Course Catalog

Listed below are the classes that will be added to the MSU current list of approved courses.

Performance

Major Area

MUS 1xxx: Technique and Improv I

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 1

Course Catalog Description:

The Technique and Improv I class will provide students the opportunity to build a solid foundation of facility on their chosen instrument. This will involve a logical progression of exercises and application. Students will additionally be challenged to experiment with basic techniques to begin to develop a creative approach to improvisation. The class will situate technical vocabulary and improvisational skills within a variety of musical contexts across numerous genres.

Along the way, students will develop a comprehensive method for practicing productively, keeping track of their own progress as they critically reflect on it. Group lectures will be enhanced with masterclasses and opportunities for one-on-one tutorial sessions.

Course prerequisites: None

MUS 1xxx: Technique and Improv II

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 2
Course Catalog Description: The Technique and Improv II class will build directly on the previous semester’s iteration of this course, providing students an opportunity to further develop a solid foundation of facility on their chosen instrument. This will involve a logical progression of exercises and application. Students will continue to experiment with basic techniques to further develop a creative approach to improvisation. The class will situate technical vocabulary and improvisational skills within a variety of musical contexts across numerous genres. Along the way, students will continue to develop a comprehensive method for practicing productively, keeping track of their own progress as they critically reflect on it. Group lectures will be enhanced with masterclasses and opportunities for one-on-one tutorial sessions.

Course prerequisites: Technique and Improv I

MUS 2xxx: Intermediate Technique and Improv I

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 3

Course Catalog Description: Building on year one of Technique and Improv, this class will provide students with the opportunity to further develop facility on their chosen instrument. This will involve a logical progression of exercises and application. Students will additionally be challenged to experiment with intermediate level techniques to further develop a creative approach to improvisation. The class will situate technical vocabulary and improvisational skills within a variety of musical contexts across numerous genres. Along the way, students will develop a comprehensive method for practicing productively, keeping track of their own progress as they critically reflect on it. Group lectures will be enhanced with masterclasses and opportunities for one-on-one tutorial sessions.

Course prerequisites: Technique and Improv I & II

MUS 2xxx: Intermediate Technique and Improv II

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 4
Course Catalog Description: This class will build directly on the previous semester’s iteration of this course, providing students an opportunity to further develop a deeper facility on their chosen instrument. This will involve a logical progression of exercises and application. Students will continue to experiment with intermediate level techniques to further develop a creative approach to improvisation. The class will situate technical vocabulary and improvisational skills within a variety of musical contexts across numerous genres. Along the way, students will continue to develop a comprehensive method for practicing productively, keeping track of their own progress as they critically reflect on it. Group lectures will be enhanced with masterclasses and opportunities for one-on-one tutorial sessions.

Course prerequisites: Technique and Improv I & II, Intermediate Technique and Improv I.

MUS 3xxx: Advanced Technique and Improv I

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 5

Course Catalog Description:

Building on Intermediate Technique and Improv, this class will provide students with the opportunity to further develop facility on their chosen instrument. This will involve a logical progression of exercises and application. Students will additionally be challenged to experiment with advanced level techniques to further develop a creative approach to improvisation. The class will situate technical vocabulary and improvisational skills within a variety of musical contexts across numerous genres. Along the way, students will develop a comprehensive method for practicing productively, keeping track of their own progress as they critically reflect on it. Group lectures will be enhanced with masterclasses and opportunities for one-on-one tutorial sessions.

Course prerequisites: Technique and Improv I & II, Intermediate Technique and Improv I & II.

MUS 3xxx: Advanced Technique and Improv II

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit
**Credit:** 3  
**Term:** Semester 6

**Course Catalog Description:** Building on Intermediate Technique and Improv, this class will provide students with the opportunity to further develop facility on their chosen instrument. This will involve a logical progression of exercises and application. Students will additionally be challenged to experiment with advanced level techniques to further develop a creative approach to improvisation. The class will situate technical vocabulary and improvisational skills within a variety of musical contexts across numerous genres. Along the way, students will develop a comprehensive method for practicing productively, keeping track of their own progress as they critically reflect on it. Group lectures will be enhanced with masterclasses and opportunities for one-on-one tutorial sessions.

**Course prerequisites:** Technique and Improv I & II, Intermediate Technique and Improv I & II, Advanced Technique and Improv I.

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**MUS 3810: Large Ensemble (Pop & Soul Choir)**

**Instructor:** Antea Shelton and DeAnna Johnson

**Location:** DIME Detroit

**Credit:** 1  
**Term:** Any

**Course Catalog Description:** The ability to blend voices while singing in a group is an essential skill for any contemporary vocalist. Working to enhance such abilities, this mixed chorus of men and women will focus on a diverse and challenging repertoire of classic and contemporary popular music. Given Detroit’s rich history in soul and gospel music, this class will focus heavily on these genres to prepare students for the types of gigs they are likely to encounter in their immediate market. Students will learn to sing precisely and authentically, expressing lyrics and emotion appropriately for each song. The choir will perform both a cappella and accompanied arrangements. Repertoire will vary from semester to semester and be primarily chosen by the instructor, although students are encouraged to offer suggestions and bring their original work or arrangements of covers to the group. Professionalism, musicianship, creativity, vocal technique, and group cohesion will be emphasized throughout the semester. Student participation is key, and will be assessed weekly; a final performance will be mandatory for all students to pass this class.

