A performance ensemble specializing in new music repertoire. Prerequisites: none. Open to all majors/non-majors/minors.

**INSTRUCTOR(S)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brubeck, Charles Matthew</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mattbru@yorku.ca">mattbru@yorku.ca</a></td>
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**SPECIAL FEATURES**

**Course**: MUSI X028N 3.0 – *New Music Ensemble*  

**Term**: Fall/Winter 2019-2020

**Course Instructor**: Matt Brubeck  
mattbru@yorku.ca  
Office: Accolade East Room 354A  
Office Hours: By appointment

**Expanded Course Description**

This ensemble will focus on music composed from 1945 to the present. The instruments played by the students enrolled will largely determine the repertoire selected. Students must be able to read music with ease and are expected to have the skill to perform with good intonation, dynamics, phrasing etc. Some of our work as an ensemble will be concerned with the interpretation of musical symbols and procedures. The ensemble will present two different performances during the year.

**Prerequisite / Co-requisite:**  
Open to qualified non-majors/minors with permission (pending September in-class audition). Appropriate lower level required for upper level enrollment, or permission of instructor.

**Please note:**  
Any student with an official *letter of accommodation* from Disability Services must submit it to the Course Director within the first 2 weeks of class. Retroactive accommodations are not usually permitted.
Topics and Concepts

Music performed varies from year to year, depending on ensemble instrumentation, and will be distributed in class. While there are no required course readings, students are encouraged to research the composers/compositions we perform.

Learning Objectives

- Read and execute complex rhythms
- Acquire an ear for unusual pitch material
- Learn new ways to create sound on the instrument (extended technique)
- Gain familiarity with novel methods of music notation
- Develop aspects of musicianship that are required for good ensemble work

Graded Assessment

Ensemble Responsibilities

Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of each composition as a whole, not just their own part(s). All students will be expected to know the scores well enough to lead short segments of rehearsals. Additionally, students are expected to contribute to the success of this ensemble by:

- Regular and timely attendance
- Following instructions communicated via in-class discussion, handouts, or email.
- Working cooperatively and assisting others, as needed, during rehearsals
- Demonstrating dedication to and enthusiasm for ensemble performance

Performance

All students are expected to set aside time to practice their instrument(s) regularly and should arrive prepared to play their parts for each meeting of the ensemble. Evaluation of performance work will be based on the following criteria:

- Evidence of regular practice
- Improvement in ability to play individual part(s) throughout the course
- Two individual performance recordings
- Preparation for and attendance at both concerts:
  - January 15, 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Lounge
  - April 1, 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall

The final grade for the course will be based on the following:

- MUSI X028N
- Fall Recording Assignment 10%
- Winter Recording Assignment 10%
- Ensemble Responsibilities 35%
- Individual Performance Improvement 25%
Assignment Submission/Lateness Penalty: Proper academic performance depends on students completing their work and submitting it on time. Accordingly, the assignments required for this course must be received on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized one-half letter grade per day (e.g. from a B+ down to a B) for each day past the due date (including weekends). Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be considered by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

* Please read the attendance policy below very carefully. Too many unexcused absences will reduce your final mark, and an unexcused absence at the final concert will result in failure of the course.

REMINDER:

Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 3, 2020

Attendance Policy

Student attendance is a crucial factor in the success of an ensemble course and there are strict attendance requirements. Ensembles are dependent upon the presence and participation of ALL members; therefore, it is imperative that students attend every class/rehearsal/concert to the best of their ability. Tardiness and absenteeism are not tolerated in the real world (“the show must go on”) and are therefore strongly discouraged in performance training. In this way, students can develop the work ethic of the professional musical community. Students are permitted two unexcused absences per year for unpredictable life events like minor illnesses (e.g. having a bad cold). After two unexcused absences, each additional unexcused absence will result in a 5-point deduction from the student’s mark. Late arrivals/early departures (10 minutes grace) are disruptive and will be treated as one half of an unexcused absence (a 2.5-point deduction).

Attendance will be checked at the beginning of each class. If you are unable to attend a class for any reason, please inform the Course Director in advance by email. If you do not know until the morning of the class, leave a message for the Course Director regarding your absence with the music office. Excused absences are typically based on the following circumstances: 1) Serious illness 2) Non-movable appt., 3) family tragedy, 4) weather events that make it impossible to get to the York Campus, and 5) off campus auditions or performances related to another York course. Such absences will be excused, provided they are either arranged in advance with the Course Director, or communicated via email when they occur, as long as the claims are supported by relevant documentation (e.g. a note signed by the MD that proves the student had a medical appt. that prevented him/her from attending class).

Equipment Needs

Students are expected to bring their instrument(s) and music to every class meeting. The classroom has guitar amps and P.A. equipment. Electric guitarists are expected to bring their own patch cables. Acoustic guitarists are expected to bring a microphone and cable.

Academic Policies / Information
The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (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

http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust20121.pdf  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/cocurricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.
  http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm
- Manage my Academic record http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/

- "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