

MusA 534- Individual Instruction: Bassoon

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Private Lessons (50% of grade; each lesson will be graded. For 100-level lessons, 50% of each lesson grade will be based on scales.)

Objectives:

- 1) To teach the foundations of wind playing, including:
 - ◆ embouchure
 - ◆ hand and body position
 - ◆ proper fingerings
 - ◆ breath support
 - ◆ tone production
 - ◆ articulation
 - ◆ intonation
 - ◆ vibrato
- 2) To improve technical abilities through scales, etudes and appropriate studies
- 3) To develop musical and interpretative abilities through melodic etudes and solo literature
- 4) To increase range if applicable
- 5) To develop practice and goal setting techniques through journal writing (see details below)
- 6) To insure independence of teacher in practice techniques, interpretation, reed adjustment and/or reed making
- 7) To acquaint students with standard solo, chamber and orchestral literature
- 8) To develop an awareness of the bassoon's role in ensembles through duets and chamber music
- 9) To discuss aspects of performance such as etiquette, anxiety and concentration
- 10) To develop performance skills by performing in studio class at least twice per semester and Woodwind Area one to two times prior to Upper Division Standing and once per semester after UDS (as determined by the instructor)
- 11) To develop communication skills and interpersonal skills

Note: You may drop one lesson a semester without a grade penalty. I strongly encourage you to come to the lesson anyway, and we will play duets or work on reeds.

Required Text:

Stadio – Difficult Passages and “Solos” for the Bassoon (*Passi difficili e “a solo”*)

International Double Reed Society Journals (must join IDRS)

Journal - part of private lesson grade for the following: students in their first semester of study at the UI, and students in the semester that they give a recital. Other students will need to review recordings of their lessons four times a semester.

Purpose:

- To develop a practice routine in which goals are set (for each practice session, each week and for each semester). Reflection and assessment of attainment of goals is an important part of the journal.
- To develop analytical skills in order to learn independently. **Journal will be reviewed weekly in lessons.**
- Suggested outline of a typical week:
 - Statement of goals
 - Did I achieve my goals?
 - If not, why?
 - Valuable lessons learned
 - Successes

Resource Notebook (part of private lesson grade – due Monday of finals week)

Purpose:

- To create a valuable pedagogical reference in which all handouts, listening and literature reviews, notes, programs, etc. are assembled
- The notebook shall contain:
 1. Table of Contents – General topics (see index tabs below)
 2. Index tabs, i.e., syllabus, hand-outs, literature reviews, listening logs, listening reviews, programs (yours and others), articles, jury comment sheets, repertoire sheets
 3. Materials: hand-outs, literature reviews, listening reviews, programs, and anything that you may want to refer to in the future.

Listening and Literature Reviews (10% of grade) - 2 - 3 paragraph review (typewritten) of assigned recordings, live performances, program notes and readings about the bassoon or music in general.

Purpose: To develop critical listening skills; to familiarize students with standard literature and with bassoonists and their styles through the listening; To familiarize students with literature and references about music in general and the bassoon specifically.

At the beginning of each review, please clearly state:

Your name and the date

Name of the article/recording

Author/performer

Name of pieces and composers, if performance review

For articles, provide a full reference for the journal (volume number, page number, date).

Studio Class/Reed Class (10% of grade)

Studio Class

Purpose:

- 1) To give students more opportunities to perform and to give and receive constructive feedback
- 2) To develop musical critical and analytical skills
- 3) To discuss relevant topics related to music in general and bassoon specifically
- 3) To learn orchestral excerpts
- 4) To discuss bassoon repair

Reed Class

Purpose:

- 1) To teach the basics of bassoon reed making and reed adjusting
- 2) To develop a style of reed to suit each student
- 3) To pinpoint problem areas in reeds
- 4) To develop the student's independence of teacher in reed making

NOTE: Students are expected to make 16 or more reeds per semester.

Scale Exams (10% of grade)

Jury (20% of grade)

DETAILS

Technique

I. Major and minor scales with arpeggios

(all major, minor and chromatic scales) at quarter note = 80 – 90 MM (sixteenth notes) - two octaves except Bb - E three octaves. Scales in intervals.

