

MUS-1170: SONGWRITING I

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: MUS-1170 : Songwriting I

Board of Trustees:

1997-10-23

Academic Term:

Fall 2019

Subject Code

MUS - Music

Course Number:

1170

Title:

Songwriting I

Catalog Description:

Instruction in art of contemporary songwriting. Includes consideration of form, rhythm, melody, lyric content, harmony, arranging, and development of individual style. Development of listening skills and criticism utilizing songs of class members and established artists.

Credit Hour(s):

2

Lecture Hour(s):

2

Lab Hour(s):

0

Other Hour(s):

0

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

None.

Outcomes

Objective(s):

1. Recognize all song elements (melody, harmony, rhythm, dynamics, instrumentation, orchestration, timbres, lyrics) and explain each element as it relates to given songs.
2. Discuss songs and perspectives of exemplary songwriters of the past three decades.
3. Appreciate abstract elements of an individual songwriting style.
4. Articulate personal perspective on songwriting regarding intent in musical/artistic elements of writing.
5. Write and perform (or produce performance of) three complete songs which demonstrate an appropriate level of skill development in the art of songwriting.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Listening tests
2. Examinations
3. Discussion and participation
4. Evaluation of student songs

Course Content Outline:

1. Listening
 - a. Articulating song elements and their definitions
 - b. Critiquing song in context of song elements
 - c. Explicated abstract and evocative impact of a work
2. Artists' perspective
 - a. A study of songs of exemplary songwriters of the past three decades such as Bob Dylan, John Lennon, Paul Simon, Keith Richards, Joni Mitchell, Chuck Berry, Van Morrison, Pet Townsend, Ray Davies, George Gershwin, Sammy Cahn, Richard Rogers, Duke Ellington, Johnny Mercer, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Henry Mancini, Quincy Jones, Herbie Hancock, and others
 - b. Artists' views of song in regards to creation, purpose, and message
3. Creation
 - a. Development of creative process and individual style
 - b. Discussion of original works

Resources

Flanagan, Bill. *Written in My Soul*. New York: Contemporary Books, 1980.

Monaco and Riordan. *The Platinum Rainbow*. Swardsmen Press and Contemporary Books, 1980.

Rapaport, Diane. *How To Make and Sell Your Own Record*. New York: Headlands Press, 1984.

Wilder, Alec. *American Popular Song*. Oxford University Press, 1972.

Resources Other

1. Discography: exemplary recordings from years 1920 to present.

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