**Course prerequisites:** None; audition is required
**MUS 3810: World Music Ensemble (African)**

**Instructor:** Chinelo Amen-Ra

**Location:** DIME Detroit

**Credit:** 1  
**Term:** Any

**Course Catalog Description:** This ensemble will focus on the music of West Africa and the African diaspora, particularly the Caribbean. Students will gain experience performing a diverse repertoire that includes musical practices such as: call-and-response, hocket, polyrhythm, drum language, parallel vocal harmony, and more. Students will be expected to attend rehearsal sessions as well as several public performances throughout the term. Students will also be expected to articulate an understanding of this music in its proper cultural, social, and historical context. The repertoire for this ensemble will vary, so that students who enroll in the class multiple times will continue to increase their knowledge and skills.

**Course prerequisites:** None; audition is required

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**Supportive Courses in Music**

**MUS 1xxx: Live Performance Workshop**

**Instructor:** Multiple, TBA

**Location:** DIME Detroit

**Credit:** 1  
**Term:** Semesters 1&2

**Course Catalog Description:** This class is all about preparing to play live on stage with pro gear to the highest professional standards. Students will first do pre-production on their individual instrument in which a song’s technique, tone, feel, and arrangement will be broken down and analyzed in detail. After some individual practicing, students will perform in various live group sessions in which musical communication, performance ability, and sound design will be molded by instructors who will provide feedback.

**Course prerequisites:** None
**MUS 1xxx: Artist Inquiry I**

**Instructor:** Anthony Lai

**Location:** DIME Detroit

**Credit:** 3

**Term:** Semester 3

**Course Catalog Description:** In this class, students will study the particular techniques, styles, repertoire, and sounds of artists within their proper historical, cultural, and social contexts. This course will outline a basic chronological history of American popular music with an emphasis on rock 'n' roll (broadly conceived). Each week instructors will provide a lecture on a particular time period and/or topic, and then guide a student performance of a song in that historical idiom (Motown, surf rock, folk, rockabilly, etc.). Students will choose two artists to study in-depth that relate directly to the topics and time periods covered in class. They will be responsible for emulating the style and sound of their chosen artists through performance; additionally, students will be required to conduct library research to produce a critical essay examining these artists in relation to their historical, social, and cultural context.

**Prerequisites:** none

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**MUS 1xxx: Artist Inquiry II**

**Instructor:** Anthony Lai

**Location:** DIME Detroit

**Credit:** 3

**Term:** Semester 4

**Course Catalog Description:** Picking up chronologically where the previous semester of this class left off, this course allows students to continue to study the particular techniques, styles, repertoire, and sounds of artists within their proper historical, cultural, and social contexts. This course will continue to outline a basic chronological history of American popular music with an emphasis on rock 'n' roll (broadly conceived). Each week instructors will provide a lecture on a particular time period and/or topic, and then guide a student performance of a song in that historical idiom (disco, techno, nu-metal, hip-hop, etc.). Students will choose two artists to study in-depth that relate directly to the topics and time periods covered in class. They will be responsible for emulating the style and sound of their chosen artists through performance; additionally, students will be required to conduct library research to produce a critical essay examining these artists in relation to their historical, social, and cultural context.
Course prerequisites: Artist Inquiry I

MUS 2xxx: Session Styles I

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 2

Term: Semester 3

Course Catalog Description: This course will require that students perform a diverse range of contemporary and classic musical styles in the popular idiom to high standards in preparation to become working session musicians. Students will be required to listen to and analyze a range of recordings to assess their stylistic qualities and nuances; this will include transcription and score analysis. Instructors will provide historical and cultural context for each style as well as performance training and guidance in critical listening skills. Students will be required to read charts as well as play by ear while performing in various styles/genres. Group sessions will be discipline-specific, and be supported by one-on-one tutorials and master classes.

Course prerequisites: Live Performance Workshop; Music Theory (I&II); Technique and Improv I&II

MUS 2xxx: Session Styles II

Instructor: Various

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 2

Term: Semester 4

Course Catalog Description: Continuing from the previous semester of this class, this course will require that students perform a diverse range of contemporary and classic musical styles in the popular idiom to high standards in preparation to become working session musicians. Students will be required to listen to and analyze a range of recordings to assess their stylistic qualities and nuances; this will include transcription and score analysis. Instructors will provide historical and cultural context for each style as well as performance training and guidance in critical listening skills. Students will be required to read charts as well as play by ear while performing in various styles/genres. Group
sessions will be discipline-specific, and be supported by one-on-one tutorials and master classes.

**Course prerequisites:** Live Performance Workshop; Music Theory (I&II); Technique and Improv I&II; Session Styles I.

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**MUS 3xxx: Commercial Composition and Arrangement**

**Instructor:** TBC

**Location:** DIME Detroit

**Credit:** 3

**Term:** Semester 5

**Course Catalog Description:** This course will require that students study and apply techniques, methodologies, and concepts for composing and arranging original music. Students will be given specific prompts to inspire and guide their songwriting. Students will also analyze classic and contemporary songs and arrangements, including score analysis and critical listening assessments. Students will be required to compose original pieces of music as well as create original arrangements of preexisting material. Additionally, students will be asked to critically reflect on their compositional process. This course will combine performance majors into one instructional group, and encourage collaboration as well as independent work to reflect the realities of the contemporary songwriting industry.

