

**Flora L. Thornton School of Music**  
University of Southern California

**MPPM 420**

Pop String Ensemble

Spring 2018

**Thursdays 5:00-6:50p**

**TMC G139**

**Robert Anderson, Instructor**

**Tel:** 310.666.2817 | **Email:** [robertan@usc.edu](mailto:robertan@usc.edu)

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**Syllabus**

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**Course Goal:** To grow as a contemporary string player and creative artist in a range of classical and contemporary musical genres. To develop contemporary string ensemble/section skills including stylistic interpretation, solo improvisation, rhythm section skills, improvised accompaniment, percussion and other extended string techniques, and use of amplification. Students are encouraged to arrange/compose for the group.

**Course Expectations:** Students are expected to be present and on time for all rehearsals. Each *unexcused* absence will result in a letter grade deduction from the final semester grade. Students are expected to be prepared for each rehearsal, with measurable weekly progress on one or more of our weekly short-term goals. All students are expected to represent the Thornton School of Music, the Popular Music Department, and the creative string playing community positively and professionally; at all times, both on and off campus.

**Course Hours:** Thursdays from 5:00 to 6:50pm. Sectionals and additional/makeup rehearsals may be scheduled as needed.

**Grade:** Your semester grade will be determined by attendance (25%), weekly progress on assigned work (25%), in-class participation/contribution to rehearsal (25%), and concert performance (25%).

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**Spring 2018 Performances**

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**Saturday/Sunday 2/24 & 2/25**

MTEC String Arranging Recording Sessions  
TMC Red/Blue Studios  
9a – 4p

**Friday 4/6**

Community Outreach Performance 1  
Gertz Ressler High School  
2023 S Union Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
Afternoon (time TBD)

**Friday 4/13**

Community Outreach Performance 2  
New Designs High School  
2303 S Figueroa Way  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
1:00 – 2:00p

**Friday 4/20**

Pop String Ensemble Showcase  
Songwriter's Theater  
8p

**Friday 4/27**

Sophomore Pop Showcase  
Carson  
8p

**Saturday 4/28**

Junior Pop Showcase  
Carson  
7:30p

**Disability Statement:** Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is 213/740-0776.

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**Required Books**

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• Bellson, Louis, and Gil Breines. 1991. *Modern reading text in 4/4: for all instruments: syncopation studies designed to develop accuracy and speed in sight reading.* Miami, Fla: Alfred Publishing/Henry Adler.

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## Additional Required Materials

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- Small 3-ring binder or spiral notebook with blank staff paper
- Folder for ensemble music
- Random Roots (free downloadable pdf) <http://antonjazz.com/2013/06/random-roots/>

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## Recommended Software / Apps

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### **"Tempo" metronome app (or similar)**

<http://www.frozenape.com/tempo-metronome.html>

### **"iRealPro"**

*Provides harmonic and rhythmic context in practice. Invaluable practice tool.* <http://www.irealpro.com/>

### **"AnyTune"**

*For deliberate listening and transcription. Available for Mac, iOS, and Android.* <https://anytune.us>

### **"DrumGenius"**

*Great selection of drum loops for iOS and Android*  
<http://www.projazzlab.com>