

Semester Composition Project

Music Theory IV, Dr. Feezell

Overview

Objective: Apply your theory knowledge to the creation and performance of new music.

Grading: 10% of your final average. 5% will be based on whether your score meets the criteria and uses the techniques correctly, and 5% will be based on your class presentation and performance of the examples.

Due date for project: The project is due the day you present/perform it. Presentations will be scheduled for April 17 and April 22 based on a sign-up sheet posted by the professor's office.

Late penalty for this project: 15% per class day (1.5 points off your final average)

Detailed Directions

Compose a piece using at least three twentieth-century techniques studied in class:

- **Length:** At least 2½ minutes.
- **Form:** May be a single movement, or multiple shorter movements
- **Instrumentation:** You may use any combination of instruments and voices, but the piece must be for a minimum of two (2) performers. Vocalists may accompany themselves at the piano if desired.

Your presentation should last about 10-15 minutes total and shall consist of the following:

I. Discussion of ANALYZED SCORE (eleven [11] copies! Worth ½ the grade):

- ☐ Your score may be done by hand (neatly!) or engraved using Finale/Sibelius.
- ☐ Your discussion must include at least three different twentieth-century techniques used by three different composers discussed in class.
- ☐ Techniques should be labeled on the score with appropriate analytical markings.
- ☐ Your piece must include performance markings (dynamics, articulations, tempo markings, etc.).
- ☐ Copies may be reduced so that two score pages are shown on each sheet. Many printers will allow you to print in this “two-up” format. From the print menu, click on printer properties or print options. If you are doing a score by hand, you can (if desired) reduce the original using the copier's reduction feature before making the class copies.

II. In-class performance (Worth ½ the grade):

- ☐ Your performance must be REHEARSED.
- ☐ Your performance must be MUSICAL. You wouldn't slop through Chopin, Mozart, or Beethoven in public; your music deserves the same respect.
- ☐ Your performers must be EARLY for your assigned time.

One more special note: “Silence” pieces will receive a grade of ZERO. While I think that Cage's work on 4'33” is a profound philosophical statement on the place of music in our lives, Cage has already done it and the impact of his philosophical statement cannot be repeated by anyone else. In general, if it is obvious that you put little to no effort into your project, your grade will reflect this.