

Strings – Arts Cluster Gr 9 (MST5A 10S)

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Course Description:

In this cluster of your Creative Arts course (1 of 4 clusters), we will focus on the highlights of the 4 main components to any music/arts curriculum: Making, Creating, Connecting, and Responding to music. This is a short cluster course where we will have a 5-week time together.

Music performance is a collaborative and supportive space where everyone is encouraged to participate, take creative risks, and step outside their comfort zones. Students will explore, practice and learning together and from one another. Respect for all perspectives and a safe classroom environment are essential. Active participation, positive collaboration, and a willingness to try are key to success in this course.

This course introduces and focuses students to the fundamentals of acoustic guitar playing while fostering musical literacy, creativity, and performance skills. It is designed for students with varying levels of experience (beginner to advanced) and aligns with the Manitoba Music Curriculum by incorporating elements of performance, theory, composition, and musical appreciation. By the end of this course, students will have gained a solid foundation in acoustic guitar technique, music theory, and performance, equipping them for further musical study or lifelong enjoyment of the instrument.

Course Objectives:

1. Develop fundamental guitar playing techniques, including posture, strumming, fingerpicking, and chord progressions.
2. Enhance musical literacy through the study of notation, tablature, rhythm, and chord symbols.
3. Explore diverse musical styles and cultural influences in acoustic guitar music.
4. Foster creativity through composition, improvisation, and collaborative projects.
5. Improve performance confidence through solo and ensemble playing.
6. Develop active listening skills and critical appreciation of acoustic guitar repertoire.

Implementation:

Students will alternate between two settings; one directed by the teacher and the other self-directed. The instructed classes will take place with students in the full setting, practicing and performing for the teacher to receive instruction on improving their musicality, and performance enhancement. During the self-directed classes, the students will be expected to use their time to practice on their individual parts, open mic selections & consult on song selection and work on individual research or reports.

Assessment and Evaluation:

Final marks will be determined based on live stage performances and completion of assignments as listed below. Grading for each section will be as follows:

- **Rich Performance Task** (Daily Performance rubric is attached) **50%**
 - A) Basic instrument care, maintenance, prep/tuning/playing procedures
 - B) Technique in methods/ exercises/ etc. (reading notation and performance skills)
 - C) Repertoire: 1) Canadian content 2) Acoustic Content 3) Teacher's choice 4) Own Choice
 - D) Repertoire: duet/ trio/ ensemble
 - E) Improvisation, Composition, Songwriting: class activity and assignments

The Daily Technique Demonstration in Performance rubric is attached.

- **Performance Demonstration (Final Product)** **50%**

You will participate in at least one public performance or recording project of one of your songs from the 4 categories, ensembles, or personal composition.

One or both of Mid-Semester and/or Semester End. There is no "make-up" performance or assignment for a missed concert.

Each 5-week course within your semester cluster is worth 25% of your overall grade. That means that the final mark you receive for Strings will be revalued at 25% and added to your other 3 courses.

Class Expectations:

1. To respect and encourage learning – yours and everyone else's.
2. To be prepared for each day's class by having complete assignments, study, etc.
3. To act with respect and caution with some tools and materials.
4. To participate in all activities – it's how you learn.
5. To learn when to ask for help – and then ask for it.
6. In other words, *Be Here, Work Hard, Follow Procedures!*

Class Set-up: To earn full marks all students enrolled in PA for the semester are expected to attend and help with class/concert set up doing a variety of work such as moving chairs and tables, moving equipment, helping with sound checks, etc.

Participation: It is imperative that students are available to perform. Performance is like the "final exam" in other courses.

Resources & Materials:

- Acoustic guitar (personal instrument – preferred, or provided)
- Method books & online resources (e.g., Hal Leonard, Ultimate Guitar, MuseScore)
- Tuning apps (e.g., GuitarTuna, Fender Tune)
- Recordings of professional guitarists for analysis
- Video tutorials and online play-along resources

Have a great quarter-semester in Strings!