

Graduate Course Number: 7583

Course Title: The Way of Music - Creating Sound Connections in the Music Room

Days/Times of Class Meetings:

Online - Asynchronous (Weekly meeting opportunities)

Number of Credits for the course:

3 Graduate Credits

Instructor with phone number, email address, and office hours:

Kalani Das, MT-BC, kalanidas@gmail.com, 818-271-1054

Student Engagement Statement:

Students will prepare for the course by reading the “Preparation” and “Sound Beginnings” chapters in the required text and completing the listed “Experientials.”

Students should expect to spend 4-6 hours per week exploring coursework, including practicing music, creating recordings, participating in discussions and interacting with their fellow students.

Course Description:

The Way of Music is aimed at increasing the ability of teachers to provide students with engaging musical experiences that also carry social and emotional benefits. This begins with music improvisation from a student-centered and elemental perspective with a focus on using music making as a means for defining, developing, and managing interpersonal relationships. Musical and facilitative techniques are then explored through the lens of how music can be used to create various types of relationships and outcomes, including structure, empathy, elicitation, dialogues, and more. Finally, various types of group improvisation experiences are explored for their musical and social/emotional value, with the ultimate goal of providing an authentic, creative, and socially rewarding experience for both teacher and students. This course is suited for educators at all levels of experience, including those who have little improvisation experience, as well as those who would like to put their existing musical skills to work in different ways.

Student Learning Outcomes	Outcomes Assessments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will identify a variety of musical roles and the relationships they create and support. 2. Students will demonstrate a variety of Intermusical Techniques used for creating empathy, structure, elicitation, dialogue, redirection, intimacy and procedures. 3. Students will identify and demonstrate several types of Group Improvisation Experiences, designed to create social opportunities for students. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will pass written tests (with audio and video examples) that demonstrate an understanding of roles and relationships formed in music. 2. Students will submit audio recordings of themselves that demonstrate specific Intermusical Techniques. They will also complete tests that demonstrate understanding of terms. 3. Students will record and submit examples of leading group improvisation experiences with their students.

Program-Level Outcomes Addressed:

Students will increase their capacity for creating improvised music, both on a personal and group level. They will use intermusical relationships to intentionally form and manage interpersonal relationships within the context of active music making.

Students will be able to identify several Intermusical Techniques and apply them in group improvisations with a view to supporting creative play, participation, self-expression, validation, mutual-support, and

safe-spaces for sharing.

- a. Professionalism in Teaching - Candidates will participate in group and character-building activities by working alone and with others to explore personal strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to personal and professional growth. Students will demonstrate the ability to: Research best educational practices; Discern new uses for information from a variety of course work; Reflectively discuss their teaching and ways to enhance it.
- b. Excellence in Music- Candidates will explore more deeply the culturally and historically important aspects of music, musicians, and composers throughout the world and across time. Students will demonstrate the ability to: Recognize style traits of various composers, genres, and periods; Identify major and transitional composers in a variety of styles, genres, and periods; Learn or review and apply new techniques to perform in a style appropriate to genre, style, period, and culture.
- c. Strength in Character- Candidates will develop new approaches to the praxis of teaching by learning about, experiencing, and using best practice techniques as borne out in proven traditional practices and those demonstrated as effective through current research. Students will demonstrate the ability to: Discuss a variety of educational approaches; Describe why particular educational approaches are chosen for use; Choose and apply new approaches to the teaching praxis.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Unit I: Individual Improvisation Skills

1. Listening Experientials
2. Elemental Music Experiences
3. Exploring Timbre, Dynamics, and Rhythm
4. Drones, Pentatonic Scales, Modes

Unit II: Intermusical Techniques

1. Role Relationships
2. Techniques of Empathy, Structure, Elicitation, Dialoguing, Redirection, Intimacy, Procedures.

Unit III: Leading Group Improvisation

1. Instrumental Nonreferential, Instrumental Referential, Song Improvisation, Vocal Nonreferential, Body Improvisation, Mixed Media Improvisation, Conducted Improvisation.
2. Implications for socializing, sharing, mutual support, personal disclosure, and character and relationship building.

Grading Breakdown:

- A+ 97-100
- A 94-96
- A- 90-93
- B+ 87-89
- B 84-86
- B- 80-83
- C+ 77-79
- C 74-76
- C- 70-73
- D 69 and below

Instructional Materials:

[The Way of Music](#) - Creating Sound Connections in Music Therapy (Sarsen Publications) *Required*

Course Bibliography:

The Way of Music - Creating Sound Connections in Music Therapy (Sarsen Publications)

Course Calendar or Schedule: Asynchronous - Online

Attendance Policy: <<Attendance Policy:>>

Candidate Conduct

An important part of VanderCook's Conceptual Framework and Candidate Dispositions and Outcomes is the focus on professionalism and character. Specific descriptors include participation as well as attendance, flexibility in the face of changing circumstances and institutional needs, the commitment to continual personal development, self-reflection and growth, respect for the academic community and the individuals and resources of that community, and behavior, speech and dress that is appropriate and respectful in the educational environment. Failure to observe standards of professional behavior may result in referral to the Standards Committee and/or the appropriate dean. Consistent concerns in this area will have an impact on successful completion of the program.

Cell Phone/Computer Policy: N/A

Health and Safety

VanderCook College of Music is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Basic information regarding the maintenance of health and safety within the contexts of practice, performance, teaching and listening is provided throughout the academic year. Health and safety information specific to this course will be addressed. It is the responsibility of each individual musician to take an active role in making informed decisions to help maintain their own health and safety.

Academic Honesty

Candidates are expected to maintain the highest standards of integrity in their academic work. Failure to do so will jeopardize a candidate's success in the program. Examples of academic dishonesty include:

- Presenting another's words, music, or concepts as your own by failing to acknowledge or properly cite the source.
- Communicating or receiving answers or information to/from another in a testing situation.
- Consulting notes or any other source of answers/information in a testing situation, unless the instructor authorizes such access.
- Making available or accessing tests or quizzes from current or previous classes unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Bringing, by any means, answers or information into a testing situation except as explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Collaborating or turning in jointly produced work on any test or assignment that is intended to reflect individual effort.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism means taking someone else's words, ideas, data or work and presenting them as your own. This could mean an exact duplication of someone else's work without proper citation of the source, or it could mean you present it with only small changes and do not cite the source. Plagiarism can occur in art, music, literature, or technology – really in any area of intellectual work.

All work submitted should be properly credited to the original source of the information or idea whether the source is a book, Internet site, article, or any other medium. In written work, quotation marks or block indentations show direct quotations and the source must be cited. If information that is not common knowledge is paraphrased or summarized from a source, that source (including websites) must be cited. Failure to do so in academic assignments represents cheating and carries the appropriate penalties.

Copyright compliance is the goal of VanderCook College. Information to help with clarification of what constitutes fair use of copyrighted material, including photocopying, is on permanent reserve in the Ruppel Library.

No candidate should expect to receive a passing grade on any test or assignment that reflects dishonesty or academic irregularity. Cheating in any form may result in failure of the class and academic expulsion.

Disability Statement

If a student has a disability which might interfere with that student's ability to function in this course it is the responsibility of that student to notify the instructor at the beginning of the course.