



RC Music Program

SELECTED COURSES:

RCHUMS 250: Chamber Music

This course provides students who have at least intermediate level instrumental ability with the opportunity to participate in small instrumental ensembles such as duos, trios, quartets, or mixed string, piano, wind, and brass ensembles.

RCHUMS 251: Topics in Music History.

Topics may vary from 200 years of Popular Song in America, to Socialist-realist Music of the Soviet Union to Opera. Recent topics have included “Music, War, and Propaganda”, a look at 20th century manipulation of public opinion during wartime, “Women in Music”, a historical survey from medieval times to the present with women as composers, patronesses, and performers and “Social Issues in Musical Theater from 1945 to the Present”, dealing with, for example, the inter-cultural/racial issues in “West Side Story”.

RCHUMS 252: Improvisation

This course utilizes improvisation (not genre-specific) as the catalyst for creating and performing music. Throughout the term, students work on self-directed solo and group projects. Students must provide their own instruments, which may be acoustic, electric, found and/or vocal. Those using electric instruments will need to provide their own amplification. Laptops and turntables are also welcome.

RCHUMS 252: Afro-Cuban Drumming and Styles

This course teaches the basics of conga playing, clave and other percussion instruments associated with Afro-Cuban music.

RCHUMS 253: Choral Ensemble--Mixed Chorus

The RC Singers rehearse and perform four-part works from a variety of musical genres. The choir meets twice weekly. Vocal skills, sight-singing, basic musicianship and ensemble singing are stressed. No prerequisites, but a commitment to the group and musical growth within the term are required. No audition is necessary.

RCHUMS 350 & 351: Creative Musicianship and Lab

This music theory-composition course gives students the skills needed to create, notate, and understand music. It covers the three basic elements of music (rhythm, melody and harmony) through analytic listening and scoring progressively more complex compositions. Students create music in many different styles and idioms, using this opportunity for personal expression. The accompanying



Lab is designed to increase the reading, writing, sight-singing, listening, and analytic skills.

RCCORE 205, 305, & 405: Independent Studies in Music

This structure provides an opportunity for a student to learn a new instrument (e.g. an experienced drummer who begins piano for composition purposes), to learn to play an instrument for the first time, or to continue lessons at a more advanced level.

