RCMUSIC Courses

RCMUSIC classes are music performance classes utilizing historical, theoretical, scientific and/or creative context; they are open to all students at the University of Michigan and fulfill the LSA Creative Expression (CE) distribution as well as the RC Arts Practicum requirements.

RCMUSIC 249 Foundations of Music (4 credits, Katri Ervamaa, offered each fall) Combine music theory and musicianship exercises based on the notion of music as a language: the class explores the grammar rules (music theory) and puts them to use by producing organized sound on the student’s own instruments, keyboard and voice.

RCMUSIC 254 Human Voice (2 credits, Jennifer Goltz-Taylor, offered fall and winter) Develop the voice for singing and speaking, expand comfort performing in public, and learn the principles of vocal health and good technique.

RCMUSIC 258 Afro-Cuban Drumming and Styles (4 credits, Michael Gould, offered each fall) Learn the basics of conga playing, clave and other percussion instruments associated with Afro-Cuban music. Practice drums are provided.

RCMUSIC 259 Music Improvisation (4 credits, Mark Kirschenmann, offered every second fall) Use improvisation as the catalyst for creating and performing music: Students provide their own instruments, which may be acoustic, electric, found and/or vocal; laptops, phones, apps and software are also welcome. Limited amps, PA’s and mic’s are available.

RCMUSIC 320 Chamber Music (1-2 credits, Katri Ervamaa, offered fall and winter) Participate in small instrumental ensembles such as duos, trios, quartets, or mixed string, piano, wind, and brass ensembles on your own instruments. At least intermediate skill level on an instrument is recommended.
(4 credits, Mark Kirschenmann, offered every other fall) Examine the legacy and definition of electronic music from its inception (c.1950) to its unknowable future through research and hands-on musical experiences.

RCMUSIC 358
Found Instruments
(4 credits, Michael Gould, offered each winter) Everyday objects are utilized or repurposed as musical instruments. This project-based class covers the basics of musicianship, composition, form, improvisation and playing as an ensemble while originating a semester-long creative project that culminates in a live performance.

RCMUSIC 350
Creative Musicianship
(4 credits, Mark Kirschenmann, offered winter term) Create your own original music: students present pieces and songs that focus on rhythm, melody and harmony in any style or genre they wish.

RCMUSIC 351
Creative Musicianship Music Theory Lab
(1-2 credits, Katri Ervamaa and Mark Kirschenmann, offered winter term) Learn concepts of music theory through music making (application) as well as written (notated) music theory and ear training. This course is designed to work together with RCMUSIC 350, but can be taken separately; students self-select their entering course section based upon prior training and experience.

RCMUSIC 321
Chinese Music Ensemble
(2 credits, Xiaodong Wei-Hottman, offered fall and winter) Choose an instrument from five groups: erhu (violin), pipa (lute), guzheng (zither), dizi (flute) and ruan (moon guitar) and receive instruction in basic musicianship using individual instruments, Chinese musical notation, and in ensemble performance.

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