II. Etudes may include

Bianchi – Studies

Bitsch – 20 Études

Bozza – 15 Études Journalieres

Gampieri – 16 Daily Studies

Jancourt - 26 Melodic Studies

Kovar - 24 Daily Exercises

Milde – 50 Studies, Book 1 Op. 26

Milde – 50 Studies, Book 2 Op. 26

Milde – 25 Studies, Op. 24

Orefici – Bravura Studies

Oubradous: Ensiegement Complet, Vol. 1 and 2

Ozi - 24 Caprices

Piard – 16 Characteristic Studies

Piard - 90 Etudes

Pivonka – Virtuoso Études

Pivonka – Rhythmic Études

III. Techniques to concentrate on include:

- refining skills
- increasing facility in high register
- intonation and alternate fingerings
- musicality and critical thinking

Solo Literature may include:

Apostel - Sonatine

Arnold – Fantasy

Bach - Six Suites for Solo Cello

Besozzi - Sonata

Boismortier - Concerto

Bozza – Concertina

Bozza – Fantasie

Bozza – Recit., Sicilienne et Rondo

Bruns - Concerti

Cascarino - sonata

David - Concertino, op. 12

Dutilleux - Sarabande et Cortège

Eccles - Sonata

Elgar - Romance

Etler - Sonata

Français - Divertissement

Gliere - Impromptu and Humoresque

Hindemith - Sonata

Hummel - Concerto

Hurlstone - Sonata

J.C. Bach - Concerto in B flat

Jacob - Concerto

Jacob - Four Sketches

Jolivet - Concertino

Kozeluch - Concerto

Marcello - Sonata

Mozart - Concerto

Osborne - Rhapsody

Perle - Three Inventions

Persichetti - Parable

Previn - Sonata

Saint-Saens - Sonata

Schaffrath - Sonatas

Schreck - Sonata

Stevens - Three Pieces

Taaffe-Zwilich - Concerto

Tansman - Sonatine

Tansman - Suite

Telemann - Sonata in f minor

Tomasi - Concerto

Villa Lobos - Ciranda des Seta Notas

Vivaldi - Concerti

Weber - Andante and Hungarian Rondo

Weber - Concerto

Wilder – Sonatas

Williams – The Five Sacred Trees

Orchestral Studies may include:

Bach - Overture in C

Bartok - Concerto for Orchestra

Beethoven - Concerto for Violin

Beethoven - Symphony # 4

Berlioz – Symphonie Fantastique

Brahms - Violin Concerto

Donizetti - L'Eliser d'Amore

Mozart - Marriage of Figaro

Mussorgsky/Ravel - Pictures at an Exhibition
"Old Castle"

Prokofieff - Peter and the Wolf

Ravel – Bolero

Ravel - Piano Concerto for the Left Hand

Ravel - Piano Concerto in G major

Ravel - Rhapsodie Espagnole

Rimsky-Korsakov - Scheherazade

Shostakovich - Symphony # 9

Stravinsky - Firebird Suite (Berceuse)

Stravinsky - Rite of Spring

Tchaikovsky - Symphony No. 4 (mvmt 2)

Tchaikovsky - Symphony No. 5 (mvmt I and 3)

Tchaikovsky - Symphony No. 6 (mvmt I)

Wagner - Overture to Tannhauser

***Grading Policy**

A – Superior playing – well above average

- ◆ Student is prepared at all lessons and has a positive, enthusiastic attitude
- ◆ All assignments are practiced sufficiently
- ◆ Student performs with great sound, accurate intonation, correct breath support, technical mastery and superior musicianship
- ◆ Student uses accurate fingerings 90% or more of the time
- ◆ Student practices at least 2 -3 hours per day
- ◆ Student performs scales at the appropriate speed with fluidity and rare errors
- ◆ Student prepares one etude per week with few errors
- ◆ Student performs in 1 - 2 area recitals per semester (as determined by instructor)
- ◆ Student masters 2 -3 solos per semester
- ◆ Student has more than one dependable reeds and works on reeds regularly
- ◆ Student enthusiastically participates in reed class and studio class

