

# The Bromfield School - Music Department

## World of Music - Syllabus

**Course Description:** Music is important in the lives of just about all people and all cultures. It is a part of our being; almost a personal signature...we identify with others who enjoy the same kind of music that we do. This course poses the following fundamental questions to all participating students:

"To what kind of music do you listen?"

"Would you characterize yourself as an active or passive listener?"

"Is there a difference between background and foreground listening?"

"How do you sort out different musical styles when you hear them?"

"What qualities make one performance different from another?"

"The World of Music" will challenge you to rethink how you perceive music. It is primarily a listening course, and it will focus on how to listen to music in a way that will enrich your understanding of what you are hearing. It will also challenge you to think about the importance of music both in your life and in our society. The course will help you to become a discriminating consumer of music through attendance at live concerts in the local area, in-class performances, rehearsals, music lessons, and through guided listening examples both inside and outside of class. It is not the intent of this class to make you a performing musician... it focuses on you becoming a more enlightened listener. Music repertoire to be used is selected from Classical, Jazz, Broadway, Popular, and World Music genres. There will be pieces that you will enjoy and there may be pieces that sound foreign to you that you might not enjoy as much. Listening to this music repertoire should challenge you both intellectually and emotionally. The desired outcome of the class is that you will become a more informed concert-goer, listener, music researcher, music critic, and communicator in music.

*Students involved in the Music Program are expected to:*

*a. respect others, property, the learning environment, and him/herself in language, action, and dress.*

*b. exhibit honesty, integrity, self-control, responsibility, trust, concern for the well-being of others and oneself, and a striving toward excellence.*

*c. demonstrate consistency and purpose in his/her focus upon personal growth through the privilege of public education.*

### **8/27/2008 - Weeks 1-2: Introduction: What is Music?**

- Introduction and Explanation of Course Requirements
- What is Sound? What is Music?
- Pitch, Rhythm, Dynamics, Timbre, Texture
- Live performance attendance planning
  - o List of potential concert dates and venues in the area
  - o List of open rehearsals at the New England Conservatory & in Boston

### **9/8/2008 - Weeks 3-4: The Elements of Music, Part 1**

- Instruments and Voices
- Melody, Harmony, Tonality, Texture

### **9/22/2008 - Weeks 5-6: The Elements of Music, Part 2**

- Form and Style in Music
- Musical Taste
- Music Genres
- "World Music" as expressions of Humanity

o Concert #1

### **10/6/2008 - Week 7: Music, The Artist, and Society**

- The Nature of Talent
- Music in and around Boston

--- TEST #1 ---

### **10/14/2008 - Weeks 8-9: Music in the Medieval Time Period**

- Earliest Known Music
- Music of the Church
- Vocal and Instrumental Music
- Music for Dancing

### **10/27/2008 - Weeks 10-11: Music in the Renaissance Time Period**

- Music and Expression
- Madrigals
- Choral and Instrumental Music
- Music for Dancing

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**11/10/2008 - Weeks 12-14: Music in the Baroque Time Period**

- Music and Emotion
- Instrumental Music: The Trio Sonata and Concerto
- Antonio Vivaldi
- Johann Sebastian Bach
- Georg Frideric Handel

**12/8/2008 - Weeks 15-17: Music in the Classical Style**

- Music and Form
- Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven
- Mozart: Symphony No. 40 in g-minor
- The Symphony
- The String Quartet and Classical Chamber Music
- o Concert #2

**1/5/2009 - Weeks 18-20: Music in the Enlightenment**

- Music and Social Classes
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- The Piano Concerto and Opera

--- TEST #2 ---

**1/26/2009 - Weeks 21-23: The Music of Beethoven**

- Music and Revolution
- Beethoven's 32 Piano Sonatas
- Beethoven's 9 Symphonies
- Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 in c-minor

**2/23/2009 - Weeks 24-25: The Romantic Era**

- Music and Feeling

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. You will need some type of audio device that plays compact discs.
2. You will need a three-ring binder with blank paper in it for note taking and saving class handouts.
3. You will need to attend one public concert each quarter that is pre-approved by the instructor.
4. A brief, two-page review of each concert will be required.
5. There will be one written test per quarter.
6. If you take this course seriously and put in honest effort, it should be a very rewarding experience for you.

**GRADING: (per quarter)**

Notebook: 15 points  
Concert Review: 15 points  
Test: 40 points

- Schubert Lied
- Chopin Études
- Verdi "Aida" excerpt
- Wagner "Tristan und Isolde" excerpt
- Tchaikovsky: Romeo and Juliet (Overture-Fantasy)
- Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 3

**3/9/2009 - Weeks 26-30: The Twentieth Century**

- Music and Color
- Debussy
- Stravinsky
- Schoenberg, Ives, and Bartók
- o Concert #3

--- TEST #3 ---

**4/13/2009 - Weeks 31-32: The Avant-Garde and the Twenty-First Century**

- Music and Modernism
- Indeterminacy, Minimalism, Neo-Romanticism
- Cage, Ligeti, Penderecki, Zwilich
- The Future - Where is Music Heading?

**5/4/2009 - Weeks 33-36: Jazz**

- The Historical Roots of Jazz
- The Musical Elements of Jazz
- Types of Jazz
- o Concert #4

**6/1/2009 - Weeks 37-39: Broadway and "Pop" Music**

- Gershwin, Bernstein, Sondheim, Williams
- Rock and Roll, The Beatles, other Pop styles

**6/15/2009: Final Examination**

Classroom Participation: 15 points  
Effort: 15 points  
**TOTAL: 100 points**