**Course prerequisites:** Music Theory I and II, Music Theory Lab I and II

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**MUS 3xxx: Domestic Music Market**

**Instructor:** TBC

**Location:** DIME Detroit

**Credit:** 3

**Term:** Semester 5

**Course Catalog Description:** This course provides students with an introductory overview of the American music industry. Throughout the semester this class will demonstrate how the multiple components of the music business – management, fundraising, publishing, copyright, contracts, touring, promotions, merchandising/endorsements, corporate sponsorship, film, new media, etc. – all work together in the
digital age to create income streams for artists and industry professionals. Students will study the business strategies of classic and contemporary artists to reveal how these musicians have navigated an increasingly complex and dynamic industry. Through case study analysis, students will deconstruct the careers of successful artists to show how the many parts of the music business complement and compete with one another. Overall, this course gives students the tools to negotiate the complex terrain of the domestic music market.

**Course prerequisites:** None

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**MUS 3xxx: Group Recital**

**Instructor:** Multiple, TBA  
**Location:** DIME Detroit  
**Credit:** 2  
**Term:** Semesters 5&6

**Course Catalog Description:** Building on Live Performance Workshop, this class takes a more advanced approach to live performance. While continuing to develop technical and improvisational skills on their chosen instrument, students will develop their skills as Musical Directors as they form and manage their own ensembles. Students will choose repertoire as they cultivate a group sound and personality. Faculty will be on hand to offer feedback and constructive guidance to help mold a band into a cohesive professional unit. Various faculty members will be assigned to each group as mentors. Each ensemble will be responsible for constructing and performing a 40-minute set for an audience of their peers and instructors, receiving feedback from both. Students will be required to consider lighting, sound design, staging, audience interaction, promotion, and other elements of constructing a professional performance to a high standard.

**Course prerequisites:** Live Performance Workshop

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**MUS 4xxx: Techniques Practicum**

**Instructor:** TBC  
**Location:** DIME Detroit  
**Credit:** 3  
**Term:** Semester 7
**Course Catalog Description:** In this class, students will learn to perform extended techniques that push the boundaries of their instrument and move students closer to becoming complete virtuosos in their craft.

**Course prerequisites:** Technique and Improv I&II, Intermediate Technique & Improv I&II, Advanced Technique & Improv I&II, Music Theory I&II.

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**MUS 4xxx: Personal Expression**

**Instructor:** TBC

**Location:** DIME Detroit

**Credit:** 3  
**Term:** Semester 7

**Course Catalog Description:** This class will require that students combine all the technical facility and improvisational abilities learned throughout the degree thus far, applying their knowledge and skills towards the development of their own unique sound and style. Students must demonstrate, through performance and written work, a unique and innovative approach to their chosen discipline. Students will critically reflect on their own artistic development, situating their own style vis-à-vis previous and contemporary musicians and other artists. Students will be required to perform a range of original and/or preexisting repertoire that highlights their unique approach to their instrument. They will also be asked to write a reflective essay to examine their work in musical detail as it connects their artistry to their social and/or political context. Instrument-specific sessions will be supported with individual tutorials and master classes.

**Course prerequisites:** Technique and Improv I&II, Intermediate Technique & Improv I&II, Advanced Technique & Improv I&II, Music Theory I&II.

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**MUS 4xxx: Professional Music Capstone**

**Instructor:** Paul Schauert

**Location:** DIME Detroit

**Credit:** 3  
**Term:** Semester 8

**Course Catalog Description:** The Professional Practice Portfolio course requires you to research and report on the full spectrum of career opportunities available within your
specialist area. In addition to identifying various career pathways, you should also comment on how your craft can be contextualized into professional opportunities that will, if desired, monetize your skills and inspire entrepreneurial practice and artistic excellence. Additionally, you will be asked to have other components in your Portfolio that are intended to facilitate your career. These items include:

- Personal website (supporting your professional work)
- Various forms of social media (as above)

You should utilize a research-based approach (clearly demonstrated through referenced sources) to identify career and/or artist opportunities related to your specialist area, and support findings by examining the work of recognized leaders in their field. The report should examine current ways of working for the self-employed music professional, including entrepreneurial practice, marketing, self-promotion and multiple income streams. This will involve both qualitative ethnographic methods and quantitative analysis of data collected. Signpost lectures, given by the Head of Education, will address such methodologies and their implementation; additionally, you may schedule an individual tutorial with the Head of Education to discuss academic research practices and expectations.

You will be required to present a persuasive argument showing how your aims are realistic and achievable; this should be backed up by credible research data and analysis. Where possible, the additional components of your portfolio should align with your report on career opportunities and pathways.

You will be expected to develop a strategic approach for managing the process of creating the portfolio that employs effective time management, research skills and the ability to reflect and comment critically. Lecture content will be supported with tutorials and group seminars.

**Course prerequisites:** All previous Performance courses
Songwriting

**Major Area**

**MUS 1xxx:** Basic Keyboard Skills

**Instructor:** TBC

**Location:** DIME Detroit

**Credit:** 1  
**Term:** 3

**Course Catalog Description:** This class offers group instruction in piano performance to build basic competencies in keyboard skills. This class is intended for students who have little to no previous training in piano.

**Prerequisites:** None

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**MUS 1xxx: Live Songwriting Workshop**

**Instructor:** Antea Shelton

**Location:** DIME Detroit

**Credit:** 1  
**Term:** Semester 1&2

**Course Catalog Description:** This class is all about developing and performing original songs to a professional standard. Each week, a selection of students will present their material to the class; students will then work together to experiment with and polish the musical concepts presented by their classmates. After some individual refining, students will perform, or have others play, their tunes. At each session, instructors will act as music industry producers, providing feedback on the song’s lyrical content, musical style, and overall impact.