B – Excellent playing – above average

- ◆ The student is somewhat prepared at all lessons and has a positive attitude
- ◆ Most assignments are practiced sufficiently
- ◆ Student needs to work on consistent qualities listed above
- ◆ Student uses accurate fingerings 80% or more of the time
- ◆ Student practices 1 – 2 hours per day
- ◆ Student performs scales at the appropriate speed with few errors
- ◆ Student prepares one etude per week with some errors
- ◆ Student performs in one area recital per semester
- ◆ Student masters at least two solos per semester
- ◆ Student has dependable reeds and works on reeds regularly
- ◆ Student enthusiastically participates in reed class and studio class

C – Good playing – average

- ◆ The student is partially prepared at all lessons and has an acceptable attitude
- ◆ Some assignments are practiced sufficiently
- ◆ At this level, all notes may be prepared but little attention has been given to details – dynamics, accents, tempo makings, intonation, etc.
- ◆ Student practices 1 hour per day
- ◆ Student performs scales with difficulty
- ◆ Student prepares one etude every 2 -3 weeks, sometimes needing extra time to master
- ◆ Student masters at least two solo per semester
- ◆ Student does not attend all reed classes and studio classes

D – Poor playing – below average

- ◆ Student is not sufficiently prepared for lessons
- ◆ Assignments were not practiced sufficiently – more practice time is necessary to play correct notes
- ◆ Student practices less than 0.5 hours per day
- ◆ Student does not attend reed class and studio class

F – Unsatisfactory playing

- ◆ Student does not attend lessons or has done no preparation for lessons
- ◆ Student does not practice daily

**Grading policy modified from that of Torrey Lawrence.*

Reed Making Equipment

1. plaques - Arrowhead Shape (plastic works best)
2. 600 wet/dry sand paper
3. mandrel - **short** - bassoon
4. cutting block or easel
5. razor blades
6. needle nose pliers
7. reed knife

SOURCES

Arundo Reeds & Cane (good reeds)

[//home.earthlink.net/~arundo](http://home.earthlink.net/~arundo)

Bocal Music (music only)

<http://www.bocalmusic.com/>

Fox Products (instruments and accessories)

<http://www.foxproducts.com/default.htm>

Midwest Musical Imports (instruments and accessories)

<http://www.mmimports.com/>

Miller Marketing (instruments, cane and accessories)

<http://www.millermarketingco.com/>

Jones Double Reed Products (good student reeds - excellent prices on reed making supplies)

www.jonesdoublereed.com

Frederic H. Weiner (music and supplies)

www.weinermusic.com

Eble Music (excellent source for general and bassoon music)

Box 2570

Iowa City, IA 52240

319-338-0313

Forrests - The Double Reed Specialists (good source for supplies, music and CDs)

www.forrestsmusic.com

TrevCo (excellent source of bassoon and oboe music)

<http://www.trevcomusic.com/>

Woodwind Brasswind (instruments and accessories)

<http://www.wwbw.com/>

UI On-line References

UI Music Databases - <http://db.lib.uidaho.edu/databases/display.php3>

- Classical Music Library – listen to music from your computer

- Grove Music Online – the definitive encyclopedia of music

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Susan's Bassoon Recordings - <http://schuldt.campus.uidaho.edu/?BassoonStudio.txt>

Password: elvis

References

The Double Reed (periodical published by the International Double Reed Society)

The Journal of the IDRS (periodical published by the International Double Reed Society)

National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors Journal

Woodwind, Brass and Percussion

Jansen, Will. The Bassoon: Its History, Construction, Makers, Players, and Music. Buren, Ntehterlands: Uitgeverij Frits Knuf, 1978.

Langwill, Lyndesay G. The Bassoon and Contrabassoon. New York: W.w. Norton and Co., 1965.

New Groves Dictionary. Article on the Bassoon.

Web Pages

International Double Reed Society

<http://idrs.colorado.edu/Links/Links.html>

DOUBLEREED-L The Listserv for Double Reeders

<http://www.wuacc.edu/cas/music/doublereed-l/>

At Last, the Top Ten (actually 11) Bassoon Excerpts, from these orchestra lists

<http://www.public.asu.edu/~jefflym/excerpts.html#anchor328611>

Brian's Double Reed Page

<http://www.ms.uky.edu/~moses/doublereed/>

Caliban Quartet

<http://www.calibanquartet.com/music/index.html>

Wizards – A Double Reed Consort

<http://www.dca.net/wizards/>

There are lots more!!!