MUS 495.05: Percussion History and Literature

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
DEPT. OF MUSIC

MUSIC 495 Sec. 05: "PERCUSSION HISTORY & LITERATURE"

Tuesdays 1:10-2:00pm, Room #204 (Music Bldg)
Instructor: Dr. Robert LedBetter
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Office Hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to study the history and literature of percussion instruments from the Medieval period with special emphasis placed on developments from the early 20th century to the present. The first half of the semester will focus on history with lecture format including the use of scores and recordings. The second half of the semester will focus on the study and evaluation of solo, chamber and percussion ensemble literature.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

I. Annotated index file cards or computer printout of 10 works from a minimum of five different recordings:

   • Percussion performances from contrasting instrumentation, styles, genre (solo, chamber, percussion ensemble, etc.)
   • One work must be an instructional or performance-related video on ethnic or world percussion
   • One must include non-percussion instruments (chamber music)
   • One must be from the orchestral repertoire
   • Only one may be jazz or commercial music

   Card/computer printout must include: composer, title, record title and label, performer(s), general content, a brief discussion of personal impressions/thought regarding the work and/or performance, and anything that will aid in remembering the recording.

II. Keep a notebook of handouts and notes from the class.

III. Midterm:
   1) write a 2 page paper on the history of timpani in the orchestra or the history of traditional battery percussion instruments in the orchestra.
2) write a 2 page paper discussing the important contributions to percussion music in the 20th century made by one of the following composers – Stravinsky, Varese, Cage, Stockhausen, Crumb, Partch, Bartok, or Elliott Carter.

IV. Evaluate new solo, chamber and percussion ensemble music to add to the UM Percussion Literature database. New works will be studying and annotated for inclusion in the database which uses Microsoft Access. The music will be divided among the class. Each student must turn in his annotations on CD or disk in the proper format on Access by the last day of classes.

V. Grading: The listening cards carry 10% of the grade, the midterm papers carry 40% of the grade and the annotations for the database carry 50% of the grade.

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Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code
All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321