

025:156 COMPOSITION SEMINAR

Lawrence Fritts

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Office hours: MW, 5:00 PM. Best to email for appointments.

Please email or text message me if you will be late or miss class.

Fall 2013

Goals: The main topic of this seminar's semester is the presentation and discussion of recent works of the Masters and PhD composition students.

Presentation Format of Written Materials: Each student should distribute handouts containing the following: a composer biography, a comprehensive list of works, and program notes for each piece presented. If desired, but not required, a technical overview, discussion of aesthetics or influences, and analysis may be included. In addition to the handout, the student should distribute copies of the score for each piece presented. Preferably, one score for each seminar participant would be distributed. However, it is acceptable that fewer scores would be presented. For purely electronic works, no score is necessary.

Presentation Format of Audio Materials: Recordings of performances are greatly preferred over MIDI recordings. If a MIDI playback must be used, it should be in the format of an audio file. Do not use realtime performances in Sibelius or Finale. The recordings should either be on CD, or on the computer before class. Do not waste class time downloading files from email or transferring files from a Flash drive during the presentation. Adhering to this format will add to the professionalism of the presentation.

Presentation Style: Consider this presentation a dry run of a presentation during a job interview. Speak loudly and clearly, and look and act the part of a job candidate that someone would want to hire. The layout of the studio often makes standing awkward. Therefore, it is permissible to sit in front of the participants. Try to use the white board during the presentation. This should be used whenever a composer's name or title of a work is mentioned that is not in the handout. It is often very helpful in a presentation to have this kind of information written on the board.

Discussion Format: You may open the floor to discussion either after each piece has been presented, or after all of the pieces have been presented. Seminar participants should be respectful, but are encouraged to press the presenter on different aspects of the work and presentation. The presenter should listen to questions and suggestions with interest, and show little or no sign of defensiveness.

Length of Presentation: Each presentation should be 90 minutes in length. If you feel that you do not want to spend the entire time on your music, then expand your presentation to include some presentations on works by other composers whose ideas and techniques you have absorbed, borrowed, or been influenced by.

Grading: Letter grades or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory will be given to students registered for credit. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grades will be given to students registered for 0 credits.

Outside Visitors and Activities: Some of these are listed in the calendar below. However, it frequently happens that visitors will be brought in, sometimes on short notice. This will require student presentations to be rescheduled and possibly compressed.

Attendance of Performances: Concerts of the Center for New Music, Composers' Workshop, UISCI, and Electronic Music Studios are presented throughout the semester. Often, the single most important thing a student composer can do, is attend as many concerts of recent music as possible. Hearing how instruments and electronics sound in a concert setting provides invaluable lessons in instrument technique, orchestration, technology, and compositional approaches.

Administrative Home: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

Electronic Communication: University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. (Operations Manual, III.15.2. Scroll down to k.11.)

Accommodations for Disabilities: A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Academic Fraud: Plagiarism and any other activities when students present work that is not their own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is a serious matter and is reported to the departmental DEO and to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum. Instructors and DEOs decide on appropriate consequences at the departmental level while the Associate Dean enforces additional consequences at the collegiate level. See the CLAS Academic Fraud section of the Student Academic Handbook.

CLAS Final Examination Policies: Final exams may be offered only during finals week. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. Students should not ask their instructor to reschedule a final exam since the College does not permit rescheduling of a final exam once the semester has begun. Questions should be addressed to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint: Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

Understanding Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather: In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Public Safety web site.

Calendar: This calendar will be updated after students have been assigned presentation dates.

Aug. 30	Introductions.
Sept. 6	Job preparation: Announcement, Materials, Timeline
Sept. 13	_____
Sept. 20	Guest composer David Lang
Sept. 27	_____
Oct. 4	_____
Oct. 11	Guest composer Derek Bermel
Oct. 18	_____
Oct. 25	_____
Nov. 1	Guest composer Carl Schimmel
Nov. 8	_____
Nov. 15	Midwest Composers' Symposium. No seminar.
Nov. 22	Job Preparation: CV and cover letter
Nov. 29	Thanksgiving break
Dec. 6	Job Preparation: Interview

Fall 2013

Additions to the Composition Seminar syllabus

Guest Composers

David Lang

Friday, September 20 – seminar presentation at 3:30pm

Saturday, September 21 – meeting with students individually

Sunday, September 22 – CNM concert, 7:30pm, RRH

Derek Bermel

Friday, October 11 – seminar presentation at 3:30pm

JACK Quartet

Arrival, October 6. Workshops and reading sessions this week.

Concert I, October 11, 7:30pm, RRH, a concert of string quartets by UI students

Concert II, October 12, 7:30pm, RRH, a concert of contemporary works, together with guest composer

Derek Bermel.

Michael Harrison, composer and pianist being brought in by the Dance Department under an Ida Beam Grant.

Concert, Wednesday, October 16, 7:30pm, RRH

Composition presentation TBA

Carl Schimmel

Friday, November 1 – seminar presentation at 3:30pm

Composers Workshop Concert

Sunday, November 3, 2013, 7:30pm, RRH

MidWest Composers Symposium – University of Michigan

Friday-Saturday, November 15-16

Depart Friday at 8am, attend evening concert

Saturday – three concerts

Saturday night performance of Mahler's 9th symphony, San Francisco Symphony. Tickets \$24 (the CNM will purchase these tickets)

CNM 2013-2014 Season
Fall 2013

Concert 1

Sunday, September 22, 2013 – Wolfgang David, violin
Old Capitol Senate Chamber, 3pm
Works by Prokofiev, Xenakis and Gompper

Concert 2

Sunday, September 22, 2013 – CNM ensemble, guest composer David Lang, along with guest composers Mike D'Ambrosio and Brian Ciach, Murray State University. Riverside Recital Hall, 7:30pm

Concert 3

Friday, October 11, 2013 – JACK Quartet – works by UI student composers
Riverside Recital Hall, 7:30pm

Concert 4

Saturday, October 12, 2013 – JACK Quartet – guest composer Derek Bermel
Riverside Recital Hall, 7:30pm

Concert 5

Sunday, October 13, 2013 – guest clarinetist Michael Norsworthy
Riverside Recital Hall, 7:30pm

Concert 6

Wednesday, October 16, 2013 – guest composer Michael Harrison
Riverside Recital Hall, 7:30pm

Concert 7

Sunday, November 3, 2013 – Composers Workshop Concert
Riverside Recital Hall, 7:30pm

Concert 8

Friday, November 8, 2013 – contemporary works for accordion and violoncello
UCC Recital Hall, 7:30pm

Tour

Friday-Saturday, November 15-16 – U of Michigan MidWest Composers Symposium

Concert 9

Sunday, December 8, 2013 – CNM ensemble concert
Riverside Recital Hall, 7:30pm