

## Compositional Practices ~1955-80

Music Composition 213, 413

(2021, Spring Term)

Instructor, Robert Morris

Time: Tuesday, Thursday; 8:00-9:15 pm

The following lists the topics and pieces we will cover during the term. Other pieces and composers may be added if necessary. **We will meet online via Zoom.** I will record each meeting on video and make it and any slides or notes used available on Blackboard. See Blackboard for more detailed information.

There are two listening quizzes and two compositional projects. In addition, each student will present a **video** on a contemporary composer during the last days of the class. See below for a description of these requirements. These videos will be due on a particular day and watched thereafter asynchronously by the members of the class and me.

Note: new instrumental extended techniques are no longer covered in this course (since this topic is addressed in orchestration classes).

Note: we will **not** hold class on the following days:

Thur., Mar 30 is a wellness day

### Schedule

date	day	module	topic	Special deadlines
2/2	T	Module I: introduction	Introduction to post-WW II new music in Europe and America. Technology and Science.	
2/4	Th	Module II: serialism	“Total serialism”: Messiaen, <i>Mode de valeurs et d'intensité's</i> and Boulez, <i>Structures Ia</i> .	
2/9	T		4-row trichordal and Generalized Combinatoriality. Babbitt, <i>String Quartet 2</i> and <i>String Quartet 3</i> .	

2/11	Th	Module III: temporal schemes	Generalized isomorphism of pitch and time; time point system. Babbitt, <i>String Quartet 3</i> .		
2/16	T		Self-derived rhythms and melodies; Stockhausen, <i>Gruppen</i>		
2/18	Th	Module IV: early electronic music	Early Concrete/Electronic Music. Varèse, <i>Poem Electronique</i> ; Cage, <i>Williams Mix</i> ; Stockhausen, <i>Study I</i> and <i>Study II</i> .		
2/23	T		Stockhausen, <i>Gesang der Jünglinge, Kontakte</i> .		
2/25	Th		Continued.	<b>LISTENING QUIZ I</b>	
3/2	T		Continued; Davidowsky, <i>Synchronisms 6</i> .		
3/4	Th	Module V: Cage and the “New York School”; <i>I-Ching</i>	Cage, <i>Sonatas and Interlude, V; String Quartet; Lecture on Nothing; Concert for Piano and Orchestra; HSPCHD</i> ; late works.		
3/9	T		Continued.	<b>PROJECT I DUE</b>	
3/11	Th		<b>Readings of Project I on campus</b>		
3/16	T		<b>Readings of Project I on Zoom</b>		
3/18	Th		Browne, <i>Available Forms I</i>		
3/23	T		Feldman, graph pieces; <i>Last Pieces; Madam Press Died Last Week at 90; Palais de Mari</i> .		
3/25	Th		Continued.		
4/1	Th		Module VI: Xenakis and stochastic music	Xenakis, <i>Pithoprakta, Herma</i> .	
4/6	T			Continued	
4/8	Th	Module VII: Ligeti	Ligeti, <i>Atmospheres: Aventures I and II: Chamber Concerto</i> .		
4/13	T		Continued:	<b>LISTENING QUIZ II</b>	
4/15	Th	Module VIII: Crumb	Continued: Crumb, <i>Vox Balaenae</i> .		
4/20	T	Module IX: Early Minimalism	Glass, <i>Music in Twelve Parts</i> ; Reich, <i>Violin Phase; Piano Phase</i> .		
4/22	Th		Reich, <i>Music for 18 Musicians</i> ; Frederic Rzewski, <i>Les Moutons de Panurge</i> .		

4/27	T	Module X: Electronic and computer music	Electronic and computer music developments circa 1968-1980	<b>PROJECT II</b>
4/29	Th		<b>Reading of Project II on campus</b>	
5/4	T		<b>Reading of Project II via Zoom</b>	
5/6	Th		Closing session: summary	
TBA 5/10- 12			<b>FINAL EXAM</b> (three hours) TBA during Exam Period	

**Compositional Projects:** We will have reading/performances of the projects in the class times shortly after the deadline. For each project write a short piece (about 1-3 minutes long) for players in the class (and/or get your own players to play your pieces). If you can, hold a brief preliminary rehearsal before the reading/performance session. You will be asked to introduce your piece to the class and tell us something about it including how it satisfies the nature of the project.

**Description of Project I:** A short composition where rhythm, and possibly other temporal dimensions are subject to formal procedures. Due 3/9. Readings on 3/11 on campus and 3/16 via Zoom.

**Description of Project II:** A work for at least three players exploring indeterminate procedures, possibly including new instrumental resources. Due 4/27, Readings on 4/29 on campus and 5/4 via Zoom.

**Quizzes. These are held during class times.**

In each of the two quizzes, you will be asked to identify items from one of the two listening lists (see below) by ear alone (no notes, scores, or other aids). Approximately 7 to 10 musical examples on CD or tape will be played up to four times in the exam period, which will occupy a 20-minute period at the end of a class. There will be no “trick” questions. Experience has shown that “cramming” for this exam does not work, so stick to a schedule for listening—so many hours per week. Below is a list of the items on the listening list with call numbers of the scores and recordings at Sibley as well as internet addresses for each piece on YouTube.

