

Aural Skills II: MUST 1112 – Sections 1 & 2 (Online)

University of Texas at El Paso, Department of Music - Spring 2021

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephen Nordstrom, Assistant Professor of Violin

EMAIL: sbnordstrom@utep.edu

OFFICE: Fox Fine Arts Center, Room 434

OFFICE HOURS ([virtual](#)): Fridays, 9:00-10:00 am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the second in a four-semester sequence of aural skills for music majors. It includes practice in both diatonic and chromatic sight-singing and rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic dictation. Instruction will explore all major and minor keys as well as simple and compound meters. Co-requisite for the course is MUST 1314. Pre-requisites are MUST 1313 and MUST 1111, both with a grade of “C” or better. Musicianship skills gained in this course are applicable to all areas of music performance, theory, and pedagogy.

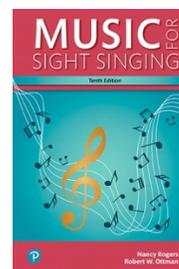
OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize diatonic intervals and be able to sing them at sight in treble and bass clef
- Recognize scales, chords, and simple chord progressions by ear
- Recognize changes in tempo, articulation, texture, and dynamics by ear
- Sing diatonic melodies at sight in both major and minor keys using solfege
- Sing melodies in both major and minor keys with added chromaticism using solfege
- Accurately notate one and two-part melodic dictation exercises using major and minor keys
- Accurately notate one and two-part rhythms in both simple and compound meters by ear

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Textbook: Rogers and Ottman, *Music for Sight Singing*, 10th Edition (Pearson 2019)
- [Auralia](#) subscription (Purchase software through UTEP Bookstore, \$35 for 12 month access)
- Metronome, manuscript or staff paper, pencils and eraser, piano keyboard for checking pitch (smartphone app OK)



FORMAT and ONLINE COMMUNICATION

Aural Skills II will be taught entirely online during the spring semester, in asynchronous format. There are no set class times or meetings. Students will need access to a computer/tablet with internet as well as a microphone and webcam. A smart phone will suffice for making recordings. For live exams I highly suggest you use your computer/tablet and an external microphone, which will enhance audio/video quality.

Our online interaction this semester will take place through many different channels:

- **Instructional Videos:** I will post videos to our Blackboard course module on a weekly basis. The videos will introduce important course topics and provide best practices for success with the

material. I will also use these videos to address any questions you may have about the course material. Please post questions to the Blackboard *Help Board* and I will address them in a video.

- **Office Hours:** I will hold live office hours each week through Zoom (Fridays 9:00-10:00 am). Recurring Meeting ID: 907 778 3378, Passcode: 673656
- **Email:** I will make every effort to respond to your email within 24 hours. Make sure to use your UTEP email address, state your question clearly, and include your full name in the message.
- **Discussion Board:** If you have a general question that you believe other students may also have, I encourage you to utilize the *Help Board* section on the Blackboard discussion board. If you have a helpful response for your peers, please contribute it.
- **Announcements:** Check Blackboard regularly for announcements, updates, and important information about the class. These announcements go directly to your email when you are enrolled in the course.

EVALUATION and GRADING

Auralia Quizzes (weekly)

- Assigned Quizzes or Required Practice Time (i.e. 60 minutes of free practice)
- Assigned week by week and due on **Wednesdays by 11:59 pm**
- Will be completed and submitted through *Auralia* software (accessed in Blackboard)

Singing Quizzes (weekly)

- Prepared and Sight Singing
- Will be video-recorded by the student and submitted or taken live over Zoom/Blackboard
- Assigned week by week and due on **Fridays by 11:59 pm**

Two Exams (Midterm and Final Exam)

- Each exam will have two parts – Dictation on *Auralia* and live singing over Zoom/Blackboard
- The singing and dictation portions of the exams will count for 50% of the total exam grade

Singing quizzes and exams will be graded on rhythmic accuracy, correct solfege, and intonation.

The final grade will be weighted as follows:

- *Auralia* Assignments – 30%
- Singing Quizzes – 30%
- Midterm Exam – 20%
- Final Exam – 20%

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A	80-89 = B	70-79 = C	60-69 = D	0-59 = F
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Students must receive a grade of “C” or higher in Aural Skills I to move on to the next course in the sequence, Aural Skills II.

COURSE PARTICIPATION

The *Auralia* assignments and singing quizzes are designed to help consistently guide your learning of the material week by week. They are a vital part of your course participation and therefore cannot be submitted for full credit once their due date has passed. Late work will be graded with a 50% penalty.

