COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Provides practical and repertoire studies in traditional Chinese orchestral techniques (yangqin, erhu, dizi, xiao, pipa, etc.). Prerequisite: None. Open to majors/non-majors.
Practical and repertoire studies in traditional Chinese orchestral techniques (yangqin, erhu, dizi, xiao, pipa, etc.). Prerequisite: None. Open to majors/non-majors.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morris, Kim</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPECIAL FEATURES

WELCOME TO THE CHINESE MUSIC ENSEMBLE!
MUSI 1047, 2047, 3047 and 4047

Course Director: Dr. Kim Chow-Morris  dizixiao@gmail.com
Co-Instructor: Sifu Miriam Sue Phig Choy  hmusinc@aim.com

This course offers practical instruction in traditional and contemporary Chinese instrumental ensemble techniques, which may include ancient melodies, folk music from diverse regions of China, and modern conservatory-style (guoyue) works. The first year level of this class is designed specifically for students who have no prior training on Chinese instruments. Students in each successive level must complete the preceding level of the course or ask for a determination of performance equivalency by the Course Director. All students must consult with the instructors during the first class regarding their previous musical experience, if any, but should not consider lack of previous musical training to be a barrier to enrolment in the 1047 level. All levels of the course are open to both music majors and non-majors.

Instruments may include the following: dizi, xiao, erhu, zhonghu, yangqin, qinqin, liuqin, sanxian, zhongruan, daruan, and guzheng. Instrument assignment will be dependent on orchestrational needs, enrolment, and students’ abilities and interests. Students with their own instruments should consult with the professor regarding their suitability for the ensemble. Students are welcome to purchase instruments on their own provided that they suit the orchestrational needs of the ensemble (ie dizi must be in D key; we do not include certain instruments). Shared instruments will also be provided to students on loan at no cost. Students may only use the specific instrument assigned to them and are not permitted to play on or take other instruments out of the classroom. Students are, however, expected to take their assigned instrument home for practice every week. Students will become familiar with the jianpu cipher notation system standard throughout China.
Students are responsible for the care, maintenance, and tuning of borrowed instruments throughout the course. Replacement of broken strings, picks, membranes, etc, is the responsibility of the student, and any damage to the instruments or their cases will be billed to the student prior to the release of grades. Students must report damage to instruments as soon as it occurs so that appropriate remedies may be made during the term: some repairs are easy to do, particularly if caught early, while other damage may require replacement of the instrument. Each instrument will be thoroughly examined at the end of the course. Students will be given up to ten minutes at the beginning of each class to warm up, tune, and ask individual questions as needed. Any student coming later than this should tune between the double doors so as to lessen the disturbance to the rest of the orchestra’s rehearsal. Tuning should not take place in the hallway, as it will disturb those in nearby offices. *As the success of the ensemble is based on the attendance and full cooperation of each member of the group, students must ensure that they are prompt and prepared for every class and performance throughout the year. Failure to do so will significantly affect the student’s grade.*

**Topics and Concepts**

There are no assigned textbooks or readings for MUSI X047 as this is a performance course. However, students will be expected to learn the ancient, folk and newly-composed repertoire assigned to them each class. We will begin by learning how to play the pentatonic scale on each of our instruments, and how to read basic *jianpu* (simple notation). The first few weeks of class will be dedicated to learning foundational instrumental technique, reading notation, how to respond to conducting patterns, and ensemble skills. After practising our translation of rhythmic and melodic notation through a series of graduated simple one-line exercises, we will learn our first short piece in D key (*D diào*). Once we have learned to integrate our performance of instrumental technique, responsiveness to conducting patterns, listening across the ensemble, and translating *jianpu* into musical sound, we will spend the rest of the weeks of the course developing a repertoire of diverse pieces with the goal of public performance in order to share what we have accomplished and learned. Performances will typically take place in the second term, once we have amassed a significant repertoire. In the past, we have performed for Chinese senior’s centres, public schools, Chinese New Year festivals, a Buddhist temple, and for the university community on campus. Students who have advanced performance backgrounds are encouraged to identify themselves and may be given opportunities to perform solos or small chamber works in our concerts. These concerts are the primary focus of our second term and are the capstone of our year’s work. The performances are free to the public, and you are highly encouraged to invite your family and friends to share in the music that you have worked to create all year!

**Learning Outcomes with Examples**

The objectives of this course are to assist students in developing technical and interpretive performance skills on Chinese traditional instruments, strong familiarity with *jianpu*, and knowledge of diverse regional and temporal styles of Chinese music. Students will gain increased insight into the broader culture of mainland China and select diasporic Chinese communities through their exploration of music. Students will learn public performance presentation skills and behaviours. An increased ability to work sensitively within a group setting, and to respond to non-verbal communication will be developed.

Learning activities will include individual and group rehearsals, demonstrations, collaborative learning, listening exercises, and public performance of repertoire practiced in class.

