

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA THORNTON SCHOOL OF
MUSIC**

**KEYBOARD STUDIES DEPARTMENT
COURSE GUIDELINES**

Spring 2021

**Instrumental Accompanying
(Keyboard Ensemble) MPKS
360B**

2 units^[L]_[SEP] Time: Thursday, 12:00 to 1:50 pm

Location: Online

Instructor: Professor Bernadene Blaha

Office hours: by appointment. Phone: 626-833-6779

Email: Blaha@usc.edu

Objective:

Students will acquire a basic knowledge of and proficiency in the principles of collaborating with instrumentalists. They will learn how to listen for balance, clarity, color and ensemble. In addition, pianists will become familiar with general stylistic considerations as well as specific characteristics for each composer. Communication of the composer's intent with the instrumentalist and the audience is the main objective.

Course Description:

Students will learn to collaborate with instrumentalists in a master class setting. Pianists will perform sonatas and concertos written for string and wind players. Students will perform five times during the semester and offer background presentations on repertoire as assigned. Class participants are encouraged to critique the performance in a constructive manner, and there is generally a brief discussion of the historical background of the assigned repertoire.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Pianists will be able to listen to and adapt to an instrumentalist. Students will be introduced to a broad range of the repertoire which demonstrate ensemble flexibility and a greater range of color. Further, students will describe their objectives for each piece to their instrumental partners and will recognize the difficulties particular to that instrument. Students will search for ways to support and inspire the instrumentalist while

maintaining musical

integrity. In addition, pianists will further develop their own technique and musicianship. Students will also be expected to critically evaluate the performances of their peers both in discussion and in writing.

Attendance:

Attendance is of the utmost importance since this is a performance class which only meets once a week. Students are allowed one absence, after which their grade will be dropped one full letter grade for each unexcused absence.

Suggested Reading

Spillman, Robert. *The Art of Accompanying*. New York: Schirmer Books, 1985

ISBN# 0-02-872380-5, Loft, Abram. *Violin and keyboard: the duo repertoire*. New York: Grossman

Publishers, 1973. ISBN# 0670747009 (set), Loft, Abram. *How to succeed in an ensemble: reflections on a life in chamber*

music Portland, Or.: Amadeus Press, 2003. ISBN# 1574670786, Kroll, Mark. *The Beethoven violin sonatas : history, criticism, performance*

Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2004. ISBN# 0252029321, Weill, Kurt. *Chamber music :Critical report*. Miami: European American Music,

2004. ISBN# 0913574635

Grading:

Performance 80% Performance 10% Presentation 10%
Participation

Evaluation of performances will be based on several factors including: Basic preparedness (there is no reason for wrong notes or rhythms) Musical sensitivity (dynamics, phrasing, articulation, rubato, pedaling, tempo) Understanding of the piece theoretically, historically and emotionally.

Based on these factors, each performance will receive a percentage grade. Each student will perform six times in the semester. These six performances will then be averaged to obtain the performance portion of the grade. Each performance will be given equal weight in the determination of the final grade.

Presentations:

Each student is required to present an introduction for every piece they will perform. The presentation must be two to five minutes long and should include but not be limited to biographical information, social/cultural influences, musical analysis and textual analysis. The presentation should show the listener (our class) what to listen for. It may include information gleaned from reading assignments but should also include insights from other texts.

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage <http://sarc.usc.edu> describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or

program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali> which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an

officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.
