The introduction of simple chromaticism in sight singing melodies (basic tonicizations and modulations).
- Fluency in alto clef, including its use in Sing and Plays.
- Rhythmic complexity, including syncopation, new time signatures (and their associated conducting patterns), etc.
- Dictation in 1, 2, and 4 voices.

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 (and should) write in fingering, 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 Office of Accessibility Services (OAS), 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 the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) at 718-997-5870.

For exams, please note:

If you are entitled to special services accommodations, you must request them with their office **at least one week prior to the exam**.

If they don't hear from you (and, subsequently, I don't hear from them), *you will have forfeited your accommodation for the exam* and will need to take it during the scheduled time.

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., Apple Watch™) are allowed to be used in the classroom.

Audio recordings of the class are permitted. Please inform the instructor if you are doing this.

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." 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.

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO CHECK THEIR EMAIL REGULARLY.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

NO CLASS:

Feb 12 (Thu) Lincoln's BD
Feb 17 (Tue) Washington's BD
Mar 20 (Fri) No Class
Apr 02 (Thu) Spring Break
Apr 03 (Fri) Spring Break
Apr 07 (Tue) Spring Break
Apr 09 (Thu) Spring Break

LAST CLASS OF THE SEMESTER:

May 19 (Tue)

MIDTERM EXAM:

Mar 19 (Thu): Sight Singing
Mar 27 (Fri): Dictation

FINAL EXAM:

May 15 (Fri): Dictation
May 16-24 (exact date/time TBA): Sight Singing

PLEASE NOTE:

April 21 (Tuesday) follows a Thursday schedule, but this does not affect us in this class.