

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

An explanatory note: This outline covers a fifteen-week course of study. Built into the schedule are both a fall break and Thanksgiving break, reducing the number of lessons to twenty-eight. The studies of more advanced meters, Chapters 17-19 are left to the second semester of instruction.

Unit One

Expressive Movement Developing Understanding and Awareness

Week 1a

• Introduction • So, what is conducting? • Some History & Principles • Aural Games • The Syllabus •
Read for next class: Chapters 1 & 2

Week 1b

• Movement Analysis – Body, Space, Shape & Effort • Principles of Expressive Movement • Shape Flow Support
• Aural Games •
Read for next class: Chapter 3

Week 2a

Structural Elements of Movement • Experiencing the Balancing Body • Perceptions of Balance and Range of
Motion • Center of Gravity • Aural Games •
Read for next class: Chapters 4 & 5

Week 2b

Balancing as an Active Process • Fluidity and Balancing • Tripods, Transformers and Stars • Defining the
Kinesphere • Creating an Available Conducting Stance • Aural Games • Topics •
Read for next class: Chapter 6

Week 3a

The Baton (You should have received your baton by this time.)
Fluid Movement Creates Even Flow • Shape Qualities Moving Through Three Planes •
Read for next class: Chapters 7 & 8

Week 3b

Exploring the Expressive Variable of Movement – Speed, Space & Weight • Changes in State • A Game of Catch •
Choosing, Holding and Using the Baton •
Read for 9/24: Chapter 10

Week 4a

Gesture Test I – Fundamentals of Movement

Unit Two

Shaping Sound Communicating with Specific Gestural Intent

Week 4b

• The “How-Now” Game • Effort Descriptors • The Bridge to Musical Connection • Cycle of Stimulus and
Response • Graphing Sound •
Choose Two Songs to Arrange as “Single Sound Song”
Read for next class: Chapter 11

Week 5a

• The BME Concept • Releases • Word Games: Creating Intensity, Contour and Timbre • The Single Sound Song •
Due: Integrity Check for Gesture Test I

Week 5b

Due: Single Sound Song arrangements (Written and Submitted Electronically)

- Keep a copy for practice. A *vividly intact* aural expectation is by nature memorized.
- Single Sound Songs • Student Practice & Workshop •

Week 6a

- Single Sound Songs • Student Practice & Workshop •
- Gesture Test II – Single Sound Songs***

Week 6b

Gesture Test II – Single Sound Songs

Week 7a

Gesture Test II – Single Sound Songs
Read for next class: Chapter 12
Choose Two Songs to Arrange (for Multiple Sounds)

Week 7b

- Flow Between Action Points • Active and Passive Gestures • Creating Change in Flow •
- Read for next class: Chapter 13***

Week 8a

- Deepening Musical Connections • Single Sounds to Multiple Sounds – Establishing Meaningful Connections • The Concepts of Contour and Contrast • Changes in State: Tempo, Articulation & Dynamics • Introducing 2s and 3s (Simple/Compound)

Due: Two single-line arrangements (Written and Submitted Electronically)

Keep a copy for practice. A *vividly intact* aural expectation is by nature memorized.

Week 8b

- Songs in Time • Student Practice •
- Reading: Ross – “The Conducting Focal Point”***
Read for next class: Chapter 14

Unit Three

Basic Beat Patterns and Beyond

Week 9a

- Beat Patterns as Expressive Element • Figure Eights • Angles & Arches • Patterns in Two, Three & Four • Simple Songs with Expressive Expectation using Patterns •
- Read for next class: Chapter 15***

Week 9b

Shape in Flow “I went to the store” • Hierarchy of Beats • Contrast & Contour • Applying Interpretation to Movement • In Search of 1 •

Read for Next Class: Chapter 20

Week 10a

- Impulse of Will • Preparations • Gesture of Syncopation • Fractional Beat Preparations •

Week 10b

Gesture Test III w/ Workshop – Songs in Time

Week 11a

Gesture Test III w/ Workshop – Songs in Time

Week 11b

Gesture Test III w/ Workshop – Songs in Time
Read for next class: Chapter 16
Choose Two Excerpts (Appendix 2) to Conduct for Gesture Test IV & V

Week 12a

- Expressive Tool for Shaping Sound •
- Read for next class: Chapters 9 & 21***

Unit Four

Connecting Movement and Score Study

Week 12b

Bring selected excerpts from here on

- Score Study & Musical Decision-Making • Cues in Flow •
In-Class Conducting Workshop (Score Excerpts)

Read for next class: Chapter 22

Week 13a

In-Class Conducting Workshop (Score Excerpts)

Week 13b

Gesture Test IV – Score Excerpts: Group A

Week 14a

Gesture Test IV – Score Excerpts: Group B

Week 14b

Gesture Test IV – Score Excerpts: Group C

FINAL EXAM

Gesture Test V – Score Excerpts: Groups A, B & C