YSF Modules Available to NUS students in Semester 2, Academic Year 2017/2018

Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music modules are divided into these categories:

1) General Education Modules
   (Human Cultures / Thinking & Expression / Singapore Studies)
2) Music History Focused Modules
3) Music Theory Focused Modules
4) Music Technology Focused Modules
5) Music Ensembles

SEMESTER 1

1) General Education Modules

a) Human Cultures

GEH1047 Social and Cultural Studies Through Music (A/P Ty Constante)
Modular credits: 4 MCs
This module provides an across-cultural introduction to music both as an art and as a human, socio-cultural phenomenon. Through lectures, reading and listening assignments, and actually playing different styles of music, students will learn how music works, why people listen to and make music, what its roles are in a society, and how these things vary in different cultures. The module introduces a variety of musical styles and cultures that represent an enormous wealth of human experience. At the end of the course the students will have access to a much wider variety of music to listen to, participate in, enjoy, and understand.
Past student comments
- “[The lecturer is] passionate and well-versed in his knowledge in terms of the music from different parts of the world”
- “[A] different kind of music”

GEH1060 Social History of the Piano (Dr Koo Siaw Sing)
Modular credits: 4 MCs
An interdisciplinary study of how societies and different generations responded to the invention of the piano. This module focuses on the social history of the piano throughout the past three centuries, canvassing a wide array of performers, composers, supporters, manufacturers, “heroes”, politicians, teachers and students. Various expressions of ideologies from differing periods eventually revolutionized and effectuated the versatility of the piano, shaping a legacy which led to the “globalization” of the piano, including China. Students will learn through lectures, readings, discussions, listening, playing, and attending piano recitals and masterclasses.
Past student comments
- “[The lecturer] is very kind and understanding...he sympathises with the students’ workloads and interacts with the students as much as he can”
- “[The lecturer] is a very passionate teacher and he has given me more knowledge about not only the history of the piano, but also what it is like to be a musician”
- “Engaging and fun teacher that spurs the interest of students”
b) Thinking and Expression

GET1047/GEM1030 Art and Identity (A/P Greg Petersen)
Modular credits: 4 MCs
From what sources do we engender our individual and group identities, and to what extent do the arts stimulate this process? This course begins with an introduction to identity theory, and then explores identity issues – such as male and female, self, national, racial, and social identities – with an emphasis on their manifestations in various performance, visual, and literary art forms. Students will analyse and evaluation their own identities in relation to the course materials and the arts in their lives, requiring critical self-reflection and self-assessment.

c) Singapore Studies

GES1020/SSY2223 Western Music Within a Singaporean Context (Dr Marc Rochester)
Modular credits: 4 MCs
This module will look at the place of the Western Classical music tradition within the cultural life of Singapore. It will assess the impact of majority cultures (particularly from the Chinese, Malay and Indian communities) on the general reception of Western music, as well as on music written by Singapore-based composers. Students will be introduced to the principal figures in Singapore’s musical development. The module will also chart the growth of music education in Singapore, both in the national schooling system as well as in private institutions and tertiary academies. A prior knowledge of music is helpful but not required.

Past student comments
- “[The lecturer] is very encouraging as a tutor and inspired me to think beyond materials taught in class”
- “I had a deeper understanding in general how certain things work in Singapore, and a better appreciation of the country it is today”
- “[The lecturer’s] lessons are very insightful. It was as much a discovery journey as it a learning one”
2) Music History Focused Modules

1) MUH3203 Opera and its History, 4 MCs (Dr Marc Rochester) (Year 3-4)
Modular credits: 4 MCs
This module traces the history of opera from the birth of modern opera (around 1600) to the present day. It also investigates the relationship between music and the stage by looking at incidental music to plays and the modern musical. It will study the social and political dimension of opera within the context of the principal operatic nations - Italy, Germany, France, the UK and the USA – as well as in the so-called emerging cultures of Africa, Asia and South America. Operatic conventions within Indian and Chinese cultures will be studied and placed in relationship to the main trends of operatic development within the general flow of western art.

MUH4203 Music Criticism, 4 MCs (Dr Marc Rochester) (Year 3-4)
Modular credits: 4 MCs
This module aims to equip students with the skills necessary to assess a musical activity intelligently and coherently through both the written and the spoken word. It will also investigate the influence of criticism on both performers and audiences and see how it has affected attitudes on music as both a creative and passive activity. It looks at the history of music criticism and its functions, it investigates the various outlets for music criticisms and assesses their relative values, and it studies the place of social media both as a platform for musical criticism and as an outlet for valued subjective comment. Students enrolling on this module must have first-class English speaking and writing skills and a working – but not specialist – knowledge of music theory and history.

3) Music Theory Focused Module

MUT1201 Introduction to Classical Music Composition (Dr Khoo Hui Ling) (Year 1-4)
Modular credits: 4 MCs
The module uses the online course Write Like Mozart available on the Coursera platform as the basis of its content. It introduces students to strategies for style writing of European art music. Issues of harmonic progression, voice leading, and texture are addressed as are relevant compositional concepts like repetition, variation, and elaboration. A blended learning module with video lectures and demonstrations, class time is dedicated to hands-on workshops. Simple compositions in the style of common practice European music form the bulk of the assessment. A familiarity with musical rudiments is highly recommended. Prior experience with composition is not required.

*MUT3213 Romantic Styles, 4 MCs (Dr Chen Zhangyi) (Year 3-4)
Modular credits: 4 MCs
This module begins with an overview of Beethoven’s music and his influence on contemporaneous and later 19th century composers. The heart of this course explores the divide between absolute and programme music. ‘Leipzigerisch’ composers (Mendelssohn, Schumann, Brahms) versus the ‘New German School’ (Berlioz, Liszt). Nationalism is included.