**Course prerequisites:** None

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**MUS 1xxx: Group Performance Instruction I (Primary Performance Area)**

**Instructor:** Various

**Location:** DIME Detroit
Credit: 2  
Term: 1

Course Catalog Description: Students will receive group instruction on a primary instrument (guitar, bass, drums, or vocals). This course will start at a non-remedial level; therefore students will need to audition to enroll in this class. Students will learn a variety of techniques, and apply them to a range of musical styles. This class is part of a sequence that will build towards a functional proficiency on a given instrument.

Prerequisites: audition

MUS 1xxx: Group Performance Instruction II (Primary Performance Area)

Instructor: Various

Location: DIME Detroit  
Credit: 2  
Term: 2

Course Catalog Description: Students will receive group instruction on a primary instrument (guitar, bass, drums, or vocals). This course will build on the previous course in this sequence. Students will learn and apply a variety of techniques in a range of musical styles. This class is part of a sequence that will build towards a functional proficiency on a given instrument.

Prerequisites: Group Performance Instruction I

MUS 1xxx: Group Performance Instruction III (Primary Performance Area)

Instructor: Various

Location: DIME Detroit  
Credit: 2  
Term: 3

Course Catalog Description: Students will receive group instruction on a primary instrument (guitar, bass, drums, or vocals). This course will build on the previous course in this sequence. Students will learn and apply a variety of techniques in a range of musical styles. This class is part of a sequence that will build towards a functional proficiency on a given instrument.

Prerequisites: Group Performance Instruction II
MUS 1xxx: Group Performance Instruction IV (Primary Performance Area)

**Instructor:** Various

**Location:** DIME Detroit  
**Credit:** 2  
**Term:** 4

**Course Catalog Description:** Students will receive group instruction on a primary instrument (guitar, bass, drums, or vocals). This course will build on the previous course in this sequence. Students will learn and apply a variety of techniques in a range of musical styles. This class is part of a sequence that will build towards a functional proficiency on a given instrument.

**Prerequisites:** Group Performance Instruction III

MUS 4xxx: Songwriting Portfolio

**Instructor:** Antea Shelton

**Location:** DIME Detroit  
**Credit:** 3  
**Term:** Semester 8

**Course Catalog Description:** As a culmination of their studies, students will first compile an extensive and representative portfolio of their work to date, both recordings and written scores. Students will examine and reflect on their own output as songwriters, identifying their style, strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in their resumes. Students will then spend the majority of the semester in a guided, but primarily self-directed, attempt to devise a plan to fill out their portfolio to establish a well-rounded and marketable collection of material, which gives them a wide range of opportunities in the music industry. Students will be encouraged to create a balanced and diversified approach to their songwriting careers as they learn to seize opportunities in multiple formats: solo, group, writing for artists, film, TV, sync, etc. As a final project, students will need to present their original work through oral presentation (as if they are presenting to a prospective client, i.e., artist, record label, publisher, etc.).

**Course prerequisites:** All DIME songwriting core courses from semesters 1-7
Supportive Courses in Songwriting

MUS 1xxx: Foundations of Songwriting I

Instructor: Antea Shelton

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 2
Term: Semester 1

Course Catalog Description: This course will introduce students to fundamental methods, techniques, and practices of the songwriting craft. While a large portion of the class will focus on analyzing the elements (form, subject, harmony, melody, etc.) of classic and contemporary songs and songwriters, the primary goal of the class will be to encourage students to develop their own original material, both lyrics and music. Students will be tasked to write material in a range of different styles to the specifications of numerous prompts. Along the way, students will be asked to critically reflect on their own songwriting practices.

MUS 1xxx: Foundations of Songwriting II

Instructor: Antea Shelton

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 2
Term: Semester 3

Course Catalog Description: Building on the previous semester of this class sequence, this course will further explore the basic methods, techniques, and practices of the songwriting craft. For instance, students will continue to explore the composition of melody, harmony, and form, while refining their abilities to construct meaningful and relevant lyrical content with object writing and storytelling. Students will analyze and critique pre-existing music, examining the elements that make a song memorable and engaging to better their own original writing. While working to refine their own skill as songwriters, students will also be asked to critically reflect on their own creative process.

Course prerequisites: Foundations of Songwriting 1
MUS 1xxx: Lyric Writing

Instructor: Antea Shelton

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 2
Term: Semester 1

Course Catalog Description: This course will introduce students to a range of basic lyric writing techniques, methodologies, and practices. Students will learn to take inspiration from a range of stimuli and structure songs in coherent and productive ways. While focusing on developing student’s unique voice, this course will analyze successful lyricists of the past to draw out their styles, conventions, and methods. Along the way, students will build a workbook of original lyrics, starting with raw material and ending with several finished songs. Throughout the course, students will be asked to critically reflect on their lyric writing, creating self-awareness of their own style and voice.

Course prerequisites: None

MUS 1xxx: Advanced Lyric Writing

Instructor: Antea Shelton

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 2
Term: Semester 2

Course Catalog Description: Building on the previous course in this sequence, this class will explore advanced techniques, methods, and practices for creating subject matter and lyrics. While refining previously learned methods, students will also be introduced to more advanced ways of conceptualizing lyric writing. The class will critically examine and deconstruct a range of pre-existing lyrics from songwriters across a wide spectrum of genres and styles. Students will refine their own artistic practices to create original lyrical content as well as reflect on their own creative process.

