

Composition Project

Due Date:

Fri., July 8, 11:59 pm

Project Description, Length, and Options

Compose and analyze ca. 8-12 measures of tonal music using one of the following 5 options:

Option 1:

Compose an 8-bar *sentence* (or extended sentence) structure for your primary instrument or instrument(s) of your choosing. Analyze your composition using the techniques demonstrated in class.

Option 2:

Compose an 8-bar *period* structure for your primary instrument or instrument(s) of your choosing. Analyze your composition using the techniques demonstrated in class.

Option 3:

Compose a *four-part chorale texture* in the chorale style. Provide a Roman numeral analysis and identify all nonharmonic tones using (). It is recommended that you write a two-phrase structure with one of the following cadential designs: HC PAC, or IAC PAC. If you like, you begin with a melody and/or bass by J.S. Bach¹ and reharmonize it.

Option 4:

Transcribe/arrange a passage of *pop/rock music* for classical instruments. Provide lead-sheet symbols and a basic harmonic analysis of the work.

Option 5:

Another type of composition project (permission of instructor required).

Deliverables	Checklist
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>PDF score</i> with required title, instrumentation, composer name, tempo, time signature, and (at least) a starting dynamic on it. Articulations and phrasing, as appropriate for the instrument(s) you have chosen, are highly encouraged. If you have chosen to notate your music by hand, please be sure to use your best musical calligraphy.2. <i>PDF reflection paper</i> (typed, double-spaced, 2-3 pages) explaining what you have created and how you created it. Be sure to discuss your <i>compositional process</i>. Personal reflection (e.g., What did you learn along the way?) and <i>analysis</i> (i.e., application of the techniques you have learned in MUSC 116) are highly encouraged.	<input type="checkbox"/> – Score <input type="checkbox"/> – Title <input type="checkbox"/> – Instr. <input type="checkbox"/> – Composer <input type="checkbox"/> – Tempo <input type="checkbox"/> – Paper

Upload Instructions:

Upload your pdf score, pdf paper, and optional mp3 into the *Composition Project* Blackboard assignment by the deadline above.

Grading

- This project is worth 5% of your MUSC 116 grade.
- Your grade will primarily be based on how well you followed the instructions above.
- Creativity, hard work, depth of ideas, length of paper, and passion for the project will also be factored in.

¹ See Luke Dahn, *The Four-Part Chorales of J.S. Bach*. Available online at: <<http://www.bach-chorales.com/Index.htm>>.

Basic Elements of Notation

- A **tempo marking** and **starting dynamic** must appear at the beginning of the score.
- As applicable to your composition, be sure to use an appropriate key signature(s), time signature(s), instrumental ranges, etc.

*Again, if you have any questions about these guidelines,
or need assistance with the project, I am happy to help you.*

The score you turn in should meet the following requirements:

- Your music notation should be legibly written using a music notation program, or legibly written on manuscript paper (using a dark pencil). It should also be legibly laid out on the page.
- Your composition must have a title. As shown below, the title, instrumentation and composer's name should appear at the top of the first page:



If you are using traditional manuscript paper:

- Take great care in your *music calligraphy*. Be sure to correctly notate the clefs, key signature(s), time signature(s), noteheads, stems, beams, ledger lines, and so forth, as appropriate.²
- The notes should be well-spaced within the bar so that the music is easy for the performer to sight read.
- If there are multiple parts in your score, they must be vertically aligned so that the beats line up correctly.
- If you can't figure out how to notate something, consult a music notation reference source,³ check out a score from the Music Library that has a similar instrumentation, or ask me for help.

MuseScore

You can download MuseScore for free at:

<https://musescore.org>

You can quickly learn how to use MuseScore via the video tutorials available at:

<https://musescore.org/en/tutorials>

Reference

Gould, Elaine. 2011. *Behind Bars: The Definitive Guide to Music Notation*. London: Faber Music Ltd.

² For basic notational issues, see LearnMusicTheory.net, *Summary of Notation Guidelines*. Available online at: <<http://learnmusictheory.net/PDFs/pdffiles/01-01-10-SummaryofNotation.pdf>>.

³ For advanced notational issues, ask me or see Gould 2011.