



Course Title: Practical Musicianship: From Structural Listening to Musical Enjoyment

Course Code: MUS 03

Instructor: Mauricio Rodriguez, DMA | www.mauricio-rodriguez.com

Class Sessions and Recording

Meeting days and times: Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:50 pm (PT)
Meeting location: Zoom (Live Online)

The class sessions will be recorded. Live attendance and participation is required to get the full benefit of the course. However, credit will be given if you watch 8 of the 10 recorded sessions.

Course Summary

This is a practical music course to learn, sing and perform fundamental music materials including rhythm patterns, scales, chords, and harmonic progressions. No prior music knowledge is required but access to a musical instrument (acoustic or digital) during the class time is highly recommended.

There is one module for each week of the course that builds on the previous one. Each module includes two components: a lecture with demonstration activities, and a hands-on section for students to practice and get feedback from the instructor.

**Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Course Goals

Students are expected to achieve the following goals at the end of this course:

- Apply music theory concepts to analyze, listen to, perform, sing and even create original pieces of music
- Recognize different elements of music in varied music contexts
- Get fundamental skills to read and write music

Grade Options and Requirements

- No Grade Requested (NGR)

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650

- This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
 - To receive credit for this class, students must attend (and/or watch) at least 8 of the 10 live sessions

**Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Textbooks/Required Materials

All the materials for the course will be provided by the instructor in the form of PDF's that include lecture materials, practical activities and assignments. PDF's will be posted on Canvas one week before each session. Students are encouraged to print these materials ahead of time to make annotations and follow in-class activities.

The following books are not required but recommended:

Edwin McLean, [Chord Encyclopedia](#) (FJH Music Company, 2004)

Mauricio Rodriguez [Scales, Chords, and Harmonic Progressions](#) (Punctum, 2020)

Weekly Outline

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|----------------|--|
| Week 1: | Elements of Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch, Dynamics and Rhythm Notation • Listening, Performing and Singing Elements of Music |
| Week 2: | Major and Minor Keys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intervals, Scales and Circle of Fifths • Listening, Performing and Singing Major and Minor Modes |
| Week 3: | Chord Construction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triads and Sevenths • Chord Quality and Inversions • Listening, Performing and Singing Chords |

PRELIMINARY COURSE SYLLABUS

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| Week 4: | Basic Harmonic Structures <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music Time: Tension and Stability (Dominant and Tonic)• How Does a Chord Progression Work?• Crafting Chord Progressions |
| Week 5: | Voicing and Connecting Chords <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common Harmonic Patterns to Sing and Play• Chord Progressions in Keyboard Style |
| Week 6: | Harmonic Embellishment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non Chord Tones (NCT's)• Listening and using NCT's |
| Week 7: | Texture: Melody and Accompaniment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• From Harmony to Melody• Melodic Harmonization |
| Week 8: | Cadences and Form <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phrase and Period• Common Formal Patterns• Listening Activities |
| Week 9: | Moving Around Keys <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chord Extensions• Tonicization and Modulation |
| Week 10: | Song Creation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text Setting• Harmonic and Formal Framework• Composing a Song |