

The Composer's Tool-Kit

Lecture Sessions: Mondays 4:00-5:30pm (eastern time) via zoom

May 2023 Syllabus

Course Objective: The Composer's Tool-Kit is designed to provide the student with a broad exposure to the skills needed to be successful as a composer in the 21st century, including knowledge of traditional harmonic and formal ideas, computer notation software platforms, and digital audio workstations.

Supporting Materials: There are no textbooks or written materials required. We strongly suggest having access to notation software and a digital audio workstation, but it is not required.

Contact: Dr. R. Douglas Helvering – rdh@rdouglashelvering.com
John Franek – johnfranek192@gmail.com

Meeting Times:

- We will meet weekly during May 2023 via Zoom web-conference.
- Meeting Days: May 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29
- **Meeting time is 4:00pm eastern time**
- **Each class will last 90 minutes**

Class Structure:

- The class sessions will be interactive lectures via Zoom.
- There will be suggested homework projects throughout the course to provide practice and direct feedback

Prerequisites:

- There are no prerequisites to take this course. However, the student should be prepared for a college-level discussion of musical rudiments, harmony, and form.
- We strongly suggest having access to notation software and a digital audio workstation to get the most out of the course, but it is not required.
 - For Notation Software, we suggest Sibelius (paid).
 - MuseScore is a free/open-source alternative.
 - For Digital Audio Workstation, we suggest Logic or FL Studio (paid).
 - GarageBand (Mac) and Cakewalk (PC) are free/open-source alternatives.
 - Audacity is a free audio manipulation software that is also recommended.

Participation and Attendance:

- Each class will be recorded via the zoom app and provided back to the class. Attendance at the lectures is expected, but students will not be penalized for missing a session.

Cost and Perks:

- The course is offered via Dr. Helvering's Patreon site as a special tier
 - o The Tier is called The Composer's Toolkit
- The class/tier is capped at 20 students to ensure small class size and individual attention
- **The cost for the course is \$225, billed at the time of enrollment in the Patreon Tier**
 - o *If you would like to enroll outside of the Patreon platform, please email Doug*
- All students have full 'top tier' access to the Daily Doug library of videos, livestreams, and activity on Patreon.

Course Schedule:

- **Monday, May 1**
 - o Doug and John Co-Presenting
 - Discussion on getting the most color out of your compositions, including elements of Counterpoint, Harmony, Scale Patterns, Voicing and Inversions, Instrumentation
- **Monday, May 8**
 - o Doug & John Co-Presenting
 - Discussion on form and rhetoric in music and how to develop your own artistic voice, including elements of being your own inner critic, understanding the meaning and intention behind the notes
- **Monday, May 15**
 - o Doug Presenting
 - Discussion on using modern computer notation software to typeset and edit your music, including elements of Interface, Score Layout, Keyboard Shortcuts, Lyrics, Tips, Tricks, and Score Editing Techniques
- **Monday, May 22**
 - o John Presenting
 - Discussion on using a digital audio workstation to build your soundscapes and create recordings, including elements of: Mixing and Mastering, Recording, Producing
- **Monday, May 29**
 - o Doug and John Co-Presenting
 - Discussion on 'The Composer as a 21st century Job', including elements on acting as your own publicist, social media consultant, webmaster, business manager, and boss...including networking and being a well-rounded and informed citizen.