

MUS-200-1 / ART-180-1 MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE (3 credit hours)

Instructor: Reiko WATANABE

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Semester: Spring Meeting times: Over 7.5 weeks only

DESCRIPTION:

From a unique perspective of a performing artist on stage, I explore and analyze numerous master pieces from the Baroque to contemporary music periods. I demonstrate different styles of music and highlight changes in performance practices which have occurred over time. The students will have an opportunity to attend my live, lecture-concert session at a public concert hall. At the university, I shall often play solo violin or duo pieces with a pianist to allow the students to listen, stop, and ask questions during such performances.

I will also point out relationships which exist among literature, philosophy and music by using literary works of Nietzsche and Tolstoy and musical works of Janacek, Beethoven, J. S. Bach, etc. Students will be encouraged to explore the relationship among composers, performers, audience and critics in performing arts. This year I will let students actually play violin as an experience. In addition, I plan to invite an internationally known Japanese composer to the class to speak on classical and modern music from the perspective of a composer.

OBJECTIVES:

By actually listening to many examples of actual performances, students will be able to grasp the essence of music which is difficult to comprehend through intellectual and verbal exercises only. They should realize that there is a lot more to music than printed notes on a page. The course will develop the ability of the students to become an active listener, versus a passive listener, with appreciation for both the sound and the musicians who create this art.

STUDY MATERIALS:

<Textbook>

J. Kerman, G. Tomlinson, *Listen*, Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 6th Edition

< **Other sources for listening and further readings** >

The following list of music compositions on CD's will be made available in the library:

6 CD's which accompany the text book, *Listen*; includes recordings from early Middle Ages to 20th century music
J. S. Bach, *Sonatas and Partitas for Violin Solo, Cantatas, Passions*
A. Vivaldi, *Four Seasons*
A. Mozart, *Sonatas, Concertos*
L. Beethoven, *Sonatas, Symphonies*
J. Brahms, *Sonatas for Violin and Piano, Violin Concerto, Piano Concertos*
N. Paganini, *Caprices*
C. Franck, *Sonata for violin and piano*
A. Berg, *Violin Concerto*
A. Shostakovich, *Violin Concerto, Symphonies*
Works by Bartok, Schubert, Schumann, Stravinsky, Debussy, Schoenberg, etc.

DVD:

L. Bernstein, *Young People's Concert/New York Philharmonic, 1961*
The Art of Violin, and other video recordings of past master performers in the 20th century

Books on music and art:

A. Copland, *What to Listen for in Music*
Weiss & Taruskin, *Music in the Western World*
N. Lebrecht, *The Book of Musical Anecdotes*
F. Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*
L. Rowell, *Thinking About Music*
A. Schopenhauer, *Metaphysics of Music*
L. Tolstoy, *What is Art, Kreutzer-Sonata*
S. Volkov, *Testimony*

Interviews on DVD's and CD's and music reviews from newspapers and journals.

ASSESSMENT:

The course grade will be determined by:

Final examination	50%
Listening quizzes	30%
Classroom discussion	20%

ACADEMIC PREPARATION:

None required, only eagerness and curiosity about music.

POLICIES:

Attendance will be counted as a part of classroom discussion.
CD's will be available in the library for listening assignments.

COURSE FORMAT AND ACTIVITIES:

The course consists of 45 class hours, but classes are not held every week. The dates of classes are already posted.

- Week 1: What is the Classical Music?
Copland's "What to Listen for in Music"
- Week 2: Structure of music.
Late Baroque Period – Bach and Vivaldi
- Week 3: What is Violin? Legends of great violinists
Music and the Age of Enlightenment –symphonies, sonatas, concertos

You will experience playing the violin in class!
- Week 4: Mozart and Haydn. A new genre: string quartets
- Week 5: Beethoven: a hero
- Week 6: Romantics -- Schubert, Schumann, Brahms
- Week 7: Modernism -- Debussy, Schoenberg, A. Berg, Stravinsky
- Week 8: Alternatives to Modernism – Bartok
Class summary and final exam

On June 22, I will have a lecture-concert at the Large Lecture Hall, accompanied by a pianist.

As in the past, in conjunction with Profs. Nilson and Ashmore's courses on philosophy and Japanese art, in June we are planning to invite Mr. S. Satoh, an internationally renowned Japanese composer, to lecture about his own works.