Quiz I. Held on 2/25.

Quiz II. Held on 4/13.

## Student Videos

Each student chooses a current composer not presently associated with the Eastman School (or a recent emeritus) and provides a video covering overview of his/her contributions to new music; the composer must be approved by the instructor. Scores and recordings of (portions of) significant works should form the backbone of the video. Place the composer in his/her life and times but avoid PR hype and hagiography. Assume your audience is a group of interested and sophisticated composers. Do some musical analysis on passages from representative works. Your video should be organized well—use slides and play videos and soundfiles—and last just about 30 minutes, plus or minus 5 minutes. Send a reference-list of works, recordings, and writings about the composer plus the slides used as a pdf once your video is online.

### Listening list: YouTube sources

Composer	Piece	Link to recordings
Andriessen	Da Staat	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-0bhCswWfs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-0bhCswWfs</a>
Babbitt	Reflections for Piano and Tape	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4p0TfJ1R6o">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4p0TfJ1R6o</a>
Berio	Visage	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4eIjTqp_zc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4eIjTqp_zc</a>
Brown	Available Forms I	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KF_5kS_lcT0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KF_5kS_lcT0</a>
Cage	String Quartet	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGMVqix_w4w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGMVqix_w4w</a>
Cage	Concert for Piano and Orchestra	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NE6n2VBo2cM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NE6n2VBo2cM</a>
Carter	String Quartet III	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9flcBxp7-c">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9flcBxp7-c</a>
Carter	Piano Concerto	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAu8dNxORJ0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAu8dNxORJ0</a>
Crumb	Vox balaenae	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OEY27n2HUM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OEY27n2HUM</a>
Davidowsky	Synchronism 6	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1asXsfEmE0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1asXsfEmE0</a>
Feldman	Madam Press died last week at ninety.	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rORvNjWchnw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rORvNjWchnw</a>
Ligeti	Atmospheres	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XfefKJRoSA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XfefKJRoSA</a>
Ligeti	Chamber Concerto	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pg7VKAaxn1s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pg7VKAaxn1s</a>
Penderecki	Tren	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSer6k-4zj0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSer6k-4zj0</a>
Reich	Music for Eighteen Musicians	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5U9577N-dQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5U9577N-dQ</a>
Reich	Octet (Eight Lines) (SS)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Np9yApXD94">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Np9yApXD94</a>
Rzewski	Les Moutons de Panurge	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osl2dbpQ62Q">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osl2dbpQ62Q</a>
Schuller	Seven sketches on themes by Paul Klee	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUmYkbCchWg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUmYkbCchWg</a>
Stockhausen	Gruppen	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34_SfP7ZCXA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34_SfP7ZCXA</a>
Stockhausen	Kontakte (with and without instruments)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwtAMGXyTI4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwtAMGXyTI4</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Qhy-Lpf6d4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Qhy-Lpf6d4</a>
Stockhausen	Gesang der Jünglinge	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1Psx24n3rM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1Psx24n3rM</a>
Subotnick	Sidewinder	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaOjKFTmAY8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaOjKFTmAY8</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJ6Ebv5-mg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJ6Ebv5-mg</a>
Wolpe	String Quartet	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ufD45eB530">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ufD45eB530</a>
Wuorinen:	String Quartet	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0ahowMl1Zk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0ahowMl1Zk</a>
Varèse	Poeme Electronique	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuDzS0EYixQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuDzS0EYixQ</a>
Xenakis	Herma	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1U2ZHQeaAZc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1U2ZHQeaAZc</a>
Xenakis	Pithoprakta	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwPpqYyLGBA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwPpqYyLGBA</a>
Xenakis	Mycenae-Alpha	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yztoaNakKok">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yztoaNakKok</a>
Xenakis	Shaar	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdRLLuhojrk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdRLLuhojrk</a>

## Items on Listening Test I

Babbitt	Reflections for Piano and Tape
Berio	Visage
Cage	Concert for Piano and Orchestra
Carter	String Quartet III
Carter	Piano Concerto
Crumb	Black Angels
Davidowsky	Synchronism 6
Ligeti	Chamber Concerto
Stockhausen	Kontakte (with and without instruments)
Stockhausen	Gesang der Jünglinge
Subotnick	Sidewinder
Wolpe	String Quartet
Wuorinen	String Quartet
Varèse	Poeme Electronique
Xenakis	Mycenae-Alpha
Xenakis	Shaar

## Items on Listening test II

Andriessen	Da Staat
Brown	Available Forms I
Crumb	Vox Balaenae
Feldman	Madam Press died last week at ninety.
Ligeti	Atmospheres
Penderecki	Tren
Reich	Music for Eighteen Musicians
Reich	Octet (Eight Lines)
Rzewski	Les Moutons de Panurge
Schuller	Seven sketches on themes by Paul Klee
Stockhausen	Gruppen
Xenakis:	Herma
Xenakis:	Pithoprakta