Course prerequisites: Lyric Writing

MUS 2xxx: Notation & Chart Writing

Instructor: TBC
Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 3

Course Catalog Description: In this course, students will gain the ability to communicate their ideas more effectively through written notation, using a variety of methods and techniques for producing scores, lead sheets, and charts. The class will examine a range of pre-existing charts and scores from studio sessions and live tours to become familiar with standard practices, determining the ways that work best for their own compositions. Enhancing their musical literacy and aural skills, students will be asked to transcribe songs from multiple genres, notating their various instrumental parts and vocals in a number of formats, including conventional Western staff notation and several alternative forms (i.e., Nashville number system). Students will be introduced to a broad spectrum of ways to write music, from hand-written notation to several industry standard software programs (i.e., Finale, Sibelius, etc.). Ultimately, students will need to create accessible charts of their own material that can be read by studio musicians and musical directors. Lastly, students will reflect critically on their own choices for chart writing and musical notation.

Course prerequisites: Foundations of Songwriting I & II; Music Theory I & II

MUS 2xxx: Song Arrangement I

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 4

Course Catalog Description: This class will focus on transforming original raw song material into fully formed ensemble arrangements for a modern rock/pop band. Students will be introduced to basic concepts in orchestration for the modern pop and rock ensemble. This will include learning the fundamental attributes, functions, and ranges of the guitar, bass, drums, vocals, and piano to understand how to create viable arrangements for these instruments that work in multiple idioms. The class will deconstruct the rhythm sections and vocals of existing songs to understand how and why they work as a unit. Students will be asked to create re-arrangements and remixes of existing songs, but will also work on ensemble arrangements of original material.

Course prerequisites: Foundations of Songwriting I & II; Lyric Writing; Advanced Lyric Writing; Music Theory I & II
MUS 2xxx: Song Arrangement II

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 4

Course Catalog Description: Building on the first semester in this sequence, this class will continue to focus on transforming original raw song material into fully formed arrangements for contemporary ensembles. Students will learn more advanced concepts in orchestration. This will include learning extended techniques and exploiting the sonic possibilities for guitar, bass, drums, vocals, and piano to create innovative arrangements of existing and original material. The class will continue to deconstruct the rhythm sections and vocals of existing songs to understand how and why they work as a unit. This class will also briefly explore the inclusion of strings and horns into popular music.

Course prerequisites: Foundations of Songwriting I & II; Lyric Writing; Advanced Lyric Writing; Music Theory I & II; Song Arrangement I

MUS 2xxx: Advanced Songwriting

Instructor: Antea Shelton

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 6

Course Catalog Description: Building on the Foundations of Songwriting class, this course will examine more advanced methods, techniques, and practices of the songwriting craft. Students will deconstruct a more challenging set of songs to analyze their melodic, harmonic, rhythmic, formal, and lyrical qualities. Students will continue to build their theoretical knowledge of music as well as their music literacy and aural skills. Using the knowledge gained through this analysis, students will be asked to produce original material that expresses their uniqueness as songwriters as they work within a number of prompts that encourage them to write in a plethora of styles and genres. Students will also reflect on their songwriting practices and style.

Course prerequisites: Foundations of Songwriting I & II; Music Theory I & II; Notation and Chart Writing
MUS 3xxx: Writing for Artists

Instructor: Antea Shelton

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 5

Course Catalog Description: Previous classes have focused primarily on creating original material for students themselves to perform. This class will explore writing original material for existing established artists in numerous contemporary genres, including solo and group arrangements. Students will develop a familiarity with the contemporary trends in multiple idioms to write for artists across a range of styles to specific prompts. This course will also explore ways for young songwriters to promote and disseminate their own compositions to get noticed by industry-established acts.

Course prerequisites: Foundations of Songwriting I & II; Lyric Writing; Advanced Lyric Writing; Music Theory I & II; Notation and Chart Writing; Song Arrangement I & II; Advanced Songwriting

MUS 3xxx: Electronic Music Composition

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 4
Term: Semester 6

Course Catalog Description: This class will introduce the basic components and processes involved in creating original music by using contemporary electronic software and hardware. While working with synths, MIDI, and various hardware such as interfaces, drum machines, multiple pad controllers, and samplers, students will learn to use industry-standard software such as Garageband, Logic, Ableton Live, Reason, Fruity Loops, and more. Students will be required to create multiple compositions by integrating a range of electronic tools.

Course prerequisites: None
MUS 3xxx: Publishing and Copyright Law

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 7

Course Catalog Description: This course will examine the processes of publishing songs, including the basics of how to navigate the complexities of state, national, and international copyright law. Students will examine the roles of a publisher in acquisition, marketing, and creative development. The course will also cover various types of publishing deals to familiarize students with their standard terms and conditions, as they learn to protect their rights as songwriters and artists. This class will also explore songwriting splits and how to negotiate a fair and equitable publishing deal. Students will additionally learn how to register their songs and take advantage of licensing and sync opportunities.

Course prerequisites: None

MUS 3xxx: Fundamentals of Record Production

Instructor: Antea Shelton

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 7

Course Catalog Description: This class will focus on the processes of moving from a finished arrangement in the rehearsal room to a master recording. Students will learn about selecting the appropriate songs, quality control, pre-production, choosing and working with a producer and engineer, goal setting, mixing, mastering, and the politics of the recording studio. Throughout the semester, students will analyze and discuss the production of iconic songs and albums, exploring its effects on the entire songwriting and creative process. Partnering with local studios, students will have an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a recording studio, working with industry producers and engineers to perform, conduct, mix, and master their own compositions.

