



Course Syllabus: Musicianship I

Fain College of Fine Arts
MUSC 1601 Section 101
Fall 2026 MW 10-10:50 am Fain C117C

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Susan Harvey
Office: Fain C1170
Office hours: Posted Outside Office
Office phone: (940) 397-4916
Cell Phone:
E-mail: susan.harvey@msutexas.edu

Course Description

From the MSU Catalog:

Development of basic musicianship skills, including the ability to read pitches on the treble and bass clef staff and rhythms in simple and compound meter. Singing of major, stepwise melodies and diatonic bass lines.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to develop your musicianship skills. Students demonstrate competence through various activities inclusive, but not limited to singing, moving, listening, composing, improvising, and reading musical notation.

Course Objectives

- To develop musicianship skills
- To audiate and sing melodies in both bass and treble clefs
- To understand and use a rhythm system for both duple and triple
- To develop ability to audiate and sing bass lines
- To sing in major tonality
- To dictate rhythmic and melodic patterns
- To improvise melodically and rhythmically
- To develop ability to hear and demonstrate understanding of harmonic structure

Textbook & Instructional Materials

- *Music for Sight Singing* (10th Edition), Nancy Rogers & Robert Ottman, 2019
- *Rhythm Bible* (without CD), Dan Fox
- Tuning Fork A=440

Tuning forks can be purchased at the local music store, west music (online) or on amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Wittner-BHBU0503A299-Tuning-Fork/dp/B000BKSSNK/ref=sr_1_2?crid=19XLCGBTDIEWG&keywords=wittner+tuning+fork&qid=1661103855&sprefix=wittner+tuning+fork%2Caps%2C117&sr=8-2

Make sure it is A=440.

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Students are expected to practice outside of class to develop skills. Dr. Harvey will work with students during office hours. A music tutor may be available for assistance.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Core Values

One of Midwestern State University's stated core values is: "People-Centered: Engage others with respect, empathy, and joy". The professor considers the classroom a safe place where students are treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. The professor's expectation is that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Refer to: <https://msutexas.edu/about/values-journey/index.ph>

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

The instructor reserves the right to cancel or adjust assignments as the course progresses.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Percent
Performance Opportunities Performance Opportunities will be a combination of rhythmic, harmonic, and melodic competencies. This includes in-class Performance Opportunities. All performance opportunities are weighted equally and averaged for the final grade	100
Total Percentage	100

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Percent
A	90-100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Homework

Students are given material to practice outside of class. Assignments are cumulative and require students to practice to increase their musicianship skills.

Performance Opportunities

Students demonstrate skills through Performance Opportunities, a minimum of 12. Students may submit most Performance Opportunities by sending a video of the skill or by scheduling an appointment with Dr. Harvey. Some Performance Opportunities will be designated in-person.

Performance opportunities are split half rhythmic and half melodic. Students need to average a 'C' for both rhythmic and melodic competencies to pass the class with a 'C'.

Exams

Exam details should be provided: how many, their point values or percentage of the overall grade, when, and whether or not they are timed. These will appear on the Course Schedule in more detail.

Mid-Term Exam

No mid-term will be given.

The Final Exam is for students needing to complete missed or improve low scoring Performance Opportunities.

Final Exam

Wednesday, December 9 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

The exam time will be individually scheduled with students during exam week.

Link to Final Exam Schedule:

<https://msutexas.edu/registrar/schedule/fallfinalexamschedule.php>

Extra Credit

No extra credit is given in this class.

Late Work

Performance Opportunities are due on specified dates. Failure to submit will result in a zero.

Make Up Work/Tests

If a student misses a deadline due to professor approved circumstances, a new date will be given to that student.

Office Hours

Dr. Harvey has five scheduled office hours to meet with her. Requesting a meeting during office hours is preferred to ensure availability. If you are unavailable to meet during those times, she has five flexible hours to coordinate a meeting. Meetings can be in-person, via phone, zoom, or facetime. You may call her office during scheduled office hours. However, she may not answer if she is meeting with a student.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: September 21, 2026 for December graduates; October 5, 2026 Priority deadline for May 2027 Graduates
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W": November 23, 2026
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Each student is expected to be familiar with D2L, as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students participate in daily group and individual activities. Activities are cumulative in organization, building on previously learned concepts. Therefore, attendance is crucial to personal development. Students may miss class twice without a final grade reduction. Each absence that exceeds the allotted two absences reduces the final grade by one letter grade. Tardies count toward absences. Students who arrive ten minutes late will be marked absent from class.

