



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music

NZSM 405 *Topic in Composition: Sonic Microverses* **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: 27 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, 12:00pm–1:50pm (Room MS209)

Thursday, 12:00pm–12:50pm (Room MS209)

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

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Michael Norris

Contact phone: 463 7456 **Email:** michael.norris@vuw.ac.nz

Office located at: Room 105, 92 Fairlie Tce, Kelburn Campus

Office hours: Thursdays, 1–3pm

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

Exploration of an area of learning specific to the research interests and activity of an academic staff member, applicable to the domains of both Instrumental/Vocal Composition and Sonic Arts. 2016 Offering: An in-depth examination of the main compositional approaches that foreground instrumental timbre in both notated and non-notated music. Featured composers include Sciarrino, Lachenmann and the Spectralists, and others who have explored 'micro-universes' of sound. Students express their research through a suite of creative and analytical projects.

Course content

See Course Syllabus for more details of lecture content.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. compose works that display a sophisticated, exploratory and integrated approach to extended techniques and timbral transformation of acoustic instruments
2. analyse rigorously the role of timbre and gesture in a selected composition
3. prepare a substantial portfolio of materials (e.g., sketches, recordings, plans) that detail the extensive explorations of extended instrumental techniques.

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 1-hour lecture and one 2-hour lecture per week, and one 1.5-hour workshop per week. During workshops, classes will come together to listen to student performances, as well as presentations by staff and guest artists.

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 items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Proposal and portfolio of precompositional materials for Creative Project 1 (c. 4–6 pages or equivalent)	10%	1, 3	4 Aug 2016
2	Creative Project 1a (2.5–3.5 minutes) <i>INVO: “Caprice 1” for solo instrument, based on Sciarrino’s formal model</i> <i>SONA: Acousmatic miniature 1, based on recordings of acoustic instrumental sounds</i>	15%	1	18 Aug 2016
3	Creative Project 1b (2.5–3.5 minutes) <i>INVO: “Caprice 2” for solo instrument, based on Sciarrino’s formal model</i> <i>SONA: Acousmatic miniature 2, based on recordings of acoustic instrumental sounds</i>	15%	1	8 Sep 2016
4	Proposal and portfolio of precompositional materials for Creative Project 2 (c. 4–6 pages or equivalent)	10%	1, 3	22 Sep 2016
5	Analysis of timbrally focused piece (2500 words plus figures/annotations)	20%	2	6 Oct 2016
6	Creative Project 2 (5–7 minutes) <i>INVO: Ensemble work, minimum 4 players, based on one of: Spectralism, Klangglobus, Microtonality</i> <i>SONA: Development of patch for live spectral or microsound processing of improvising musician</i> <i>OR: Collaborative INVO/SONA work with another class member, involving a notated score and live electronics.</i>	30%	1	27 Oct 2016

Submission and return of work

Assignments should be deposited in Michael Norris’s mailbox unless otherwise specified.

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.

Penalties

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.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

Students are expected to have the appropriate equipment and software for completing their assignments (laptop, notation software, DAWs, laser printer, etc.).

Set texts

All students will be provided with the *CMPO 305/NZSM 405 Course Anthology* free of charge. INVO students are also expected to own a copy of the *NZSM Guide to Music Notation*.

Recommended reading

Recommended readings are listed in the Course Syllabus. All texts are placed on Course Reserve.

It is also strongly recommended that students (especially INVO students) purchase scores to Salvatore Sciarrino's *Sei Capricci* and *Opera per flauto*. These can be purchased online at stretta-music.com.

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

Previous students have suggested that greater emphasis on collaborative projects between INVO and SONA students would be valuable. In response to this, the second creative project has been opened up to provide an option for student collaboration.

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