

**\*NOTE: Fall 2025, first-year students will take MUN 1460 and then MVK 3702 in a future semester. This syllabus serves as a placeholder, and a sample of how the course has been conducted previously. - EM**

Course Syllabus  
MVK 3702 Accompanying  
Time: Tuesdays, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Period (9:35am-11:30am)  
Location: MUB 121  
Fall 2024

**Instructor**

Dr. Evan Mitchell

[evan.mitchell@ufl.edu](mailto:evan.mitchell@ufl.edu)

Office: MUB 346

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5<sup>th</sup> 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)**

<b>August 27</b>	Intro to collaboration. Rehearsal procedures, cueing, fundamentals. Sightreading.
<b>September 3</b>	Sightreading. Collaborative repertoire lecture begins.
<b>September 8</b>	Dr. Mitchell concert with guest artist Jordan Bak (viola), 7:30pm, MUB 101

<b>September 10</b>	Mock rehearsal # 1
<b>September 17</b>	Mock rehearsal # 2
<b>September 24</b>	Dr. Mitchell away; class will meet <b>THURSDAY, SEPT. 26, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> periods in MUB 121</b>
<b>September 26</b>	Art song/recit + aria presentations due
<b>October 1</b>	Mock rehearsal # 3; collaborative partners and repertoire assigned no later than this date
<b>October 8</b>	Mock rehearsal # 4 Dr. Mitchell concert with Dr. Helton (saxophone), 7:20pm, MUB 101
<b>October 15 - November 19</b>	Weekly in-class coachings, assigned based on partner availability and preparedness
<b>December 3</b>	Class recital, 9:35am, MUB 101

### **Assignments**

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 will have guest student performers with whom to “rehearse”.

At the end of September, students will be assigned a partner with whom to collaborate. Students will be given until October 15 to prepare their own part and have at least one outside rehearsal with their partner. From October 15 through November 19, 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 two coachings (at least one solo and one with their partner).

Students will prepare one 10-minute presentation on an art song or operatic excerpt. Specific guidelines will be discussed at least two weeks in advance. These presentations will begin on September 26, with any remaining students giving their presentations on October 1 and/or 8.

Final performances will be held during the normal class meeting time on December 3. This should be treated as a recital in terms of preparation and attire. Students are responsible for communicating and reminding their partners of these expectations.

### **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 (42 total points possible)
Presentation:	6 points possible
Mock rehearsals:	5 points each (20 points possible)
Concert attendance:	3 points each (6 points possible)
Coachings:	15 points each, averaged (15 points possible)
Final performance:	15 points possible
Total:	104 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.

### **Concert Attendance**

Students are strongly encouraged to attend on-campus performances by students, faculty, and/or guest artists featuring collaborative piano. Attendance at a minimum of two concerts featuring collaborative piano is required. **Please** check with me before attending to make sure a particular performance will count for this purpose. Submission of a printed program or timestamped selfie will be accepted.

### **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.

**Additional Information**

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>