Make-up work will only be given in the case of a documentable emergency. It might be given in a different format and and/or graded with penalty points. Reach out to me, in advance when possible, and explain with the proper documentation why you missed a certain assignment. Once the parameters for a make-up assignment have been set, no further extensions will be granted.

I highly encourage you to submit your work early to help avoid technical difficulties that sometimes arise with last-minute submissions. Back up all your work on your computer. If you are having trouble submitting an assignment, contact me as soon as possible by email. If you experience technical difficulties that are beyond your troubleshooting abilities, please contact the [UTEP Help Desk](#). If it is beyond your ability to fix, most likely it will be for me as well. The Help Desk is specifically trained to help assist students with technology issues. Please contact them first!

ABSENCE FOR RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

In the event that a class meeting, exam, or assignment falls on the day of a recognized religious holy day, the student must provide written notice to the instructor. This written notice should be submitted no less than ten days prior to the expected date of absence.

EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR UNIVERSITY-RECOGNIZED ACTIVITIES

Students representing UTEP in officially recognized University activities such as sporting events, band, or professional conferences must notify the Dean of Students of their upcoming absence no less than ten days prior to the absence. The student is responsible for providing the professor with a letter from the Dean of Students prior to the officially recognized activity. Make-up assignments and exams will be permitted with the consultation of the faculty and provided that the student follows the proper procedures.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

Students with disabilities (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, visual, hearing, etc.) who need to arrange special classroom accommodations must notify me at the beginning of the semester with a letter from the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Students are encouraged to contact the CASS Center for further information.

Phone: 915-747-5148, Email: cass@utep.edu, Location: Union East Building, Room 106

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All UTEP students are expected to be honest and individual in their pursuit of truth and knowledge and will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations will be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#) (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the university's policies on academic infringement from the [UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures](#).

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances that affect your ability to successfully finish the course. You must have completed at least 50% of the course material to request an incomplete grade. Speak to me as soon as possible if you believe an "I" grade is warranted. We will then establish deadlines for the remaining work to be submitted.

COVID-19 ACCOMMODATIONS

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

You must **STAY AT HOME** and **REPORT** if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

For each day that you attend campus – for any reason – you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. **You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class.** If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

Aural Skills II – Weekly Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Auralia Topics	Music for Sight Singing	Assignments and Quizzes
1	Review of Material from Aural Skills I	Review of Chapters 1-3	Review Quizzes – Auralia, Singing
2	Review of Material from Aural Skills I	Review of Chapters 4-5	Review Quizzes – Auralia, Singing
3	Interval Recognition, Chord and Rhythm Comparison, Rhythmic and Melodic Dictation, Cadences, Scales	Chapters 3, 4, and 5	Auralia Quiz #1 Singing and Rhythm Quiz #1
4	CONTINUED, ADD Chord Recognition	Chapters 4 and 5	Auralia Quiz #2 Singing and Rhythm Quiz #2
5	CONTINUED, ADD Chord Progressions	Chapters 4 and 5	Auralia Quiz #3 Singing Quiz #3
6	CONTINUED, ADD Two-Part Rhythmic Dictation	Chapters 4, 5, and 6	Auralia Quiz #4 Singing Quiz #4
7	CONTINUED	Chapters 5, 6, and 10	Auralia Quiz #5 Singing Quiz #5
8	Midterm Exam (Dictation on Auralia, Singing Live over Zoom/Blackboard)		
SPRING BREAK			
9	CONTINUED, ADD Two-Part Melodic Dictation	Chapters 6 and 10	Auralia Quiz #6 Singing and Rhythm Quiz #6
10	CONTINUED, ADD Tempo	Chapters 6 and 10	Auralia Quiz #7 Singing and Rhythm Quiz #7
11	CONTINUED, ADD Articulation	Chapters 6 and 10	Auralia Quiz #8 Singing Quiz #8
12	CONTINUED, ADD Texture and Density	Chapters 6, 10, and 13	Auralia Quiz #9 Singing Quiz #9
13	CONTINUED	Chapters 6, 10, and 13	Auralia Quiz #10 Singing and Rhythm Quiz 10
14	CONTINUED	Chapters 6, 10, and 13	Auralia Quiz #11 Singing and Rhythm Quiz #11
15	CONTINUED	Chapters 6, 10, and 13	Auralia Quiz #12 Singing Quiz #12
Finals	Final Exam (Dictation on Auralia, Singing Live over Zoom/Blackboard)		