

Semester Composition Project

Grading: Worth 10% of your final average. 5% (half) will be based on whether your work follows the stylistic conventions studied in class, and 5% (half) will be based on the preparation of your parts and score and the performance of your piece.

Due date: Tuesday, November 13.

Late penalty for this project: 10% per calendar weekday (1 point off your final average)

Objective: Apply your theory knowledge to the creation of performance literature.

Overview: Using instruments and/or voices, create a 4-part composition that follows the stylistic conventions studied in class.

What you will turn in:

- You must turn in a score and parts. **Your score MUST include a complete roman numeral analysis.**
- Your piece must be performed in class. The performance will be graded, so you must rehearse!

Details:

- **LENGTH:** At least 32 beat units in your selected time signature, bare minimum.
- You may create your own melody, or harmonize an existing tonal melody.
- You may NOT transcribe another piece – this must be YOUR composition/arrangement.
- If you write for voice, you may use text(s) of your choosing.
- Every piece must utilize **at least** two performers. Vocalists may accompany themselves at the piano.
- Your score **must** include dynamics, articulations, crescendo/diminuendo markings, etc. It must “look” musical.
- Since you may be writing for instruments, the ranges for the four parts (soprano part, alto part, tenor part, and bass part) may need to be adjusted accordingly. However, you should still follow all spacing, doubling, overlap and voice crossing conventions, as well as conventions regarding parallels, hidden 5ths/8ves, 5ths/8ves by contrary motion, LT resolution, etc. etc.
Therefore, you must select performers that can perform SATB parts.
- You **will** lose five points for **each** occurrence of any of the “fiendish five.” I will be happy to check over your work before you turn it in, but only if I receive your piece by **Thursday, November 1.**
- You may use non-chord tones as desired, so long as they are stylistic.
- You may use inversions. Second inversion triads **MUST** be one of the four standard types.
- You may use 7th chords, as long as the 7th resolves down by step.
- Your piece **must** use stylistic chord progressions as discussed in class.
- It is perfectly acceptable to use primarily quarter notes, but do try to make the piece musically interesting.

HAVE FUN, BUT BE CAREFUL!