



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music

NZSM 404 *Topic in Composition: Film Music Composition and Orchestration: Scoring for Film*
30 POINTS
TRIMESTER 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Last assessment item due: 31 October 2016

Study period: 17 to 20 October 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 21 October to 12 November 2016

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Tuesday, 10:00am–11:50am (Room MS209)

Thursday, 11:00am–11:50am (Room MS209)

Composer Workshop: Wednesday, 3:10pm–4:30pm (Adam Concert Room)

Tutorials commence in the second week of the trimester. Groups will be posted on Blackboard and/or on the noticeboard outside the office on the NZSM Kelburn Campus at the start of Week 2.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: John Psathas

Contact phone: 463 5862 **Email:** john.psathas@vuw.ac.nz

Office located at: Room 102, 92 Fairlie Tce, Kelburn Campus

Office hours: Wednesday, 12:00pm–2:00pm

Tutor: Ewan Clark **Email:** ewan.clark@vuw.ac.nz

Programme Administrator: Fiona Steedman **Email:** fiona.steedman@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Official notices issued after the course has commenced will be posted on the board outside the NZSM office on the Kelburn Campus. Notices concerning a number of courses will also be posted on Blackboard. The Course Coordinator will specify if Blackboard will be used.

Prescription

Advanced study in a topic in composition that pertains to both Instrumental/Vocal Composition and Sonic Arts. 2016 Offering: Through practical work this course explores various approaches to orchestrating music for film. This includes traditional acoustic instruments and ensembles (such as the symphony orchestra), and electronic resources (such as sample/loop libraries and electronic music production tools). The course also includes critical analysis of key examples from contemporary film.

Course content

See attached course syllabus for more information.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of creative considerations for writing to picture, including balancing music with dialogue, hitting picture cuts, etc.
2. identify and apply advanced harmonic devices and advanced melodic and rhythmic considerations specific to themes such as romance, sadness/sorrow, chase, heroic action, action adventure, horror, suspense, magic, fantasy, and comedy
3. convey an understanding of and apply advanced appropriate orchestration specific to themes such as romance, sadness/sorrow, chase, heroic action, action adventure, horror, suspense, magic, fantasy, and comedy
4. apply understanding of the logistical path of a musical idea from initial conception to final recording, including composition, orchestration, and recording
5. transcribe, and analyse, existing orchestrations in movies and printed film scores, as well as articulate points of distinction, strengths and weaknesses, and the quality of audio-visual relationships (specifically affected by orchestration) in existing film scores
6. develop and execute a coherent plan of the film-orchestration process, including: syncing to film, the preparation of MIDI mock-ups, producing printed score and parts, the process of interacting with and recording live musicians, and music editing and mixing
7. create a concise portfolio of film and TV music in various genres for demos.

These learning objectives contribute to the NZSM Graduate Attributes. For a full list, please see www.nzsm.ac.nz/study-careers/graduate-attributes

Teaching format

This course comprises one 2-hour lecture and one 1-hour lecture per week, and one 1.5-hour workshop per week. During workshops, classes will come together to listen to and discuss performances of student work, student presentations, and presentations by staff and guest artists. There will also be a one-hour supervisory tutorial each week, in which the Course Tutor will be available in the Computer Lab to assist with scoring concepts, software use, and other assignment-related issues. The purpose of the Tutor is to assist with work in progress on an ongoing basis throughout the trimester.

See attached course syllabus for more information.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must attend at least 9 of the Composer Workshops held during the trimester of enrolment in this course. Students must attend workshops in order to: 1) develop critical and oral communication skills related to their creative practice, and 2) develop awareness of the contexts, techniques and perspectives related to their creative practice. In the event that the student is unable to attend the Composer Workshop, due to course clashes, the Course Coordinator may substitute an alternative requirement.

Students who are concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the mandatory course requirements, because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the Course Coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

A 30-point one-trimester course should require at least 300 hours' work (including class time). This means that during the trimester, the mid-trimester break and study week you should be prepared to spend, on average, 20 hours per week involved in activities such as attending classes, reading, listening to recommended recordings and preparing assignments.

Assessment

Assessment details for this offering

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Analyses of excerpts from notated film scores & Quizzes (15–20). (Blackboard Q&A Analyses and Multiple-choice Quizzes.)	10	1, 2, 3 & 5	1. July 18 2. July 25 3. August 1 4. August 8 5. August 15 6. September 5 7. September 12 8. September 19 9. September 26 10. October 3 11. October 10 12. October 16
2	Analyses of film clips and writings, Exercises in orchestration, and Discussion resulting from both (20–25). (Blackboard Q&A, and short MIDI orchestration exercises.)	14	2 & 3	1. July 18 2. July 25 3. August 1 4. August 8 5. August 15 6. September 5 7. September 12 8. September 19 9. September 26 10. October 3 11. October 10 12. October 16
3	Composition/Orchestration Assignments (12). (Minimum of 1-minute full score for each assignment.)	66	1, 2, 3, 4 & 7	1. Set on July 12 & Due on October 31 2. July 25 3. August 1 4. August 8

				5. August 15 6. September 5 7. September 12 8. September 19 9. September 26 10. October 3 11. October 10 12. October 16
4	Live Orchestra Project (choice of assignment 1–6). 1–2 minutes.	10	4 & 6	Score and Parts Due: September 22 NZSM Orchestra Readings: October 6

Submission and return of work

Assignments should be deposited in John Psathas's mailbox unless otherwise specified. Most work will be uploaded to Blackboard as pdf and mp3 files.

Marked assignments will normally be returned to the student pigeonholes.

Assignments will normally be marked and returned within three weeks of submission.

NB: This course is moderated, so all students are requested to retain all marked assessment items, in the event that they are required at the end of the course.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Students, who for exceptional reasons can justify an extension for an item of assessment, must apply to the Course Coordinator *before* the due date. Please note that no extensions can be granted for tutorial assignments.

Assignments must be submitted by the due dates. In fairness to other students, unless a medical certificate is produced, assessment submitted after 5:00pm on the due date will be subject to a 5% demerit on your grade, increasing by 5% each further working day it is overdue.

Set texts

There are no set texts for this course.

Recommended reading

- George Burt: *The Art of Film Music*
- Fred Karlin, Rayburn Wright: *On The Track: A Guide to Contemporary Film Scoring*
- Jennifer van Sijll: *Cinematic Storytelling: The 100 Most Powerful Film Conventions*

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

Student feedback

This is the first presentation of this course under the current course codes. This course previously ran as NZSM 408 in 2014. Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies, including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- NZSM Student Handbook and NZSM Guidelines for Presenting Academic Work: www.nzsm.ac.nz/student-zone/student-guides
- Scholarships and prizes relevant to NZSM students: www.nzsm.ac.nz/study-careers/scholarships-and-prizes

Events

Regular events are held during trimesters 1 & 2. These events are for the benefit of all students, and include performances, masterclasses, special lectures and workshops given by staff, students and visiting artists. All students are expected to keep time free to attend the weekly lunchtime concert on Friday at 12:10pm, along with other events as required. Music Forum will take place every Friday from 3:10pm–4:30pm. It will normally take place in the Adam Concert Room, Kelburn Campus.

Students should sign up to the **Dawn Chorus**, the NZSM's events e-newsletter, by emailing events@nzsm.ac.nz with 'subscribe dawn chorus' in the subject line.

Website: www.nzsm.ac.nz/events