3. **Graded Assessment:**

   Four individual graded performances tests: 4 x 10% = 40%

   In-class ensemble performance, effort, participation and teamwork: 60%

This is a performance course, and as such, there are no required written tests or essays. In addition to ongoing in-class evaluation, there will be two individual performances tests in each term, announced one week prior to the test. Tests will typically address individual musical challenges in the most advanced repertoire being practised at that point of the term. Performance evaluations will be based on each student’s progressive development throughout the term relative to the level at which she began; evaluation will assess development in instrumental technique, ensemble sensibilities, responsiveness to the conductor and ensemble mates, consistency of pitch and tempo, accuracy of notes and rhythms, sense of meter, ensemble blend, accuracy of interpretation and style, understanding of differences between melodic and accompaniment roles.
in various sections of a given piece, ability to tune the instrument, thorough command of all assigned repertoire, and other relevant skills and knowledge.

Students who miss a performance test should alert the instructor of this fact during the next class that they attend and be prepared to take the test in that class. Failure to inform the instructor of a missed test will result in a grade of zero on that 10% of the course grade: it is the student’s responsibility to present her/himself for grading.

In-class ensemble performance, effort, attitude, participation and teamwork will be assessed in all classes, and this component of the grade is cumulative throughout the year. Note that while attendance is required to receive these grades, presence in body alone does not equate to a good grade: it is what you do while in class that counts. It is important to note also that strong solo performance, while helpful, is not equivalent to strong ensemble playing, which is the focus of the graded assessment for in-class performance. Solo playing, conversely, is the focus of the individual tests, and tempi may be increased or decreased within reason to showcase one’s best performance level on a given piece. (As in live performance, however, students must stick with their chosen tempo once they begin a piece).

Additional Information

The performance costume for this ensemble is red and black dress clothes and shoes. Students are encouraged to purchase or borrow red Chinese jackets or cheongsam/qipao if at all possible. Socks should also be black or red. Our aim is present a unified colour scheme, with individual variation in style. Please note that pink, orange, burgundy or purple clothing will not be acceptable for the York Chinese Orchestra’s performance costume. Ripped jeans, hoodies, baseball caps and sweat pants should be avoided for formal concerts as we wish to present a polished look to our audience. Please be sure to put together your performance costume early in the term so that you are not stuck hunting for an appropriate costume during the week of performance. If you are unsure of the suitability of your costume, you are welcome to bring a photo of it to class to show your instructors prior to performance day. It is preferable that each student purchase his/her own collapsible music stand (approx. $25-35) for at home practice, which can be obtained from any local music store. It will also be helpful to purchase a folder in which to collect and protect your sheet music.

As part of proper musical and social etiquette, students are expected to remain until the end of all performances whether or not they are playing in the final piece, and should be prepared to move chairs, instruments, music stands and other equipment between the concert stage and the classroom as necessary. It is a good idea to bring a snack and drink to consume just prior to concerts, as we will be there for some time, and expending a large amount of energy. We will arrange carpooling in class for any off-campus concerts, such as performances at Chinese senior’s homes, so that transportation is not a barrier to any student’s participation.

Please consult with the instructors asap if you believe you may have a schedule conflict on the day of a concert as soon as these dates are set to facilitate accommodations from your professor: your instructors will be happy to write a supportive note for you if needed.

Written documentation such as an official medical or funerary note will be required for all unavoidable absences. Lastly, students must bring their instruments, music, a pencil and tuner to every class.

Students are permitted to bring a drink (ie water) into the classroom and to sip it during the rests, however, **no garbage may be left in the classroom:** please be sure to deposit it in the trash/recycling bin outside our door beside the elevator. If you choose to drink in class, be sure your bladder can handle it—except in exceptional circumstances such as illness, you should plan to take your washroom break in the first ten minutes of class while others are tuning.
Please have your friends meet you outside the classroom doors: no individuals who are not enrolled in this course will be permitted inside the classroom at any time as expensive instruments are stored in our classroom for which we are all responsible. If there is excessive shifting in and outside of the classroom, the instructors will lock the door after the first ten minutes of class to ensure the security of the classroom, participants and equipment.

**Cell phones and all other electronics must be powered down and stowed out of sight during class. Students are not permitted to text, email, take photographs, video or make phone calls during class time or concerts: your full attention is required at all times in this ensemble. Students will lose 5% of their final grade for any and each transgression of this rule. Students with potential emergency situations should speak to the Course Director privately for accommodations at the beginning of the class.

Please note that any student who wishes to take photographs on concert day must first fill out an official university permission to photograph form from the Music office on the third floor of the ACE building, and obtain the signed consent of the individual(s) s/he wishes to photograph. Please note that no exceptions will be made to this university policy.

Photo-bombing and video-bombing will not be tolerated in the classroom, as this is disruptive to the learning environment and concentration of your fellow students.

**Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 9, 2018**

---

**Academic Policies / Information**

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:

- York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site
- Access/Disability
- Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
- Religious Observance Accommodation
- Student Code of Conduct

**Additional information:**
- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
- Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling

Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy

- The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

**Important University Sessional Dates** (you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more. http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm

"20% Rule"

No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.
Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University's course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University