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MUSI 122A.01: Percussion Ensemble

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Recommended Citation

LedBetter, Robert, "MUSI 122A.01: Percussion Ensemble" (2014). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 1987.

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The University of Montana
School of Music

MUSI 122A; Section 1: Percussion Ensemble

MWF 11:10pm-12:00pm Room #1

(Plus additional times as needed)

Credit: 1 credit

Instructor: Dr. Robert LedBetter

Office: Room 9, Music Bldg.

Phone: 406/243-4819

robert.ledbetter@umontana.edu

Office hours: by appointment

As an integral component of percussion studies at The University of Montana, the UM Percussion Ensembles perform extensively on campus and throughout the Northwest. The groups perform three concerts a year at the University Theatre and tour the region regularly. The ensembles serve as a laboratory for musical exploration, with focus on specific percussion performance practice, listening and ensemble skills and general technique on the various instruments. In addition, there are opportunities to develop improvisational skills on various percussion instruments from mallet percussion and steel drums to hand drums and other World Percussion. Ensemble repertoire comprises a wide variety of musical and ethnic styles including standard percussion works, contemporary compositions, keyboard ensembles, pop ensemble pieces (jazz, latin, etc.) and unusual crowd pleasers. Students will also get the opportunity to perform with renown guest artists on these concerts. Recent artists include: Ed Saindon, vibraphone; Jeff Prosperie, snare drum/orchestral; Liam Teague, steel drums; Christopher Deane, timpani; Mark Ford, marimba; Steve Smith, drumset and Jesus Diaz on Afro Cuban percussion.

All percussion majors are required to perform in the Percussion Ensembles each semester they are enrolled. There are two specific courses to sign up for: Percussion Ensemble (MUSI 122, Sec.1) and World Percussion Ensemble (MUSI 123, Sec. 1). The World Percussion Ensemble includes all ethnic ensembles including *Islanders* Steel Band, *Jaya Budaya* Balinese Gamelan, West African Drum Ensemble, Brazilian Drum Ensemble, Salsa Band, Afro Cuban Drum Ensemble and Mexican Marimba Band. These groups rotate each semester under the category of World Percussion Ensemble.

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.
- Designated multiple set-ups are the responsibility of the performer. Diagram the set-up when necessary in order to be consistent (always check for improvements though as you become familiar with the piece). Always help out other performers when your setup is complete. Keep a detailed list of all needed equipment and mallets for each work performed. Don't find yourself on stage with instruments or mallets missing!
- 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 will be arranged for small groups. A typical schedule will include a large piece on Mondays, smaller group on Wednesdays and Steel Band on Fridays.

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** contact Dr. LedBetter well in advance. If you are sharing music with another person, it is your responsibility to make sure that music required for the rehearsal is available. Unexcused absences will substantially lower your grade. Absence from a performance will result in failure.

Concert Attire: All black (shirts, slacks, socks and shoes). Variety of options as long as they are black.

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/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321

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