Course prerequisites: None
MUS 4xxx: Co-Writing

Instructor: Antea Shelton

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3  
Term: Semester 7

Course Catalog Description: Songwriting is often a collaborative effort, and this course introduces students to the most effective ways to work with a team of artists to create original music. Throughout the semester, students will examine the material and dynamics of great songwriting teams such as: Lennon/McCartney, Simon/Garfunkel, Jagger/Richards, etc., to better understand their creative processes. Students will gain the qualities necessary to work productively in a group, including time management, social skills, and organizational skills. As an upper level course, students will be challenged to use a wide range of techniques and methodologies to co-create original music to a high professional standard. Additionally, students will be asked to reflect on their processes and dynamics of artistic teamwork.

Course Prerequisites: Foundations of Songwriting I & II; Lyric Writing; Advanced Lyric Writing; Music Theory I & II; Advanced Songwriting; Song Arrangement I & II; Notation and Chart Writing;

MUS 4xxx: Writing for Film/TV

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3  
Term: Semester 7

Course Catalog Description: This class will examine the processes involved in writing for film, TV, and other forms of visual media. While analyzing well-known TV and film composers (John Williams, Danny Elfman, Mike Post, etc.) and their music, students will gain the ability to write for certain scenes, learning to establish mood, highlight plot points, and support the action on screen. This class will also discuss the commercial practice of synchronization to show how the industry pairs music with film/TV opportunities. Students will need to write a range of music for various types of scenes and styles of film. Students will spend some time in a working media studio to understand how audio and picture are synced. Ultimately, students will need to produce several short original pieces for movies and television.
Course prerequisites: Foundations of Songwriting I & II; Lyric Writing; Advanced Lyric Writing; Music Theory I & II; Advanced Songwriting; Songwriting Arrangement I & II; Notation and Chart Writing; Electronic Music Composition

MUS 4xxx: Professional Music Capstone

Instructor: Paul Schauert

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 8

Course Catalog Description: This class will primarily focus on the short-term and long-term career plans for the student once they leave DIME, ensuring that their body of work is sufficient to gain entry into the contemporary songwriting industry. A portion of this capstone will be dedicated to producing a showcase of the student’s original work in the form of a 45-60 minute performance. To accompany their catalog of original songs, students will produce a written report that will identify real-world career opportunities, articulating how they will integrate themselves into the local, national, and international music industry as a professional songwriter. In order to accomplish this, students will need to undertake extensive library-based and field research to situate themselves in relation to other past and contemporary composers and find these career opportunities; this report will also need to argue for a student’s unique voice in the industry, highlighting their particular artistic contribution(s) and the qualities that make them a marketable songwriter. Reflecting on their creative growth and process as a songwriter, students will learn to articulate these succinctly for prospective employers.

Course prerequisites: All DIME core songwriting courses from semesters 1-7
Industry

**Major Area**

**MUS 1xxx:** Basic Keyboard Skills

**Instructor:** TBC

**Location:** DIME Detroit

**Credit:** 1  
**Term:** 3

**Course Catalog Description:** This class offers group instruction in piano performance, to build basic competencies in keyboard skills. This class is intended for students who have little to no previous training in piano performance.

**Prerequisites:** None

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**MUS 1xxx: Group Performance Instruction I (Primary Performance Area)**

**Instructor:** Various

**Location:** DIME Detroit  
**Credit:** 2  
**Term:** 1

**Course Catalog Description:** Students will receive group instruction on a primary instrument (guitar, bass, drums, or vocals). This course will start at a non-remedial level; therefore students will need to audition to enroll in this class. Students will learn a variety of techniques, and apply them to a range of musical styles. This class is part of a sequence that will build towards a functional proficiency on a given instrument.

**Prerequisites:** audition

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**MUS 1xxx: Group Performance Instruction II (Primary Performance Area)**

**Instructor:** Various

**Location:** DIME Detroit  
**Credit:** 2  
**Term:** 2
Course Catalog Description: Students will receive group instruction on a primary instrument (guitar, bass, drums, or vocals). This course will build on the previous course in this sequence. Students will learn and apply a variety of techniques in a range of musical styles. This class is part of a sequence that will build towards a functional proficiency on a given instrument.

Prerequisites: Group Performance Instruction I

MUS 4xxx: Professional Music Capstone

Instructor: Paul Schauert

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 8

Course Catalog Description: This class will primarily focus on the short-term and long-term career plans for the student once they leave DIME, ensuring that their body of work is sufficient to gain entry into the contemporary songwriting industry. A portion of this capstone will be dedicated to producing a showcase of the student’s original work in the form of a 45-60 minute performance. To accompany their catalog of original songs, students will produce a written report that will identify real-world career opportunities, articulating how they will integrate themselves into the local, national, and international music industry as a professional songwriter. In order to accomplish this, students will need to undertake extensive library-based and field research to situate themselves in relation to other past and contemporary composers and find these career opportunities; this report will also need to argue for a student’s unique voice in the industry, highlighting their particular artistic contribution(s) and the qualities that make them a marketable songwriter. Reflecting on their creative growth and process as a songwriter, students will learn to articulate these succinctly for prospective employers.

