

Course Syllabus
MVK 3702 Accompanying
Time: Tuesdays, 3rd-4th Period (9:35am-11:30am)
Location: MUB 121
Fall 2023

Instructor

Dr. Evan Mitchell

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Office: MUB 346

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5th period (11:45am-12:35pm) or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

Collaboration at the piano demands not only mastery of the skill set we refine daily in the practice room – solidity of pulse, a beautiful tone, technical ease – but also that we deploy these skills in perfect coordination with others. For two or more musicians to breathe, think, and interpret as one is our goal; collaborative playing is a great challenge, but the rewards can be great, too.

In this course, students will gain initial experience accompanying a wide range of instrumental and vocal literature. We will explore the imitation of orchestral effects at the keyboard in genres such as concerto and opera, interpret text through the study of art song, and master the fundamentals of collaboration such as cueing and rehearsal etiquette.

The Fall semester begins with several weeks of introductory topics, after which students will be paired with another instrumental or vocal major for focused collaboration. Several groups will perform weekly in class and the semester will culminate in a final performance. This masterclass format will continue in the second semester of the Accompanying sequence.

Weekly schedule (subject to change)

August 29	Intro to collaboration; piano four-hands. Rehearsal etiquette, cueing, fundamentals.
September 5	Assignment # 1 due (in-class discussion only)
September 12	Assignment # 2 due (in-class presentation)
September 19	Mock rehearsal # 1
September 26	Mock rehearsal # 2, partners assigned
October 3	Mock rehearsal # 3
October 10	Mock rehearsal # 4

October 17	Guest: Dr. Kae Hosoda-Ayer (trio concert: Oct. 16, 7:20pm in MUB 101)
October 17 - November 28	Weekly in-class coachings, assigned based on partner availability and preparedness
December 5	Class recital

Assignments

Assignments # 1 and 2 will be given one week in advance and will provide the substance of our in-class discussion/workshop on that particular day.

Mock rehearsals will focus on one piece or excerpt from the instrumental or vocal literature for each of the four weeks. This repertoire will be assigned approximately two weeks in advance, and students are expected to prepare thoroughly and perform all or part of the assigned repertoire in class. We will explore the rehearsal and performance challenges present in each piece assigned, and may have guest student performers with whom to “rehearse” for one or more of these sessions.

At the end of September, students will be assigned a studio or individual student with whom to collaborate. Students will be given until October 17 to prepare their own part and have at least one outside rehearsal with their partner. From October 17 through November 28, each week’s class meeting will be conducted as a performance class in which several groups are assigned to play and receive a coaching while all other piano students observe. Each pianist will have at least 2 coachings (at least one solo and one with their partner).

Students must attend two performances featuring collaborative piano and submit programs. Some will be announced in class, and feel free to ask about other events that may be eligible.

Final performances will be held during the normal class meeting time on December 5. This should be treated as a recital in terms of preparation (recital attire not necessary).

Attendance

Students are required to attend each week. One unexcused absence will not negatively impact a student’s grade, but each additional unexcused absence will result in a half-letter deduction from the student’s semester grade. Students are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire class. Each student will be granted one tardy arrival (after 9:40am) without penalty, after which point every two subsequent tardy arrivals will receive the same penalty as one unexcused absence.

Expectations

Students will prepare thoughtfully for each class, practice assigned repertoire (!!!), and communicate with the instructor in a timely and professional manner. **Please** check email daily and read all messages carefully.

Grading

Students will be graded on a 100-point scale according to the following rubric:

Attendance:	3 points per class meeting (45 total points possible)
Assignments:	4 points each (8 points possible)
Mock rehearsals:	6 points each (24 points possible)
Concert attendance:	4 points each (8 points possible)
Coachings:	10 points each, averaged (10 points possible)
Final performance:	10 points possible
Total:	105 total points possible

Students must complete a minimum of two coachings (at least one individual and one with a duo partner) and the final performance in order to pass the course. Students who do not complete two coachings will receive a grade of E, and those who do not complete the final performance will receive a grade of E. An Incomplete may be assigned at the instructor's discretion only if the final performance is missed due to emergency and a makeup cannot be arranged before the end of the semester. An Incomplete will not be assigned due to a student failing to complete two coachings.

Students may inquire about their standing in the class at any point during the semester.

Grading Scale

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points may be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Concert attendance

Students are strongly encouraged to attend on-campus performances by students, faculty, and/or guest artists featuring collaborative piano.

Required Materials

Musical excerpts we will use in our assignments and mock rehearsals will be posted on Canvas and/or distributed in class or via email. Students are expected to print and organize these in a three-ring binder. Students are expected to own a hard copy (not just a printout, even of music in the public domain) of all assigned repertoire for coachings with their partner.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.

University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/.

Library Support: cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420.

General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Student Complaints On-Campus: sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conductcode/

On-Line Student Complaints: distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/