

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY, DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC  
COMPOSITION 9518**

**Fall-Winter 2023-2024**

**Dr. Omar Daniel and Dr. Paul Frehner**

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFO:**

Dr. Omar Daniel: TC-338, (519) 661-2111 extension 85369, [odaniel@uwo.ca](mailto:odaniel@uwo.ca)

Office hours: by appointment

Dr. Paul Frehner: TC-339, (519) 661-2111 extension 85335, [pfrehner@uwo.ca](mailto:pfrehner@uwo.ca)

Office hours: by appointment

**MEETINGS:** Private face-to-face composition lessons will be held in either TC-338 or TC-339 at mutually agreed upon times. Students will study with either Dr. Daniel or Dr. Frehner, as determined by the Department of Music Research and Composition. Lessons will be weekly in the Fall and Winter semesters, at mutually agreed upon times, and will last approximately 1.5-2 hours. There may occasionally be group meetings, involving students in 9518, 9558 and 9659 which will be held, times TBD. There may occasionally be workshops or talks featuring guest speakers, which students are expected to attend. These would be scheduled in consultation with the guest speakers' timetables.

**DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

Composition 9518 consists almost entirely of one-on-one consultations focusing on the following: the participants' in-progress and completed compositions; any related in-progress and completed assignments and exercises; and discussions and analyses of selected contemporary music repertory. Students will complete at least three compositions based on an idiosyncratic research methodology as defined by the student in consultation with the instructor. The student is expected to actively engage in refining the focus and methodology of their compositional approach through the creative process.

**Prerequisite:** Enrollment in this course is restricted to students have been accepted into the first year of the MMus program in Composition.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will develop their fluency and skills related to the art of music composition

Through the analysis of pertinent repertoire students will gain an understanding of both certain compositional methodologies as well as a historical context for their own work.

Through experiential opportunities students will gain valuable insight into the process of working towards a premiere performance of their own music with soloists and/or chamber ensembles.

Through the act of working on research-based compositions students will develop the necessary background, tools and skills to frame a research angle for their eventual work

on their Thesis Composition.

Students are expected to participate in the Annual Chamber Groups-Composer Collaborative on April 3, 2023, 7:30 pm in vKH. This is an interdepartmental collaborative event between MPS and MRC that has been in place for over 20 years. Chamber groups are not finalized until near the end of September. Composer assignments are prioritized by course number (high to low) and grades and other meritorious factors. Decisions are made by a committee of MPS and MRC faculty organizers. Details and Guidelines for this collaboration will be distributed separately.

### **EVALUATION:**

The final grade is comprised of 60% for original compositions (including exercises or other assignments in composition, if any), 30% for analytical and research work, and 10% for participation and attendance. The grade portion for composition will be based on the quality of the student's composition(s) taking into account musicality, originality, and creative thinking; as well as the handling of technical skills. Students must earn a minimum of 42/60 for the composition component of the final grade to pass the course. Students must attend a minimum of 80% of one-on-one consultations to pass the course. There are no examinations.

### **Composition Projects and Deadlines**

Composition 1: Tornado Project, a 4-5-minute piece for chamber ensemble\*, instrumentation TBD, due October 31, 2023

Composition 2: Annual Chamber Groups-Composer Collaborative\*\*  
Instrumentation TBA  
Duration: 7 minutes  
Deadline: TBD – most likely February 15, 2024

Composition 3 (final project): TBD

The parameters of this project will be determined in consultation between the student and instructor.

Due: April 15 (one week after classes end)

*\*This project is developed in collaboration with Western University's Northern Tornadoes Team. Compositions written for this project will be presented in an event on March 1, 2024. Professor Sharon Wei is the Faculty of Music's liaison with the Northern Tornadoes Team. She will provide further information on the project.*

*\*\*See the Annual Student Chamber Music Composition Concert 2023-24 Guidelines for Student Composers for deadlines and more details on the procedure for submitting the completed work and other responsibilities for the composer. This document will be handed out in late September.*

## **Analysis and Research and Other Compositional Work**

Analysis of specific repertoire and ongoing research will be regularly discussed during private lessons or during group meetings with other graduate students in composition.

Other composition assignments or related academic work, if any: TBA

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

October 24, 2023 – Fall Student Composers Concert, vKH, 8 pm

November 16, 2023 – Joel Sachs, Juilliard Professor Emeritus, concert in vKH, 8 pm

November 17, 2023 – Joel Sachs, Juilliard Professor Emeritus, Graduate Colloquium

February 6, 2024 – Jeremy Huw Williams and Ensemble Paramirabo, concert in vKH, 8 pm

\*March 1, 2024 – Tornado Project event

\*April 3, 2024, 7:30 pm, vKH – Annual Chamber Music/ Student Composers Concert.

\*Attendance is mandatory for the events listed above. Students must also attend the dress rehearsal for their respective compositions, times TBA.

## **TEXTBOOK:**

There is no textbook for this course. Students will be asked as needed to bring score and audio materials for discussion. Supplementary reading and listening, if any, is usually available in the Music Library or through the Library's online services, through Interlibrary Loans, or through other online resources. Please note that COVID-19 restrictions may affect the library's usual services.

## **Relevant Reference Books:**

Adler, Samuel. *The Study of Orchestration*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) New York: Norton, 2002. ISBN: 039397572X

Dallin, Leon. *Techniques of twentieth century composition; a guide to the materials of modern music*. Dubuque, Iowa : W. C. Brown Co., [1974] Call No.: MT40.D22 1974 (unfortunately out-of-print; one copy is on reserve)

Heussenstamm, George, *The Norton Manual of Music Notation*, New York, W.W. Norton and Co., 1987.

Morgan, Robert P., editor. *Twentieth-Century Music: a history of musical style in modern Europe and America*, New York : Norton, 1991 ISBN 0-393-95272-X ML197.M675 1991

Karkoschka, Erhard, *Notation In New Music: A critical Guide to Interpretation and Realisation*, (Translated by Ruth Koenig) New York: Praeger, 1972 MT35 .K185 S33 1972

Stone, Kurt, *Music Notation in the Twentieth Century*, New York, W.W. Norton and Co., 1980.

## **University Policies for Graduate Courses**

**Course Prerequisites:** Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Performance as well as any student that has obtained special permission from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

**Grading scale:** A= 80-100%, B= 70-79%, C= 60-69%, F= 0-59%

### **Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic offence, as found at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

### **Statement on Health and Wellness**

Students who are in emotional or mental distress should refer to [Health and Wellness](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>

### **Statement on Medical Accommodation**

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf)

The Graduate Program in Music recognizes that a student's ability to fulfill academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by illness or injury. To ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's course grade shall be granted only in cases where there is documentation indicating that the student could not reasonably be expected to meet the academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the office of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies), not to the course instructor."

### **Accessible Education Western**

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program. Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged.

These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

### **Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have

experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca) or call 519661-3568.