

The New School For Jazz & Contemporary Music New Student Technology Seminar – Spring 2015

Class Hours: Fridays 3-3:50PM. **Location:** Arnhold Hall, 5th Floor, Performance Space.
Instructor: Alexis Cuadrado. **Email:** cuadrada@newschool.edu
C.R.N: 6372. **Credits:** 1

Class Goals and Description:

In this lecture format class, our goal is to achieve basic user literacy with two mainstream music applications, Sibelius, used for music notation, and Pro Tools (DAW: Digital Audio Workstation) used for audio/MIDI production: Editing, recording, mixing, mastering and film scoring.

- **Music notation using Sibelius:** Our main goal is to be able to produce professional looking printed music. Our final project will be a double staff lead sheet format with chord symbols and rhythmic figures, as well as larger scores that include instrument parts.
- **Audio/MIDI production with a DAW using Pro-Tools:** Our main goal is to be able to understand and be minimally proficient so we can do the following: Audio editing (Edit a stereo track and a multi-track session.) Audio recording. MIDI and Virtual Instruments. Mixing 2 or more tracks. Producing a "Track." Voluntary "Track Hackathon."

Resources:

Given the lecture format of the class, there will be no "hands on" training during our weekly sessions. If you can, I encourage you to purchase the applications and to bring your laptop to class. Both Sibelius and Pro-Tools have significant student discounts. It's crucial that you spend "quality time" working with each one of the applications used in the course. Here's a list of the resources that you can use in order to do so:

- **Arnhold Hall computer lab:** 8th floor of our building at 55 W 13th st. with 35 Audio/MIDI stations in which you will be able to work on the assignments for this class and much more.
- **Lynda.com:** Our class is structured to use this this incredible online video tutorial library as its main reference. As a New School student, you have free access to it. Here's how:
 1. Use this link to log in to the Lynda.com page within the New School Library resources:
<https://www.lyndacom.libproxy.newschool.edu/Login/>
 2. Create a Lynda.com account and log in.
 3. Here are the links to recommended courses:
 - a. **Sibelius:** <http://www.lyndacom.libproxy.newschool.edu/Sibelius-tutorials/Sibelius-Essential-Training/95611-2.html>
 - b. **Pro Tools:** <http://www.lyndacom.libproxy.newschool.edu/tutorials/Pro-Tools-10-Essential-Training/93383-2.html>
 - c. **Alexis' Lynda Playlist** (Includes all the recommended courses):
<http://www.lyndacom.libproxy.newschool.edu/SharedPlaylist/24a9b06383424fafbf2935edd4544ed4>

- **Software reference manuals, videos and other resources**

1. **Sibelius:**

- a. Reference Manual:
<http://www.sibelius.com/download/documentation/pdfs/sibelius700-reference-en.pdf>
- b. Sibelius official reference videos:
http://www.sibelius.com/videos/guided_tour.html
- c. Sibelius official user forum: <http://www.sibelius.com/cgi-bin/helpcenter/chat/chat.pl?groupid=3>
- d. Sibelius forum (unofficial): <http://www.sibeliusforum.com>
- e. Of Note (great music notation blog): http://www.rpmseattle.com/of_note/

2. **Pro Tools:**

- a. Reference Manual: Look for it on the HELP menu within PT
- b. Pro-Tools user forum: <http://duc.avid.com/>
- c. The Internet (Google, Youtube, etc) is plagued with PT training videos and tutorials.

Class Policies:

Attendance Policy

One of the keys at getting successful results in this class will be your regular attendance. Please review carefully the attendance policy for this class:

- 2 unexcused absences will lower your final grade one letter.
- 3 or more unexcused absences will automatically mean failure of the course.
- Being late 3 times constitutes an absence. Coming later than 5 minutes after beginning of the class will be counted as lateness. Coming 15 minutes or more after beginning of the class will be counted as an unexcused absence.
- **IMPORTANT:** If by any reason you're going to miss a class please communicate with me **before** the class. I may also ask for permissions slips, doctor notes or whatever I consider might justify any unexcused absences.

Assignments: There will be two assignments during the semester:

1. Copy a lead sheet of your choice (from any Real Book, an original composition, a transcription, anything you want.)
2. Edit a stereo track. Any track of your choice.

Assignments will be set up for upload in Canvas. Email attachments or direct links will not be accepted, and your assignments. Assignments will be graded in a 0 -10 scale. Assignments will NOT be accepted past the deadline.

Grading:

There are 3 requirements that need to be met in order to pass the class:

1. Have less than 3 unexcused absences.
2. Submit both of the required assignments on time.
3. Have a minimum average score of your assignments of 60%.

Then, your final grade will be calculated given these parameters:

- Your final grade will then be the average of both of your assignment scores. For instance if you scored a 6 and an 8, your average score is a 7.
- The average score is then multiplied by 10 and measured in this table: 95-100 A, 90-95 A-, 87-89 B+, 83-86 B, 80-82 B-, 77-79 C+, 73-76 C, 70-72 C-, 67-69 D+, 63-66 D, 60-62 D-, Below 60 F.
- Attendance - can only affect your grade negatively. 2 unexcused absences will lower your final grade one letter. 3 unexcused absences make you fail the class.

Other Considerations

- A respectful and tolerant tone is expected from all of us through the semester. This is crucial to work in a healthy and encouraging environment. Derogatory comments of any kind will not be tolerated.
- All of your submitted work assignments are expected to be 100% original. "Teamwork" is not allowed for any assignments. Submitting an assignment that is copied from another student or from a book or the Internet represents a violation of the New School Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy, with an immediate consequence of failure of the course.
- Please no phones/texting in class. No food in class, water is OK.