Nonparticipation in class equals one absence for each occurrence. Class participation includes all classroom activities (singing, moving, rhythm activities, improvisation, chording, etc.).

The instructor may drop a student from the course for excessive absences (5 or more). Save absences for when you are sick or for extenuating circumstance.

The instructor may drop a student from the course for excessive absences (5 or more). A verbal or written warning will be given to a student prior to being dropped from the class.

AI Statement

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, AI Chat, etc.) are not permitted in this course; therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be

considered a violation of MSU Texas' Academic Integrity policy and the Student Code of Conduct since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

Online Computer Requirements

Performance Opportunities are due by the due date. If you submit recordings electronically, it is your responsibility to have working technology (computer or cell phone). ***Technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit Performance***

Opportunities. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ***Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!**

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Instructor Class Policies

Students are required to participate in all class activities. Students are to practice assigned material in preparation for each class.

Students are to conduct themselves in a professional manner so that all students may learn without distraction or disruption. This includes cell phones turned off and no texting.

College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly. Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct class or the ability of the other students to benefit from instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and receive an absence. Depending on the nature of the behavior or conduct, the student(s) may be subject to further disciplinary actions as per MSU policies.

Weather Statement

This course follows MSU Guidelines for inclement weather. Classes will not meet if campus is closed during the time of class. The class will NOT meet online if

campus is closed. If assessment deadlines coincide with university closure, an extension will be stated the next class meeting.

Privacy Statement

Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss students' academic progress or other matters with their parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professors' general policy is to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be

available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 8/24 to 8/26	• Pre-assess • Counting System • Solfège with Curwen Hand Signs	
Week 2 8/31 to 9/2	• Singing Patterns: Pentatonic Scales • Patterns for Singing: Trichords • Rhythm Bible: N/A • Ottman: 1.25, 2.1	
Week 3 9/9 (9/7 Labor Day No School)	• Performance Opportunity: Rhythm Duet and pentatonic scale • Rhythm Bible: pages 14-21 • Ottman: Page 4-5 rhythm • Chapter 2 pages 15-20 scalewise major treble clef and bass clef melodies	9/11

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 4 9/14 to 9/16	• Performance Opportunity: Pentatonic Intervals up and down • Patterns for Singing: trichords, pentatonic intervals, major scale intervals • Rhythm Bible: pages 22-24 • Ottman: page 49-51 rhythm; • Chapter 2 pages 15-20 scalewise major treble clef and bass clef melodies	9/18
Week 5 9/21 to 9/23	• Performance Opportunity: Chapter 2 melody • Patterns for Singing: tetrachords, major scale intervals, major scales in thirds • Rhythm Bible: pages 25-27 • Ottman: page 52-53 Rhythm Duet • Chapter 2 add pages 20-23	9/25
Week 6 9/28 to 9/30	• Performance Opportunity – tonal patterns and/or rhythm exercise • Patterns for Singing: tetrachords, major scale intervals, major scales in thirds • Rhythm Bible: pages 28-30 • Ottman: TBA	10/2

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 7 10/5 to 10/7	• Performance Opportunity – tonal patterns and/or rhythmic exercise • Patterns for Singing: tetrachords, major scale intervals, major scales in thirds • Rhythm Bible: pages 31-32 • Ottman: TBA	10/9
Week 8 10/12 to 10/14	• Performance Opportunity: Scales in Thirds • Rhythm Bible: page 33-35 • Ottman: TBA	10/16
Week 9 10/19 to 10/21	• Performance Opportunity – tonal patterns and/or rhythmic exercise • Rhythm Bible: pages 36-37 • Ottman: Chapter 4 pages 53-60 reading in compound meter	10/23
Week 10 10/26 to 10/28	• Performance Opportunity: Major Scale Intervals • Rhythm Bible: 42-43 • MLT Harmonic Patterns • Ottman: TBA	10/28
Week 11 11/2 to 11/4	• Performance Opportunity – tonal patterns and/or rhythmic exercise • Rhythm Bible: pages 44-45 • Ottman: TBA • MLT Patterns	11/6