*MUT3212 Modal Counterpoint, 4 MCs (Dr Nick Omiccioli) (Year 3-4)
Modular credits: 4 MCs
Modal Counterpoint focuses on the music of Palestrina and his contemporaries, which is a largely linear style. In this course, students will study how melodic lines create harmony, as opposed to the concept of yielding melody from harmony. A progressive and musical approach is taken in this course. It begins with the introduction of elements of style and an aural immersion. The course gradually proceeds from two-voice counterpoint to three, and even four-voice counterpoint.
MUT3223 Early 20th Century Music, 4 MCs (Ms Adeline Wong) (Year 3-4)

This module introduces students to the compositional ideas developed in the early twentieth century (1900-1945). It provides students the skills and techniques for analysing this repertoire and composing music in this style. Perspectives will include not only the musical materials of these works but also some insights into their cultural context and historical placement.

4) Music Technology Focused Modules

MUA1166 Music and Computing (Year 1-4)

The module introduces ways in which basic programming tools - iteration, randomization, conditions, amongst others - can be used to create music. It also includes an introduction to sample manipulation, sound synthesis tools, usage of common audio effects, and importation of MusicXML into music notation software. Students create two short compositions - an electronic collage composition and a scored composition created from algorithmically-generated components.

5) Music Ensembles

MUA1192/1193 Chamber Singers 1/2 (Mr Chong Wai Lun) (Year 1-4)

The Conservatory Chamber Singers is a performance-based module offered by the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, open to all NUS students. Enrolment in the module is based on successful audition as well as the need to create a vocally balanced ensemble. Using the music as our textbook, singers practise healthy vocal production and enhance existing choral technique, working together in a unique ensemble. Students do not need any previous experience but need to be able to read music. Assessment is based on participation and professionalism during rehearsals and performances (for example, punctuality, musical discipline, attentiveness).

Please see wiki page for more information regarding the signing up of auditions.

https://wiki.nus.edu.sg/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=195793684

MUA3219/MUA3220 World Music Ensemble, 2 MCs (A/P Ty Constante) (Year 3-4)

This term the World Music Ensemble course will focus on the music of the Shona people from Zimbabwe, Africa. Students will learn to play the mbira zdavadzimu, a unique and ancient traditional African instrument. Students will be expected to participate in public performances of pieces from the traditional repertoire as well as being given assigned reading and listening assignments.

MUA3206 Jazz Study and Performance 2, 4 MCs (A/P Tony Makarome)

(only open to students who have passed MUA3205 Jazz Study and Performance 1)

This module focuses on the performance and study of more contemporary jazz approaches including modal interchange, scale derivations, pentatonic scales, additional forms and stylistic considerations pertaining to jazz music as practiced in the USA from the 1950s to the present day. There will be some exploration into Latin-music influenced jazz as well as blues, rock, and funk music. Creative projects include leadsheet style compositions and arrangements of jazz standards or popular music. There will be a listening list of about 80 well-known jazz pieces.
6) Keyboard Focused Modules

**MUA2201 Keyboard Literature (Dr Frank Demeglio) (Year 2-4)**
Modular credits: 4 MCs
Keyboard Literature explores the great composers and their greatest works for keyboard instruments. The keyboard music that forms the core repertory of contemporary conservatory curriculums and concert programs will be the primary focus. Semester 1 slightly emphasizes music from the Baroque through Classical period, but works from all periods will be covered. Works for harpsichord, clavichord, organ and fortepiano will be examined, and practical experience performing on period instruments (especially the harpsichord and fortepiano) will allow the students to experience the sound world of the composer. (Non-Conservatory students that can read music may take this course as a free elective.)

**MUA3224 Intermediate Keyboard Studies (Dr Koo Siaw Sing) (Year 1-4)**
Modular credits: 4 MCs
This module is practical playing at the keyboard/piano. It consists of two components: solo repertoire study and keyboard skills. Student will learn interpretation skill and techniques in solo repertoire study. Keyboard skills components include harmonization, transposition, improvisation, score reduction, and open score reading. Students will be required to take an audition before registering for the module.

Recommendation for audition: Grade 7-8 piano skill or equivalent skill. Please email Dr. Koo muskss@nus.edu.sg to request for an audition.

https://wiki.nus.edu.sg/display/~muskss/MUA3224+Intermediate+Keyboard+Studies

**MUA3225 Early Advanced Keyboard Studies, 4 MCs (Dr Koo Siaw Sing)**
(only open to students who have passed MUA3224 Intermediate Keyboard Studies)
This module is a continuation of MUA 3224 Intermediate Keyboard Studies. It presents the study of early advanced piano repertoire and application of more advanced harmony at the keyboard. Students continue to develop various important keyboard skills and techniques that enhance their understanding of and experience in making music. Such skills include harmonization, transposition, figured bass, improvisation, piano techniques, score reading, musical interpretation, solo and ensemble playing.

*MUA3228 Analysis from a Keyboard Perspective, 4 MCs, New! (Dr Khoo Hui Ling) (Year 3-4)*
Modular credits: 4 MCs
This elective offers an in-depth analysis of selected piano repertoire from various periods and styles. Students will study elements of music such as form, harmony and texture as part of a process of internalizing and interpreting works for the piano.

*for modules marked with an asterisk, a placement test is required at YST. Please refer to the wiki page below if you wish to sign up for a placement test. Details regarding the placement test can be found on this wiki page.
https://wiki.nus.edu.sg/x/OIObCw

Information updated as of 14 Dec