

Studio of Ericsson Hatfield

Studio Policy & Syllabus Overview

2022

If you are here, it is because you are curious about obtaining a deeper musical experience and command over your abilities. Composers are an elite group of musicians — almost every great musician that has been canonized is principally remembered for their compositional output. While J.S. Bach, W. Mozart and L. Beethoven were extraordinary performers, their legacy is built around the music they wrote. Composers create the musical world within which everyone lives, and as such, our responsibilities extend beyond ourselves to the larger community. I am here to teach a rigorous curriculum that is based on principles mastery that have been demonstrated over the centuries. My approach focuses entirely on technique, with clear and practical approaches to imitating mastery as a means of obtaining originality. If you commit yourself to following this course, you will walk away with the ability to write high quality, rewarding music in an efficient and expedient manner.

Should you have any inquiries regarding this document, please feel free to contact me. Periodic updates will be made to this document. References are available upon request.

Contact

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Location/Time

- Lessons are held in person in Hayes Valley, San Francisco.
- Alternatively, lessons may also be held online over zoom.
- All lessons are scheduled with respect to Pacific Time Zone.
- Lessons are held at a regular frequency determined by the student - twice per week, once per week, twice per month, once per month, etc.
- Time lost due to technical difficulties or teacher tardiness will be made up either at the end of the lesson or added to the next lesson.

Rate & Payment Method

\$120 per hour lesson

- Students are granted one initial trial lesson at no cost.
- Payments can be made online using Zelle, PayPal or Venmo. Alternatively, checks are accepted.
- Payments may be made at an interval not exceeding a month at a frequency that suites the student — payments may be made after each lesson, every 2 lessons, or at the end of each month.
- Each student is provided an invoice at the end of the month.
- Lessons may exceed the hour (if permitted by the student), sometimes by 60 minutes. Overtime is NOT charged, though the right to terminate the lesson at the hour mark is reserved. If you would like to reserve longer lessons, the additional time is charged proportionally.

Curriculum Overview

The following curriculum is progressive, meaning that students must study counterpoint before form, and form before composition. If the student demonstrates sufficient mastery in an area and strongly desires to focus on a particular topic not in this order, the decision to permit this is at my sole discretion. Students are expected to hone their aural skills in tandem with their theoretical studies. A more detailed overview of the curriculum is provided at the end of this document.

Theory

Counterpoint

- Species
- Canon
- Convertible Counterpoint
- Invention/Fugue

Form

- Phraseology
- Dance
- Vocal
- Instrumental

Composition

Aural Skills

- Solfege
- Canonic Realization/Improvisation
- Dictation
- Transposition

Copyrighted Teaching Materials

- Students are regularly provided with original teaching materials, such as worksheets, analytical documents and aural exercises. These constitute a valuable assets to the studio, and contribute to its effectiveness and prestige. *These documents are not to be shared without my written permission.*

Cancellation and Tardiness

- Students must give 24 hours advance notice of cancellation/rescheduling, otherwise the right to charge for the time reserved is retained. Exceptions are made for emergencies.
- The right to cancel and charge the lesson fee is retained if the student is 15 or more minutes late.
- Lessons may be concluded at the agreed upon time regardless of the student's tardiness, and the full lesson fee will be charged.

Prerequisites

- Lessons are available to students aged 13 and older.
- Fluency in reading music.
- Some instrumental or vocal skills.

Online students

- A stable high speed internet connection, suitable for video calling.
- A clear way to transmit audio.

Expectations

- The student/teacher dynamic is reciprocal — the amount of effort and care a student invests into their studies will be returned through their lessons. Students should come to lessons prepared with staff paper (physical or tablet) and an enthusiastic attitude for learning.
- Homework assignments should be emailed at least 48 hours in advance of the lesson to permit time for review and possible corrections.
- It is my decision to choose what is best for the student to study so that they may achieve their goals — if I determine that they are not ready for the next concept, they will not be allowed to progress.

Students under the age of 18

- Students under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian throughout the lesson.

Syllabus Overview

Theory Counterpoint

SPECIES

- 1st Species
- 2nd Species
- 3rd Species
- 4th Species
- 5th Species
- Sequences

CANONIC TECHNIQUE

- Canon at the Octave
 - Modulation
 - 3 Voices
 - Subjects
- Canon at the 5th
 - Hexachordal canons
 - 3 Voices
 - Subjects
- Canon in Contrary Motion
 - Tetrachordal/Hexachordal canons
 - 3 Voices
 - Subjects
- Canon at the 3rd/6th
- Canon at the 2nd/7th
- Canon & Sequences
- Canon with Accompaniment

CONVERTIBLE COUNTERPOINT

- Inverse Shifts
 - Index at the octave
 - Index at the 12th
 - Index at the 10th
- Direct Shifts
 - Index at the 5th
- Index at the 3rd
- Convertible Canons
- Horizontal Shifting
 - Imaginary Shifts
 - Real Shifts

INVENTION/FUGUE

- Ciceronian Canons
 - *Invention*
 - Heuristic Methods
 - Topoi
 - Stasis
 - *Disposition*
 - Exordia
- *Tela*
- *Ultima*
- *Style*
- *Memory*
- *Delivery*
- 4 Rhetorical Operations

Form

PHRASEOLOGY

- Cadence
- Proportion
- Repetition
- Parallelism
- Sentences
- Periods
- Compound Phrases
- Hybrid Phrases

DANCE FORMS

- The Grand Cycle

VOCAL FORMS

- Song Forms
- Aria Forms

INSTRUMENTAL FORMS

- Sonata
- Rondo
- Concerto
- Compound Forms
- Procedural Integration

Aural Training

- Solfeggio
- Realizing/Improvising Canons
- Dictation
- Transposition