

Music 490: Senior Seminar- 20th Century String Quartets

Fall 2010

MW 11:30am-12:55pm

Booth Hall Room 224

Professor Andre Myers

Booth Hall Room M-25

Office Hours: MW 1:00pm-2:00pm; T 3:00-4:0pm; and by appointment

Phone: 323.259.1448

Email: amyers@oxy.edu

Required materials:

Bartók, Bela. *The String Quartets of Bela Bartok*. New York: Boosey & Hawkes, Ltd., 1945.

Schostakowitsch, Dmitri (Shostakovich, Dmitri). *Streichquartette 5-8 (String Quartets 5-8)*. New York: G. Schirmer, Inc.

Eisler, Edith, ed. *21st-Century String Quartets, vol. 1*. San Anselmo: String Letter Publishing, Inc., 2000.

Course Description

Work within the senior seminar is research oriented, and centered on reading, listening and discussion. Our efforts are directed toward the completion of scholarship (discussion, papers, and a presentation) addressing the cultural and analytic frameworks that inform our understanding of the string quartet from the early 20th century to the present day. We also will practically apply our time and skill towards the success of your senior capstone work in Spring semester. That work will begin at midterm.

Grading

Unit I paper (5-7 pages) 15%; Due date Monday 6 October

Unit II paper (6-8 pages) 20% Due date Monday 3 November

Unit III Renaissance Arts Academy Paper/Presentation 30%; Taking place on Wednesday 1 December

- 15-20 minute presentation on a quartet from library catalog

Unit IV Senior Capstone Work 25%; Due Tuesday 14 December

- Thesis Writers & Performers: Annotated Bibliography, Paper Outline, 1st draft
- Composers: Annotated Bibliography, Paper Outline, Paper 1st draft, Completed drafts of Recital portfolio

Response Papers 10%- 1 legible page of written response to study questions

Class Participation & Discussion

- Attendance & Punctuality
- Speaking and Listening with intent

Unit Overview

Unit I: Bartók

Unit II: Shostakovich

Unit III: Carter, Glass, Rorem, Sheng, Thomas, Harbison

Statement for students with learning challenges

If you have specific physical or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to Carolina Thompson, Associate Director for Student Support and Coordinator of Disability Services.

Unit I Paper Prompt- Due Monday 6 October

Choose a string quartet by Béla Bartók and address the following questions: what elements of 20th century theory and practice are evident within your chosen quartet? Did the socio-political landscape of Bartók's time and place inform his use of musical elements? If so, how?

5-7 pages Double-spaced

Unit II Paper Prompt- Due Wednesday 3 November

Choose a string quartet by Shostakovich and address the following questions: what elements of 20th century theory and practice are evident within your chosen quartet? Did the socio-political landscape of Shostakovich's time and place inform his use of musical elements? If so, how?

6-8 pages Double-spaced

Key Questions for your research:

Musical Analysis

Is your summary of musical analyses true? For each scholar:

- Have you paraphrased the essence of their musical analysis?
- Have you summarized their findings in an introductory sentence?
- Have you elaborated on their research more fully?
- Have you provided an example that illustrates your summary of their findings?

Socio-political landscape

Does your summary fold in your understanding of the socio-political climate?

- Have you characterized scholarship on the historical record accurately?
- Have you acknowledged opposing arguments about the climate within your summary?
- Have you characterized the way scholars write of the connections between political and musical dispositions?

Organization

Have you first 1. told the reader what you're going to do, 2. Done it, and 3. Told them what you did?

-or-

Have you first characterized the musical and socio-political climate around your quartet, provided a clearer framework for your reader to understand that debate, and claimed a position relative to it?

Mechanics, Grammar, Spelling, Citations, etc.