



New Music Classics ♦ P. O Box 358142 ♦ Gainesville, Florida 32635-8142 USA

2005-2006 Distance Learning Program in Tonal Musical Composition

Instructor

Each course in the series (see below) will be taught by Joseph Dillon Ford. A Variell Scholar from 1976-78 at Harvard University, where he received his AM degree, Mr. Ford is one of the world's leading experts on traditional tonal composition. His creative work is broadly representative of the idioms and genres associated with the common practice period in music history (c. 1600-1900), and also embraces the forms and styles of pre-Baroque and post-Impressionist music. A polymath and award-winning author, his aesthetic theory is elaborated in the book *Orpheus in the Twenty-First Century: Historicism and the Art-Music Renaissance* (2003).

<http://www.newmusicclassics.com/vita.html>

Program Description

This highly personalized four-course program is intended to provide students with an excellent foundation in the traditional techniques, forms, styles, and aesthetics of tonal musical composition. Emphasis is placed on both the study/analysis of European and American masterworks and the composition of original scores in a wide variety of genres. The program is intended for individuals who require a more comprehensive, in-depth working knowledge of tonal composition than it is typically possible to achieve through college, conservatory, and university curricula.

Languages of Instruction

English or French will be the primary language of instruction. Students may also choose to complete written assignments in Italian or Spanish.

Course Selection and Sequence

Although students will benefit from taking any of the courses individually, and it is possible to take all four courses out of sequence, ideally the student will be committed to completing the entire program in the order shown below.

Program Duration

Since students' musical backgrounds differ widely, and additional remedial work may be necessary in theory, orchestration, history, and related subjects, the time necessary to complete the program will vary. Students with optimal preparation should expect to spend the equivalent of two full college semesters on each course. The four-course sequence can be completed on a part-time basis in approximately four years.

Certificates

Students completing the entire four-course sequence will receive the New Music Classics Artist Certificate in Tonal Musical Composition. Individual certificates will be awarded to students for each of the four courses completed. The NMC Artist Certificate is not an academic credential nor are the individual course certificates usually convertible into college or conservatory credits. This program is intended primarily for intellectual enrichment; professional enhancement; or academic improvement, i.e., for tutorial purposes and/or as an adjunct to college and conservatory curricula that do not cover traditional tonal musical composition in comparable breadth and depth.

Syllabus

The student will study and compose works in the forms/genres listed below. Depending on the individual needs of the student, the sequence and content shown may be modified.

I. Course No. 1: The Baroque Style

- A. Polyphonic compositions in two, three, and four (or more) voices
 1. A two-part invention
 2. A four-part chorale
 3. A keyboard suite in six movements (including allemande, courante, sarabande, and gigue)
 4. A three-voice fugue
 5. A four-voice fugue
 6. A set of variations on a given theme
 7. A recitative/aria, cantata movement, or oratorio movement
 8. A concerto movement for chamber orchestra

II. Course No. 2: The Viennese Neoclassical Style

1. A one-movement sonatina
2. A sonata in three movements
 - a. sonata-allegro
 - b. minuet or scherzo
 - c. rondo
3. A theme-and-variations movement for string quartet
4. A symphonic movement in sonata-allegro form *or* a concert solo (piano, violin, or cello) with orchestra

III. Course No. 3: The Romantic Style

1. A characteristic piece for piano or an instrumental étude
2. A one-movement piano trio
3. A short song cycle
4. A one-movement choral composition
5. A symphonic movement (e.g., tone poem) or operatic *scena*

IV. Course No. 4: "Impressionistic" and Contemporary Tonal Idioms

1. A short instrumental solo (e.g., prélude)
2. A chanson or other short vocal work
3. A movement for chamber ensemble
4. A work for orchestra and/or chorus
5. Additional compositions determined by student need and interest.

Course Materials

Relevant readings and visual examples will be provided in PDF and other graphic formats, either as attachments or on NMC educational web pages. Students are responsible for acquiring certain scores and audio examples not in the public domain.

01/09/2005