

**University of South Carolina School of Music**  
**MUSC 117: Sight Singing and Ear Training I**  
**Spring 2008**

**Faculty Supervisor**

Dr. J. Daniel Jenkins  
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**Instructor**

Mr. David Schroeder

**Meeting Time and Location**

Section 1 (255318)      TTH      8:25-9:15 AM      Room 215

**Course Description**

Developing musicians that are able to perform notated music at sight, to transfer heard sound into notation, and to create music through composition and improvisation—these are just some of the goals of **Aural Skills**. The course objectives include, but are not limited to

- using solfege syllables when singing
- maintaining a beat (and simultaneously singing) in various meters
- performing rhythms and melodies (solo and ensemble) at sight
- reading facility in a variety of clefs
- developing inner hearing and musical memory
- notating pitches and rhythms in single-line and multiple parts accurately
- playing (and simultaneously singing) at the piano
- reading a variety of musical scores

**Course Materials**

Robert W. Ottman and Nancy Rogers, *Music for Sight Singing*, seventh edition  
Staff paper and pencil (pen is *not* acceptable)  
MacGAMUT software (as required by your instructor)

**Requirements**

As in your applied lessons and ensembles, this is a performance-based course. Therefore, your success will hinge greatly on your consistent and proper preparation. In order to do well, plan to build *at least* 20 minutes of your *daily* practice-room time to work on aural skills. You won't be taking time away from preparing for lessons...everything you work on can be applied to your musicianship in other areas!

Remember, Practice makes Perfect . . . but Practicing Mistakes makes Perfect Mistakes. Part of our task this semester is learning how to practice correctly and consistently so that we are using our time as efficiently as possible.

If you feel that your practice time is sufficient, but you are not able to keep up with the pace of the class, then talk to your instructor about appropriate practice methods or about getting extra help outside of class. Your instructor may also require that you work with MacGAMUT software (available in the book store).

There will be some written homework assignments for this course. These will be given either a numeric or a non-numeric grade (see grading scale below) and will often be used as material for classwork. In order to receive credit for your homework, it is important that you turn it in *on time*. If you miss class, and you send your homework by a classmate, it will still be considered as turned in on time. Otherwise, it will be considered late. In the unusual situation that your instructor accepts late homework (a reasonable excuse is required) it will simply be checked in as completed, and will not receive credit.

In addition to performing in class, both alone and in small groups, you will perform in sightsinging audits for your instructor at the midterm and end of the semester. Due to time constraints, some of these audits will have take place outside of regular class time, and some of the final sightsinging audits will take place during the final exam time. *It is your responsibility to sign up for an audit time that does not create conflicts with other things in your schedule.* You will also take two dictation exams: a midterm and a final.

*Audits and exams are extremely important course requirements and make-ups will only be offered under the most exceptional of circumstances.*

### **Class Attendance**

As in private lessons and ensemble rehearsals, your attendance in this course is critical. Much of your grade will depend on your performance in class. The university attendance policy states the following: “Enrollment in a course obligates the student not only for prompt completion of all work assigned but also for punctual and regular attendance and for participation in whatever class discussion may occur. It is the student’s responsibility to keep informed concerning all assignments made. Absences whether excused or unexcused do not absolve him or her from this responsibility. Absence from more than 10 percent of the scheduled classes, whether excused or unexcused, is excessive and the instructor may choose to exact a grade penalty for such absences.”

*There are only 28 class meetings of this course, which means you can only miss three times before your grade will be lowered. Your instructor will take attendance at every class meeting. If you are not in class at the time your instructor takes attendance, you will be counted tardy. Three tardies are equivalent to one absence.*

### **Grading Distribution**

Your grade in this course will be divided into the following categories:

Classwork (including performance, quizzes, etc.)	40%
Homework (including composition assignments, etc.)	20%
Midterm (including both sightsinging audits and a dictation exam)	20%
Final (including both sightsinging audits and a dictation exam)	20%

### **Non-numeric Grading Scale**

- √+ - Excellent work, meets all requirements of the assignment.
- √ - Work completed, but needs further refinement in specified area(s).
- √- - Please come see me to discuss your work. Re-do and re-submit assignment.
- l - Late work, no credit

### Numeric Grading Scale

A	100-93	Grades in the A range represent truly excellent work, showing a high degree of mastery of the subject matter. This work is error-free (or nearly so), and displays musicality and creativity. An exceptionally high grade.
B+	92-86	Grades in the B range represent good to strong basic command of the material, with few errors. A high grade.
B	85-80	
C+	79-75	Grades in the C range represent errors that reveal only partial understanding or weak mastery of the material. A fair grade.
C	74-70	
D+	69-65	Grades in the D range represent work that is very weak, showing poor understanding and very little mastery of the material. A low grade.
D	64-60	
F	59 and below	Grades in the F range represent unacceptable work. A very low grade.
0		A grade of "0" represents work that was not submitted or submitted late.

### Academic Integrity

The University of South Carolina takes academic integrity very seriously. Please make sure that all work you do in this course is your own. Any instances of cheating, plagiarism, etc. will be documented and referred to the Office of Academic Integrity for possible disciplinary action. For more information, please see the website of the Office of Academic Integrity: <http://www.sc.edu/academicintegrity/>

### Learners With Special Needs

If you have a learning disability, please make your instructor aware of it. Also, if you have not already done so, please refer to website of the Office of Student Disability Services: <http://www.sa.sc.edu/sds/>

### Important Dates

March 4	Midterm Dictation Exam
March 6	No class—Midterm Sightsinging Audits (some of the audits will take place outside of class time)
Week of March 11	No class—Spring Break
Week of April 15	No class—Final Sightsinging Audits
Week of April 22	Final week of class—preparation for Final Dictation Exam
Tuesday, May 6	Final Dictation Exam – 9:00 AM

**LET'S MAKE MUSIC!!!!**