Course prerequisites: All DIME core songwriting courses from semesters 1-7
Supportive Courses in Music

MUS 1xxx: Repertoire and Hit Song Analysis

Instructor: TBC
Location: DIME Detroit
Credit: 2
Term: Semester 2

Course Catalog Description: This course serves as a basic introduction to A&R practice, focusing on the question: what makes a song a hit? In exploring this question, students will learn to identify musical attributes of hit songs and trends in the industry over time; students will also gain a basic understanding of the music business infrastructure that led to the success of various songs. The class will examine a number of record labels (Atlantic, Motown, etc.), including, most notably their A&R departments, to investigate how these labels chose, produced, and marketed their catalogs of hit songs. Each student will be required to analyze numerous classic and contemporary hit songs in relation to their promotion campaigns and labels as well as their social and historical context.

Course prerequisites: None

MUS 2xxx: Domestic Music Market

Instructor: TBC
Location: DIME Detroit
Credit: 3
Term: Semester 1

Course Catalog Description: This course provides students with an introductory overview of the American music industry. Throughout the semester this class will demonstrate how the multiple components of the music business – management, fundraising, publishing, copyright, contracts, touring, promotions, merchandising/endorsements, corporate sponsorship, film, new media, etc. – all work together in the digital age to create income streams for artists and industry professionals. Students will study the business strategies of classic and contemporary artists to reveal how these musicians have navigated an increasingly complex and dynamic industry. Through case study analysis, students will deconstruct the careers of successful artists to show how the many parts of the music business complement and compete with one another. Overall, this course gives students the tools to negotiate the complex terrain of the domestic music market.
Course prerequisites: None

MUS 1xxx: Artist Discovery and Development

Instructor: Scott Guy

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 3

Course Catalog Description: Working in tandem with Repertoire and Hit Song Analysis, this class will provide a further introduction to A&R practice as students learn to find new acts and assess their commercial potential. While surveying the history and development of A&R from records to mp3s, students will learn how to approach unsigned acts and identify workable marketing angles for them; the class will also cover how to develop an act, build its fan base, and present it to a label for acquisition. Students will develop skills in targeted research, quality control, leadership, presentation/communication, and management.

Course prerequisites: None

MUS 1xxx: Income Streams

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 2
Term: Semester 3

Course Catalog Description: This class will focus on understanding the various ways in which an artist receives income from their music. This includes a survey of income streams such as record sales, touring, merchandise, endorsements, corporate sponsorship, licensing, etc. Students will additionally learn about long-term and short-term financial planning, cost-benefit analysis, forecasting, cash flow management, and other basic accounting practices to develop their ability to communicate with accountants, agents, banks, and third-party investors. Students will research the income streams of several established artists and present an analysis of the ways in which these streams contribute to the artists’ overall economic viability.

Course prerequisites: None
MUS 1xxx: Artist Deal Suite

Instructor: TBC
Location: DIME Detroit
Credit: 3
Term: Semester 5

Course Catalog Description: This course will familiarize students with a variety of deal and contract types, including those used for recording, touring, merchandising, sponsorship, licensing, sync as well as the infamous 360 deal. Students will learn to identify and negotiate the basic terms and conditions of these contracts, discerning between good and bad deals for potential artists. A range of legalese will be unpacked and deciphered with the goal of honing students’ ability to negotiate with lawyers, record executives, and other major stakeholders in the music industry. Students will undertake several case studies to identify potential deals for artists, explaining how they would negotiate them and highlighting potential sticking points and strategies for solutions.

Course prerequisites: None

MUS 1xxx: International Music Market

Instructor: TBC
Location: DIME Detroit
Credit: 3
Term: Semester 4

Course Catalog Description: Building on the Domestic Music Market, this course offers an overview of how principles learned in that class apply overseas. Students will learn how to break and establish artists outside of the US market; this will include an introduction to, and analysis of, the most relevant media outlets (TV, radio, web, festivals, venues, tours, etc.). This class explores the key similarities and differences between the US and non-US markets, including language barriers, legal challenges, marketing strategies, etc. We will also examine historical and current trends in various overseas markets and discuss how artists stay relevant over time and in different cultural contexts.

Course prerequisites: Domestic Music Market
MUS 2xxx: The Politics of A&R

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 5

Course Catalog Description: Building on Repertoire and Hit Song Analysis as well as Artist Discovery and Development, this course will examine more advanced concepts and practices in A&R. While digging deeper into the history of A&R and record labels, this class will focus more acutely on the backroom negotiations and deal making that has contributed to their success or failure. Particularly, students will investigate the psychology of performance, learning to persuasively present to an array of audiences: record executives, lawyers, artists, corporate partners, media outlets, recording engineers, producers, etc. Ultimately, students will gain the ability to navigate the complex politics between these various stakeholders in the contemporary music industry.

Course prerequisites: Repertoire and Hit Song Analysis; Artist Discovery and Development

MUS 2xxx: Self-Employment Skills

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 3

Course Catalog Description: This course will focus on how to start, operate, and expand your own independent music business, whether it’s a record label, talent agency, publicity firm, studio, or otherwise. Students will learn the basics of incorporating, tax law, record keeping, accounting, fundraising, human resources, promotions, and other essential components of running a successful business. This class will also include furthering students’ ability to work as a team and manage employees. Students will need to construct and present a business plan to show how it will be viable in the short and long term.

Course prerequisites: None
MUS 2xxx: Establishing an Artist

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 4

Course Catalog Description: Building on the A&R skills developed previously, students will focus on how to break new artists into the mainstream music industry. By examining a range of case studies, students will learn to expose an artist to multiple audiences and broaden their reach to various markets. This class will explore marketing strategies, networking, short and long term planning, problem solving, leadership, and other skills necessary to establish an artist in the contemporary music market.

