Syllabus
MUS 600M, section B: Piano Master Class
Class meeting: Tuesday 2:50-3:30 PM
Location: PH 53, Orr Auditorium

Fall semester, 2017

Dr. Nancy Zipay DeSalvo
Office: PH Studio G
Office hours: posted/by appointment
Office phone: 946-7023
e-mail: desalvnj@westminster.edu

Course description: Piano master class offers additional performance opportunities outside of the regular piano lesson for piano majors. In addition, master class time provides a forum for discussions on related topics such as repertoire, practicing techniques, accompanying, duet playing, piano proficiency requirements, technique, teaching and orchestral playing.

Course Outcomes:
- The course builds confidence in performing by providing the piano student weekly performance opportunities in front of their peers.
- Students learn to give constructive criticism to the performer by learning what to listen for and how to verbalize their thoughts and suggestions.
- Students expand their knowledge of repertoire through listening to other performances.
- Coaching each other outside of class develops a better understanding of the musical and technical problems encountered in their pieces and develops verbal skills to communicate these musical and technical problems to others.

Required texts: Piano Master Class requires no specific text. Students use the piano repertoire they are currently studying in their private lessons and should always bring an original copy of the piece being performed to class.

Assignments: Master class performance schedules will be assigned during the first class session. It is your responsibility to be ready for your scheduled time. Performance schedules do vary based on length of the class. Some classes are extended master classes. You may perform as often as class time permits throughout the semester provided you are prepared. Piano majors MUS 383 must perform from memory in master class a minimum of twice each semester, piano majors MUS 393 must perform from memory in master class a minimum of three times each semester. Additional performances are strongly recommended even if repertoire is ‘in progress’. Pianists will learn one movement (slow) from a concerto of their choice, preferably from memory, and accompanying one concerto movement. The Concerto and Accompanying requirement are optional at the discretion of the teacher.
Pianists are required to perform from memory in Formal Performance Colloquium once each semester. Performances will be graded and averaged into your piano lesson grade. Schedule a date with the music secretary first week of class. Changing the date later in the semester will result in lowering your final grade by one third (e.g. a B+ would be lowered to a B, etc.)

Colloquium date: ______________________________

Piece: ______________________________

Master Class Topics (time permitting):

- How to practice
- How to memorize
- Repertoire folder: Compile a repertoire folder with sections of collected music for various occasions. Select a list of occasions such as: background music, processional, recessional, weddings receptions, light classics, jazz, popular, etc. If you have completed this project revisit your selections and update them.
- Sight reading
- Improvisation
- Instrumental and vocal Accompanying: Each pianist must accompany one vocalist and one instrumentalist. Choice of repertoire is based on the technical ability of the pianist. Assignment completed when performed in Colloquium.
- Piano proficiency skills: Must pass three portions each semester until completed.
- Orchestral piano accompaniment
- Concerto movement performance
- Professional behavior
- Teaching/coaching each other

Attendance: Piano master class is part of your piano lesson. Attendance is required.

Grading: Master Class grade is 10% of your private lesson grade. Participation in class, memorized performances and topic assignments each account for 1/3 of your Master Class grade. Your performances in master class receive a grade based on preparation of the piece. Memorized pieces receive the highest grade. Please note the grading scale below.

Grading criteria:

A  Outstanding in every way. The performance demonstrates preparation above and beyond all expectations and shows individual creativity and thought. All assignments completed, solidly memorized performances that show improvement each time. Improvement in sight reading, improvisation. Accompanying assignments performed in class without hesitations or wrong notes and rhythm. Note how ‘A’ is outside the box!
Academic Integrity Policy:

Academic dishonesty is a profound violation of the expected code of behavior. It can take several forms, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts or experimental results, unauthorized use of or intentional intrusion into another’s computer files and/or programs, intentional damage to a computer system, and unauthorized use of library materials and privileges.

Students caught participating in such an activity (either for their own or for another’s benefit) will receive a course grade of “F” with no opportunity for the student to receive a “W” or “WF”.

Other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in a like manner. These may include (but are not limited to):

- Copying/turning in another’s work (e.g., a fellow student’s, a former student’s, or work from the internet) as one’s own.
- Lending of one’s work to another so that he/she may turn it in as his/her own (including recital attendance reporting forms).
- Removing class materials from students, professor, or from the library.
- Inhibiting another student from using library materials or other resources necessary for the class.
- Threatening, bullying, intimidating, badgering, or any other inappropriate and/or aggressive behavior toward any other student in the classroom.
- Any disruptive or aggressive behavior during class.