

Spring 2013 Mus 1511/1512
Email: izgrev@gwu.edu

www.konstantinov.com
www.godowsky.org

Piano Performance
Prof. Tzvetan Konstantinov
Music Office: 202-994-6245
Office Hours: By Appointment M-F
Studio B-128: 202-994-3991

Course Description

Welcome to Integrated Music Learning Through Broader Piano Studies

Private instrumental study with a rigorous balance of technical advancement, expansion of repertoire, and an integrated academic component. Students at this level should at a minimum:

1. Read both clefs fluently.
2. Be able to decipher basic rhythmic combinations and rudimentary dynamics and articulations.
3. Have a fundamental knowledge of left and right hand positions.

Course Objectives

Performance study in Piano includes individual instruction in technique, performance preparation and basic musicianship skills that will foster independent and self-motivated learners. Lesson content is individually determined, with repertoire selected to achieve development of technical and musical skills in each student. Technical and musical issues will be identified from the repertoire studied, and possible solutions, and strategies for finding solutions, will be devised. Students will be expected to make choices and decisions of both technical and interpretive import and to actively participate in their lessons by both playing and discussing various options and their merits.

1. Technique
 - Practice techniques: time management; how to create exercises to address specific technical challenges; counting drills; elementary theory; ear training
 - Keyboard technique: develop and/or enhance basic strokes for articulation, dynamic and rhythmic control, including standard repetitive rhythmic combinations, legato, and begin exploration of free-weight management and choreography to maximize tonal and interpretive impact.
 - Hand technique: improve accuracy of shifting within the various positions on the keyboard for security of intonation; develop speed and agility of the fingers.
 - Begin exploration of both clefs in developing sight reading technique, as appropriate.
2. Repertoire: play a variety of literature and styles, as assigned, with an understanding of the techniques and interpretive traditions associated with those styles.
3. Listening Assignment/Research/Writing (1-2 pages): Concert attendance as assigned. Support reading or research, as assigned. Deadline May 1st.
4. Performance: All students are required to participate in Piano Workshop held once

each semester (May 1st). This is a performance event with all the preparation that is required to achieve that goal. Public performance may be encouraged for some students.

5. Required Music Books:

“The Virtuoso Pianist” by Charles-Louis Hanon

- obtained free - hanon-online.com

6. Recommended literature:

“The Piano Technique” by Walter Gieseking and Karl Leimer (Dover Publ)

“Weight And Relaxation Method For The Pianoforte” by Jacob Eisenberg (Eisenberg Publ)

“Famous Pianists And Their Technique” by Reginald Gerig (R. B. Luce Publ)

7. QUIZ #1 – Week #4

8. MIDTERM – Week #7: technique (including sight-reading) and repertoire as assigned. Perform at least one piece from memory.

9. QUIZ #2 – Week #10

10. FINAL – Week#13: technique (including sight-reading) as assigned. Perform from memory: 1511 - two pieces, 1512 - three repertoire pieces.

Synopsis of Graded Events

Week #4 – Quiz #1; Week #7 – Mid-Term; Week #10 – Quiz #2; Week #13 – Final Examination (Ensemble work including); Week #14 – Workshop (May 1st); Paper Due May 1st); Concert Attendance Report (You are strongly encouraged to attend our GW Concerts and at least one non University professional performance).

Expected Learning Outcomes

On completion of this level study in Piano, students will be able to:

Musicianship: Display and use practical musicianship skills in sight-reading.

Performance:

- Perform repertoire from at least 2 periods of music of 2 differing styles. (1511)
- Perform repertoire from at least 3 periods of music of 3 different styles. (1512)
- Perform repertoire that demonstrates sustained technical development, including ability to read both clefs fluently.
- Display secure and somewhat consistent basic keyboard techniques:

- * Effective keys usage for control of sound quality, dynamics and articulation
- * Respectable intonation and shifting, with relatively seamless movement between various keyboard positions.
- Use knowledge of period style, musical affect and performance practice to achieve a basic level of informed musical expression.
- Participate in a select ensemble.

Critical Understanding

- Understand merits of interpretive and technical performance choices and support those choices in a statement or in response to questions at a performance exam.
- Speak with a perceivable argument.

Attendance

- Lessons per semester -- 13
- The Department of Music is not obligated to schedule make-up lessons for those missed due to student non-attendance (including illness, vacation, etc.). In the event of instructor cancellation, a make-up date will be scheduled.
- If a student registers after the first (or second) scheduled lesson, that lesson (or lessons) will not be taught, nor count against the student's grade or attendance.
- An instructor may substitute one instructor-led event for a lesson, such as a studio recital or workshop.
- If you are unable to attend your lesson, please notify me promptly. Cancellations made by email will not be excused unless made 24 hours in advance. When there are last minute issues, please call me at 202-994-3991.

Grading

- All students will be graded upon lesson attendance, preparation and progress (75%), completion of supplementary assignments (10%), and Studio Recitals and Performances (15%) . Attitude towards assignments and cooperation during lessons will be give significant weight in your grade.
- Your grade is based on the above criteria.
- For students playing a performance exam for admission to 2000 level study, 100% of your grade is given by the instructor. Your exam at this juncture is only for advancement and receives no grade.
- After three semesters of Piano Studies a Jury Examination will be required at the end of each consecutive semester.

Lesson Protocol and Progress

Students are expected to attend all lessons. You should have a working metronome, all recommended music scores and this Syllabus with you . Bring a pencil to all lessons and arrive on time, entering the studio quietly while the previous student is working and be ready to begin.

Only students who make truly excellent progress will receive A's. To earn an A in this studio, you must engage in the study of the Piano at both the technical and intellectual levels. Your success is directly related to the quantity and quality of your preparation each week, your willingness to experiment, take risks, and use your imagination to achieve the most expressive musical outcome possible. Students are expected to practice daily for a minimum time equivalent to their lesson length.

Resources

- For sheet music: Dale Music 301-589-1459
Middle C Music 202-244-7326
- For questions about departmental requirements, majoring or minoring in Music, credit and curriculum issues: Schedule an appointment with a full-time Music faculty member, details on hours on the bulletin board outside the office. **The earlier you seek guidance on a possible major or minor, the more likely the requirements can be integrated with your other studies.**
- General assistance: Office personnel can help with *anything*.
- Gelman Library: Check out the collection of CDs and music. Listening is a wonderful way to improve your aural skills.
- You are in the middle of a very artistic city. The office has listings of concerts, with student discounts frequently available. Check the bulletin boards and office doors throughout the department for concert announcements. Most Smithsonian Museums offer concert series, as does the Library of Congress.
- Most communication outside the studio will be through your GWU email account. Please plan on checking this account regularly and responding promptly.
- I am always available between lessons and will try to answer any questions you may have. Email anytime: izgrev@gwu.edu, call: 202-994-3991.

Support for Students Outside the Classroom

Any students who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250, Marvin Center Suite 424, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information refer to <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>

The University Counseling Center (UCC – 202-994-5300) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career and study skills problems. Services for students include crisis and emergency mental health consultations and confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals. <http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see: <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>

SECURITY

In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.

University Policy on Religious Holidays:

1. Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance;
2. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations;
3. Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities