EXPRESSIVE CULTURE: SOUND

Instructor: David Burrows (db1@nyu.edu)

Office hours: 3:30-4:30 Monday (Room 268 Waverly)

Preceptors: Joyce Hughes (jmh252@nyu.edu), Jesse Sklar (jessesklar@hotmail.com)

Lecture (in Silver 320):

MW 2:00-3:15

Preceptorials

007 (Sklar) Monday 12:30-1:45, Room 318 Silver
008 (Hughes) Tuesday 11:00-12:15, Room 318 Silver
009 (Sklar) Tuesday 2:00-3:15, Room 318 Silver
010 (Hughes) Wednesday 12:30-1:45, Room 318 Silver

Readings

Burrows, Sound, Speech, and Music (photocopy available at Unique)
Dobkin, Getting Opera (available at NYU Book Center)
Jazz 101

... and other readings to be announced

Listening: CDs and tapes on reserve at the Avery Fischer Center, Bobst Library.

Guest lecturers: Case Studies 2 and 3, Jazz and the Impact of Electricity

Final grade to be computed as follows:

Final exam 35%
Midterm 25%
Preceptorial 40%
SYLLABUS

I. What Does Music Do?

Music is a participative, processual modeling of the way we compose and regulate ourselves as living organisms over time - Going and stabilizing as foundational categories - Background reference schemes: mode, meter, forms, genre - Music’s various timespans (from note and phrase out to form) address different ranges of the bodymind from kinesthesia to cognition - Experience is culturally shaped, so naturally its musical modeling is also

January 27, 29, February 3, 5

II. The Role of Sound in Our Lives

Sound and the layout of our surroundings - Sound and vitality: sound is movement - Sound and connectedness: hearing is participation in movement - Ways we use sound to influence each other - Making sounds 1) the voice: one of the two ways we are present to each other - 2) musical instruments

February 10, 12, 19, 24, 26 (includes review for Midterm)

MIDTERM, March 3

III. Case Study 1: Opera

The ingredients of opera - Attendance at a performance of Carmen (tentative) - Opera and dance

March 5, 10, 12, 24, 26

IV. Case Study 2: Jazz

The ingredients of jazz - Improvisation as a broad category of behavior

March 31, April 2, 7, 9, 14, 16 (live jazz, in-class colloquium with performers)
V. Case Study 3: Electricity's Impact on Music, 1900 to the Present

Fixing and diffusing, polytopia and polytemporality: recording and radio - New resources: sampling and synthesis

April 21, 23, 28, 30, May 5 (includes review for Final)

FINAL