EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

MUSIC

School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department

FA / MUSI 2045 3.0 SECTION A
KLEZMER ENSEMBLE
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

Last Modified Date: 09/14/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Practical performance instruction in the Klezmer musical tradition. Some performance ability and knowledge of fiddle, bass, guitar, piano, clarinet, sax, accordion, or trumpet is required. (Other instruments are welcomed). Prerequisite: None for 1045, appropriate lower level or permission of the instructor required for upper level registration. Open to majors and non-majors.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Katz, Brian</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

FA/MUSI 1045-4045 3.00 Klezmer Ensemble

Term: F/W 2017-18
Course Instructor: Brian Katz
bkatz@yorku.ca
Office: ACE 347, by appt.

Practical performance instruction in the klezmer musical tradition. Some performance ability and knowledge of fiddle, bass, guitar, piano, percussion, flute, clarinet, sax, accordion, or trumpet is required. Other instruments—including voice—are welcomed.

Instructor/Format/Term/Contact Info
this is provided via ARMS

1. Special Features

This course is open to majors and non-majors. There is no prerequisite for the 1000 level. 2000 level requires completion of the 1000 level of the same course, 3000 the completion of 2000, and 4000 level the completion of 3000. Exceptions can be made at the discretion of the course instructor. N.B. You may take one level in a given term.

This course emphasizes practical performance instruction in the klezmer musical traditions. The course will encompass a wide range of approaches to playing Klezmer, from early twentieth century styles to those incorporating modern jazz and free improvisation.
Learning the repertoire by ear as well as memorizing it will be encouraged in this course. This is to both aid your musicianship and musical memory, and to give you a genuine sense of how music is passed on in orally based traditions such as klezmer.

2. Topics and Concepts

Essential klezmer rhythms (based on dance forms); relationship of klezmer to Chassidic melody; klezmer scales; basic ornamentation of klezmer melody; counter-melody; improvisation as applied to klezmer old and new; archetypal klezmer harmonic progressions; learning to create background parts; Yiddish song (for singers and, on occasion, the entire ensemble).

3. Learning Outcomes with Examples

By the completion of the course, students will be able to play many standard works that define the essence of the klezmer tradition. There will be an end of year performance at the annual York World Music Festival. In addition, the ensemble often performs at other events during the year, on and off campus.

4. Graded Assessment

In general, your growth will be monitored, with regular feedback given; large parts of the grade are based on your skill sets, and how you have prepared, participated, and developed throughout the year—viewed in the context of what level the instructor feels you should have been able to realistically achieve. A certain standard is expected, and if the instructor feels you are not meeting this standard, and possibly cannot, he will notify you.

Preparedness: 40% (ongoing evaluation) (First semester out of 20%) Learning and regularly practising and moving towards memorization of the repertoire is essential and expected. The instructor will monitor this, make suggestions re pieces to memorize, and give you personal feedback. 2nd year plus students will be expected to contribute more to the formation of arrangements via both written and improvised variation/counter-melody techniques, and arranging ideas in general. Everyone is expected to know and be able to perform the main klezmer scales (from a variety of pitch axis’).

Performance Ability: 30% (ongoing evaluation) (first semester out of 10%)

This is a performance course; there are no written essays. Performance evaluations are based on your individual development as displayed in class over the term—technique, rhythmic and melodic skills, ensemble sensibilities, and command of prescribed/improvised parts. Barring exceptional circumstances, there is no individual testing. Everyone is expected to help move instruments for any on campus performances.

Participation: 20% (ongoing evaluation) (first semester out of 10%)

Attendance: 10% (-2% per missed class except for Illness; doctor’s note required).

5. Additional Information

Since this is a practical, hands on, course, it is essential that you attend regularly. You are part of an ensemble, and your piers depend on you.

Music will be handed out and you are expected to keep it in a binder and bring it weekly; this is your responsibility. On occasion, articles/theory pertaining to the history and performance of klezmer will be handed out. On-line resources such as www.klezmershack.com will also be used. It is expected that
students familiarize themselves with the style they are studying by doing listening outside of class, both recorded music and live when possible. Listening suggestions and live music venues that feature klezmer will be discussed/listed.

ADD/DROP DEADLINES

**FALL YEAR**

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<th>(F)</th>
<th>(Y)</th>
<th>(W)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)</td>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
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<td>Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)</td>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
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<td>Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)</td>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>March 9</td>
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<td>Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)</td>
<td>Nov. 11 - Dec. 4</td>
<td>Feb. 10 - Apr. 6</td>
<td>March 10 - Apr. 6</td>
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**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