

Spring 2025, MTEC 448: Computer Music Notation and Preparation

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Zoom By appointment via Email.

This class is an introduction to methods of computer music notation through the use of Sibelius, an industry standard software program. Course objectives include:

- Introduction of music notation conventions and idiomatic notational principles in Pop music.
- Develop skills engraving music by hand with pencil and paper and with Sibelius software to complete various school of music assignments and projects.
- Preparation of lead sheets, vocal, piano, rhythm section, ensemble scores and individual parts extraction.
- A basic knowledge of MIDI, standard MIDI Files and the necessary hardware.

Requirements, Exams and Grading Information:

Participation 10%

Participation in all class sessions will be monitored. Because of the sequential process of learning a program such as Sibelius, participation is the only method of developing the required skills.

Exercises 50%

Short to medium length exercises will be assigned weekly. Assignments must be completed and uploaded to Brightspace the following week to receive full credit.

Mid-Term Exam 10%

There will be a mid-term which will test both knowledge of the material and practical skills. Students will recreate a given score in Sibelius within the allotted class time.

Final Project 30%

In the second half of the semester, each student will be required to choose a score to prepare as a final project. The score should be of a large ensemble from any genre (orchestra, big band, film, pop, original composition) and of approximately 100 bars in length. Both the completed score and extracted parts are to be uploaded to Brightspace by Dec. 16, 2024. Instructor approval is required prior to commencement of final project.

Disabilities:

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 located 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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Course Materials:

Required	Laptop with Software: Avid Sibelius Ultimate	Bring to class
Required	Headphones or earbuds	Bring to class
Optional	Book: “Essential Dictionary of Music Notation”	n/a
Optional	Midi Keyboard controller (any size)	n/a
Optional	External full size computer keyboard and mouse	n/a

Tentative Class Schedule:

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments	To Watch
1	01/16	Intro to Brightspace platform. Music notation basics and review: 5 line staff, notes, barlines, bar numbers, beams, clefs, key signatures, meters, rests, rhythm, and tempo.	Notate by hand: 8 bars of the melody assigned on a single staff. Include all the elements on the sample PDF.	LinkedIn “Learning Music Notation” videos. Links TBD.
2	01/23	Music with 2 staves, triplets, accidentals, articulations, dynamics and double barlines. Lead sheet layout, chords, and repeats.	Notate by hand: 8 bars of a melody on two staves. Staves can be two single staves or a “grand staff”. Include: triplets, accidentals, articulations, dynamics and double barlines.	LinkedIn “Learning Music Notation”.
3	01/30	Sibelius Lesson 1: - New score, enter notes - Shortcuts List - Sibelius Help - Renotate Performance	Navigate in Sibelius, Panels, Zoom views, entering notes, fixing mistakes, adding/deleting bars, bar numbers, using “R” key, entering ties, format bars.	LinkedIn “Learning Music Notation”.
4	02/06	Sibelius Lesson 2: - Pick-up Bar - Tempo Text - Triplets and Slurs - Lyrics and Chords	Create new score with title headers, tempo marks, triplets, slurs, lyrics, and chords. Shortcuts for Reset Position and Reset Design.	LinkedIn “Learning Music Notation”.

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5	02/13	Sibelius Lesson 3: - Key Signatures - Expressions - Lines	Create new score with multi time signatures, dynamics, hairpins, Technique and Expression texts, articulations, and grace notes.	LinkedIn “Learning Music
6	02/20	Sibelius Lesson 4: - Accidentals on Keypad - Rehearsal Marks - Repeats and Endings	Notate Lead Sheet "My Favorite Things" in Sibelius and create PDF of score.	LinkedIn Learning: Sibelius Videos TBD
7	02/27	Sibelius: Guitar and Bass notation. Score layout options, additional formatting.	In Sibelius, notate 8+ bars of 5 staves: Vocal, Piano, Guitar, Bass. Include elements pervious	LinkedIn Learning: Sibelius Videos TBD
8	03/06	Sibelius: Drum Notation Part 1 of 3 notation, using multi voices, slashes, special noteheads, rhythm notation, and fills.	In Sibelius, notate 8+ bars on one staff of drum notation for ride cymbal, hi-hat, snare, and bass drum with slashes, repeats, special noteheads, rhythm notation, times played indications, and fills.	LinkedIn Learning: Sibelius Videos TBD
9	03/13	Sibelius: Drum Notation Part 2 of 3 notation with instrument labeling.	In Sibelius, notate 8+ bars on a 3 line staff with 3 different percussion instruments labeled (conga, cowbell, tambourine, etc.)	LinkedIn Learning: Sibelius Videos TBD
10	03/20	Sibelius: Drum Notation Part 3 of 3 – review all drums notation elements.	In Sibelius, notate 8+ bars on a drum line staff all elements learned. Multi voices, stems directions, x noteheads, slashes.	LinkedIn Learning: Sibelius Videos TBD
11	03/27	Sibelius: Large ensemble scores of 10+ staves, tacets, score layout settings.	In Sibelius: Create a 10+ staves score template. Include minimum of Vocal, Guitar, Piano, Bass, Percussion, and Drums.	LinkedIn Learning: Sibelius Videos TBD
12	04/03	Sibelius: Part Extraction, formatting, PDFs, and print.	Extract parts, format, and create PDFs.	None
13	04/10	Sibelius: Templates and House Styles, Final Project preparations.	In Sibelius, create a large ensemble template of 5+ staves, submit Sib. and PDF files	None

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14	04/17	Final Project Begins. Guidelines and Q&A.	Work on Final Project	None
15	04/24	Last Day of Class. Music Prep workflow and file organization.	Work on Final Project	None
16	05/01	Study Day – No Class	Work on Final Project	None
17	05/08	Final Project Due by 12:00pm	Final Project: Deliverables: Sibelius files and PDFs of score and all parts.	None