Course prerequisites: Repertoire and Hit Song Analysis; Artist Discovery and Development; Domestic Music Market; International Music Market

MUS 2xxx: Live Tour Management

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 5

Course Catalog Description: In the current music industry live touring is often times the most important and lucrative component of an artist’s career. This class will examine the details of designing and managing a live tour at a local, national, and international scale. Students will learn how to logistically plan for various sizes of venues and lengths of outings as they gain skills in promotions, booking, budgeting, ticket sales, personnel management, and recruitment. Students will be required to understand the basic function of large and small road crews, including everything from set design to maintenance and transportation.

Course prerequisites: None
**MUS 3xxx: Fundamentals of Record Production**

**Instructor:** TBC  
**Location:** DIME Detroit  
**Credit:** 3  
**Term:** Semester 7

**Course Catalog Description:** This class will focus on the processes of moving from a finished arrangement in the rehearsal room to a master recording. Students will learn about selecting the appropriate songs, quality control, pre-production, choosing and working with a producer and engineer, goal setting, mixing, mastering, and the politics of the recording studio. Throughout the semester, students will analyze and discuss the production of iconic songs and albums, exploring its effects on the entire songwriting and creative process. Partnering with local studios, students will have an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a recording studio, working with industry producers and engineers to perform, conduct, mix, and master their own compositions.

**Course prerequisites:** None

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**MUS 3xxx: Managing an Established Act**

**Instructor:** TBC  
**Location:** DIME Detroit  
**Credit:** 3  
**Term:** Semester 6

**Course Catalog Description:** After learning about breaking and establishing an artist in previous semesters, this course will focus on how to sustain an artist’s career over the long term. Students will learn to navigate through changes in trends to ensure that their artists remain relevant in a dynamic environment. The class will cover maintaining existing audiences while attracting new ones through numerous marketing strategies. Students will also learn to re-brand and re-launch existing acts for new times, markets, and audiences. The course will examine a range of case studies, and require that students develop and present a plan to manage and elevate an existing act as well as re-imagine the career of an iconic artist who has fallen out of favor.

**Course prerequisites:** Repertoire and Hit Song Analysis; Artist Discovery and Development; Domestic Music Market; Income Streams; Artist Deal Suite; International Music Market; The Politics of A&R; Establishing an Artist; Live Tour Management
MUS 3xxx: Contract and Deal Negotiation

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3

Term: Semester 6

Course Catalog Description: This course will focus on the skills necessary to initiate and broker various types of contracts and/or deals related to the contemporary music industry, ranging from record deals and licensing agreements to corporate sponsorships or sync partnerships. While integrating theory and psychology into the class, students will spend a large portion of the semester practicing their negotiation skills in live role-playing exercises. Through such activities, students will gain the ability to draft deals/contracts with authority and complete mark-ups and final versions that balance artists’ aspirations, personal goals, and legal obligations.

Course prerequisites: Artist Deal Suite

MUS 3xxx: Publishing and Copyright

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3

Term: Semester 7

Course Catalog Description: This course will examine the processes of publishing songs, including the basics of how to navigate the complexities of state, national, and international copyright law. Students will examine the roles of a publisher in acquisition, marketing, and creative development. The course will also cover various types of publishing deals to familiarize students with their standard terms and conditions, as they learn to protect their rights as songwriters and artists. This class will also explore songwriting splits and how to negotiate a fair and equitable publishing deal. Students will additionally learn how to register their songs and take advantage of licensing and sync opportunities.

Course prerequisites: None
MUS 4xxx: Record Label Operations

Instructor: TBC
Location: DIME Detroit
Credit: 3
Term: Semester 7

Course Catalog Description: This class will take a comprehensive look at the day-to-day business of producing and selling music as it relates to record labels. While examining how to acquire and manage a roster of artists, this course will also focus on the big picture and long term planning that is needed to sustain such a business. Students will gain an understanding of how to establish and maintain distribution channels as well as the basics of the manufacturing process. Topics of discussion will also include: recording, scheduling, accounting, human resources, partnerships, office management, branding/marketing, promotions, and publishing/copyright/trademark as it relates to the operations of a record label. Students will analyze case studies of existing labels, but also propose ideas for establishing and running their own original record label(s).

Course prerequisites: None

MUS 4xxx: Event Production and Management

Instructor: TBC
Location: DIME Detroit
Credit: 4
Term: Semester 7

Course Catalog Description: This course will examine how to plan, produce, promote, and manage special events, from small club gigs and fundraisers to festival concerts and publicity tours. We will cover the basics of budgeting, organization, security, and personnel as well as design, catering, logistics, advertising, risk management, technology, HR/volunteer coordination, and sponsorship. To supplement in-class lectures and case study analysis, students will be required to attend and analyze several local events, as well as plan several types of events with a team.

Course prerequisites: None
MUS 4xxx: Industry Case Study Research

Instructor: TBC

Location: DIME Detroit

Credit: 3
Term: Semester 8

Course Catalog Description: This class examines the careers of numerous notable figures in the modern music industry, from John Hammond and Clive Davis to Berry Gordy and Ahmet Ertegun. This focus on a cross section of managers, producers, record executives, A&R gurus, and publicity giants will provide an intense, intimate, and in-depth insight into the lives and work of the industry’s top professionals. Students will be required to undertake extensive primary and secondary research on several notable music industry figures, drawing out lessons and developing models for their own careers.

Course prerequisites: All DIME Music Industry Core, semesters 1-7