Weekly schedule 15 sessions:

1/30/15 Session 1 - Overview: Description of class goals, syllabus, student-instructor communication, assignments, attendance policy, format of the class. Basic generic computer functions: File management, editing commands and shortcuts. How to find help: Support docs, Lynda.com, blogs, forums, Save as PDF, sharing files. Zip files.

2/6/15 Session 2 - Sibelius 1: Starting new documents. Overview of the Sibelius Windows, Ribbon tabs & panels. Score navigation. Methods of note entry with and without a MIDI keyboard. Selecting. Basic score elements.

2/13/15 Session 3 - Sibelius 2: Find in Ribbon. Keypad layouts. Articulations. Barlines and repeats. Lines. Text Styles: Staff and System Text. Adding staves.

2/20/15 Session 4 - Sibelius 3: Creating a lead sheet. Formatting and exporting files

2/27/15 Session 5 - Sibelius 4 : Case study: Creating a double staff lead sheet, copying it from a "Real Book" as accurately as possible.

3/6/15 Session 6 - Sibelius 5: Multiple voices. Rhythmic notation above the staff. Drum notation

3/13/15 Session 7 - Sibelius 6: Larger scores and parts. Basics of MIDI sequencing and Virtual Instruments in Sibelius.

FIRST ASSIGNMENT, DUE MONDAY 3/16/15: Copy a "Real Book" style double staff lead sheet.

3/20/15 Session 8 - Notation Conclusion: Look at some of the assignments from students. Final Inquiries.

3/27/15 - NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

4/3/15 Session 9 - Pro Tools 1 - Overview: Starting up: Preferences, session file and folder management, tracks. Interface: Create new tracks, types of tracks, edit and mix windows, transport window, investigating tools and menus. Importing audio.

4/10/15 Session 10 - Pro Tools 2 - Stereo Track Editing: Editing tools (Trim, selector, grabber and smart tools.) Editing modes (shuffle, slip, spot and grid.) Finding transients and using fades and cross-fades. Track consolidation and exporting formats.

4/17/15 Session 11 - Pro Tools 3 - Audio and MIDI Recording. MIDI Editing: Audio interface overview. Set up microphone and levels. Recording modes: Loop, destructive, punch. Playlists for multiple takes. MIDI and instrument tracks. MIDI channels and assignments. Virtual instruments. Techniques for MIDI recording and editing.

4/24/15 Session 12 - Pro Tools 5 - Multi-Track Editing: Edit tools. Edit/Mix groups. Editing and combining playlists. Editing MIDI and Audio tracks together

SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE MONDAY 4/27/15: Edit a stereo track. Optional: Add real audio or MIDI elements to the track.

5/1/15 Session 13 - Pro Tools 6 - Creating a "track": Composition planning. Session setup. Combining audio, loops and virtual instruments.

5/8/15 Session 14 - Pro Tools 7- Mixing/Mastering Sends/returns, aux tracks, master faders. Plugins (EQ, compression, reverb.)Automation. Bouncing, exporting, sharing. Audio formats. Mastering basics.

Date TBD: Extra session (Voluntary): "Track Hackathon" : This session will be only for a reduced number of 12-15 volunteers. We will meet for a full day in which we'll produce a "track" from the ground up. The process will entail: 1) Planning, 2) Recording audio and MIDI 3) Mixing and Mastering 4) Publishing.

5/15/15 Session 15 - Pro Tools 7: Conclusion: Review of some of the students edited tracks. Review of the Hackathon track created by students. Final round of questions-concerns.

Placement Test - NEW STUDENT TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR
New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music
Alexis Cuadrado - Spring 2015

To test out of the NSTS class you need to complete and submit the following 2 assignments.

1) Copy a lead sheet of your choice using any notation software

Source: Any Real Book, an original composition, a transcription, anything you want.

What to do: It can be as simple as a single staff with melody and chords but it is preferred that it features double staff (treble and bass clefs), slash and/or rhythm notation, first and second endings and/or coda ending. Try to mimic the layout of the original (bars per system, size of fonts, page distribution, etc..) as much as possible.

Use of Finale and Sibelius is preferred but other platforms such as MuseScore, Logic or LilyPond are acceptable.

2) Edit a stereo track.

Source: Any stereo track that you wish to edit.

What to do: Make a version that is 1:30 long at the most. Make a musical edit! e.g. eliminate solos, scramble sections of the tune, etc... Be creative! Make sure your edit is clean and as unnoticeable as possible.

Submission Instructions

DEADLINE: Thursday February 5th at midnight. Any submissions past the deadline will not be accepted.

WHAT TO SUBMIT:

1) Make one unique Zip folder with the following files:

For the notation assignment

1. PDF or JPEG of the original lead sheet.
2. PDF of the lead sheet that you did with notation software.
3. Finale or Sibelius file (if applicable) of the assignment.

For the Audio Editing assignment

1. MP3 of the original track/song.
2. MP3 of the edited track/song.
3. Text file explaining where you edited and what your choices during the editing process were.

2) Please make sure that your name is in the File Name of the Zip Folder.

3) Upload your zip folder into a DropBox, Google Drive, File Transfer or similar.

4) Email a link to your zip folder to cuadrada@newschool.edu

IMPORTANT: DO NOT email your files directly. Submissions will only be accepted if you submit a link to your file.