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 12 11/9 to 11/11	• Rhythm Bible: pages 46-47 • Ottman: TBA • MLT Patterns	11/13
Week 13 11/16 to 11/18	• Performance: Major Scale Chords • Rhythm Bible: pages 48-49 Ottman: TBA	10/20
Week 14 11/23 No class 11/25	• MLT Patterns • Ottman: TBA	
Week 15 11/30 to 12/2	Performance Opportunity: major scale chords • Rhythm Bible: Pages 50-51 • Ottman: Chapter 3 Melody	12/4
Week 16 Final Exam	Last attempt to complete Performance Opportunities	

Appendix A

Standards/Frameworks

Domain/ Competencies	Activities/Assignments/Projects
SBEC EC-12 Music Domain I: Listening <i>Competency 001: The teacher applies standard terminology to analyze various elements in a musical recording.</i>	
A. Interprets music symbols and terms aurally (e.g., dynamics, embellishments, articulation, tempo markings), identifies specific melodic and harmonic	Students: sing melodies in major including scalewise and intervals with the I and V chords; sing minor melodies including scalewise and intervals with the i and V chords; sing minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic); take melodic dictation; and sing bass lines to prepare recognizing music symbols aurally.

B. Identifies different rhythms and meters and interprets rhythmic and melodic phrases aurally (e.g., syncopation, hemiola, augmentation, contour, sequence, repetition).	Students chant and read rhythms in simple, compound, and mixed meter to prepare for aural identification. Students participate in rhythmic dictation to aurally identify rhythms in simple and compound.
C. Recognizes and describes the melody, harmony and texture of a musical work (e.g., modal, tonal, atonal, ostinato, doublings, melody and counter melody).	Students: sing melodies in major keys; minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic); identify I and V chords in major; identify I and V chords in minor; and sing bass lines to for chord progressions I I V I, I I IV I, i i V i to prepare recognizing music symbols aurally.
D. Analyzes chordal structures (e.g., major, minor, dominant seventh, diminished seventh), harmonic progressions, cadences (e.g., authentic, half, deceptive, plagal) and harmonic textures (e.g., polyphonic, homophonic, monophonic).	Students sing: major and all forms of the minor scales; major, minor, and diminished broken triads; triads of chord progressions.

SBEC EC-12 Music Domain II: Music Theory and Composition
Competency 004: The teacher knows how to read, write, and interpret standard music notation.

B. Recognizes clefs, keys and meters; recognizes scales and pitch collections (e.g., modal, major, minor, pentatonic, whole-tone); identifies specific melodic and harmonic intervals; and identifies different rhythms and meters.	Students: sing melodies in major keys for treble, bass, alto, and tenor clefs; sing minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic); sing major scale intervals; take melodic and rhythmic dictation; and sing bass lines.
C. Reads melodies in various modes and tonalities; interprets rhythmic and melodic phrases from notation; and reads music that incorporates complex rhythmic patterns in simple, compound and asymmetric meters.	From written music, students: sing melodies in major keys treble, bass alto and tenor clefs; sing minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic); sing major scale intervals; take melodic and rhythmic dictation; and sing bass lines.
D. Recognizes and describes melody, harmony and texture of a musical work (e.g., modal, tonal, atonal, ostinato, doublings, melody and counter melody).	Students sing modes, ostinatos, melody, and learn what a counter melody is.
E. Analyzes chordal structures (e.g., major, minor, dominant seventh,	Students sing: major, minor, and diminished broken triads; triads of chord

diminished seventh), harmonic progressions, cadences (e.g., authentic, half, deceptive, plagal) and harmonic textures (e.g., polyphonic, homophonic, monophonic)	progressions; and create chorales based on chord progressions (singing them).
SBEC EC-12 Music Domain II: Music Theory and Composition <i>Competency 005: The teacher understands methods and techniques of musical composition and improvisation and knows how to arrange music for specific purposes and settings.</i>	
C. Knows how to improvise melodically, rhythmically and harmonically (e.g., question and answer, variation, twelve-bar blues).	Students create chorales based on chord progressions and sing them; and improvise rhythms through rhythm activities.
SBEC EC-12 Music Domain IV: Music Classroom Performance <i>Competency 009: The teacher demonstrates knowledge of methods and techniques for playing musical instruments..</i>	
D. Understands standard terminology used in communicating about students' musical skills and performances.	Assessments include comments for students and the form includes music terminology. Students are asked at times to rate their own performance - what went well and what would they change.
E. Knows how to offer meaningful prescriptions for correcting performance problems and errors (e.g., intonation, vibrato, articulation, tone production) and understands the constructive use of criticism when evaluating musical skills or performances.	Students are provided constructive feedback and they practice this in class through self-assessment of group activities.