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MUSI 123A.01: World Percussion Ensemble

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MUSI 123 & MUSI 323; Section 1: *World Percussion Ensemble*

Meeting time: 11:10am-12pm Fridays (Fall)

4:00-6:00pm Fridays (Spring)

Credit: 1 credit

Instructor: Dr. Robert LedBetter

Office: Room 9, Music Bldg.

Phone: 406/240-2072

robert.ledbetter@umontana.edu

Office hours: by appointment

As an integral component of percussion studies at The University of Montana, the UM World Percussion Ensembles perform extensively on campus and throughout the Northwest. The groups perform on three concerts a year at the University Theatre and tour the region regularly. The *Islanders* Steel Band counts as the World Percussion Ensemble on the Fall and Spring concerts. The other World Percussion Ensembles including the *Jaya Budaya* Balinese Gamelan, Brazilian Ensemble, West African Ensemble, Salsa Band and Mexican Marimba Band perform on the World Rhythms Concert which takes place each February. Different combinations of these groups are featured each year (one year might include the Brazilian Ensemble, Salsa Band and Balinese Gamelan). The World Rhythms Concert usually features a guest artist every year. Artists featured in recent years include: Made Lasmawan (Bali), Abdoul Doumbia (Mali, West Africa), Idrissa Gueye (Senegal, West Africa) and Edi Gbordzi (Ghana, West Africa).

The World Percussion Ensemble serves as a laboratory for musical exploration, with a focus on the specific and authentic percussion performance practices of the particular genre (i.e. djembe technique from Mali, West Africa or hand dampening in Balinese gamelan music) as well as developing listening and ensemble skills. In addition, there are opportunities to develop improvisational skills on various percussion instruments from steel drums to djembes and congas or timbales.

World Percussion Ensemble participation expectations and requirements:

- Come to each rehearsal with the music carefully and completely prepared.
- Bring all necessary sticks, mallets, pencil, equipment, etc. If you must borrow mallets or equipment, arrange for it well ahead of time – not on the spot.
- Arrive as early as possible to allow time for set-up and warm-up. Rehearsals will start no later than fifteen minutes after the hour. If the student has difficulty getting to class in time (due to a class across campus for instance), it is his/her responsibility to request the help of other students to get set up in time.
- Practice individual parts outside of rehearsal! The quality of the group is only as good as the weakest individual performance. Rehearsal time should be focused upon ensemble and musical aspects – not learning notes.
- Talking during rehearsals should only pertain to immediate ensemble requirements and contribute towards productive and effective rehearsals.

- At the conclusion of each rehearsal, **ALL** equipment used during the rehearsal must be put away in the appropriate location. Please be careful to insure that all cages, cabinets and/or rooms are also locked securely before you leave!

Rehearsal: Specific rehearsal schedules for each week will be posted on the bulletin board outside Room #1 at the beginning of each week. Additional rehearsal times may be called when necessary.

Attendance: Students are required to attend ALL REHEARSALS (including rehearsals after the concert until the end of the semester). If you must miss a rehearsal for any reason, you **MUST** call Dr. LedBetter well in advance. Unexcused absences will substantially lower your grade. Absence from a performance will result in failure.

Concert Attire: Black pants, shoes & socks. Bright, solid colored short-sleeved shirt .

Grading Policy: Grading is determined by the reliability and quality of your participation. Therefore, attendance and the quality of effort you put forth will determine your grade, keeping in mind that the strength and success of the ensemble depends on the level of effort put forth by each individual!

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