

HUMA 1102: Enjoyment of Classical Music

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
SHSS, Division of Humanities — Fall 2025

Instructor:	Ilari KAILA (kaila@ust.hk)
Office:	Shaw Auditorium, Rm. 205
Office hours:	Tuesday 11:00–1:30 PM, by appointment
Instructional Assistants:	Galison LAU (galisonlau@ust.hk)
Lectures:	Tue/Thu 4:30–5:50 PM
Location:	LT-L, Cheng Yu Tung Building (CYT)

Course description

HUMA 1102 is an introduction to the history and appreciation of Western art music, from the medieval era to the present day, with an emphasis on the period between the Late Middle Ages (14th century) and Romanticism (19th century). Using the last half a millennium of repertoire as its primary point of reference, the course aims to change the way the student hears and understands music. We will explore the foundations of music cognition and acoustics, look at works in their historical and political context, inspect the relationship of music to other art forms, learn analytical listening skills, and try to understand the creative operations and craftsmanship behind music-making. Prior knowledge of music or music theory is not required, and some basics of notation are covered in class.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

On successful completion of the course, the student will be able to

- demonstrate a deeper appreciation and understanding of Western classical music and its different historical phases;
- listen to music analytically, with an awareness of aspects such as style, genre, form, time period, and instrumentation;
- listen to music in general with the same sensitivity, regardless of style or tradition; and
- apply the knowledge and sensitivity assimilated in this class to other disciplines.

Required materials

Reading assignments will come mostly from *Listen* (7th Edition) by Kerman & Tomlinson, available at the campus bookstore, library, [and online](#). I will assign additional reading and listening from other sources. You will also have access to my PowerPoint slides on Canvas after each lecture, as well as video recordings of the lectures via HKUST's Remote Video Capture service.

Reading and listening assignments, quizzes

It is crucial that you complete all the reading and listening assignments; the lectures can only serve as *preparation* for your most important work, which is to spend time with the material. Reading quizzes constitute 25% of your final grade, and are aimed at making sure everyone is on track with the assigned texts and musical examples. In lieu of midterms and final examination, we will have two extended, cumulative quizzes: one mid-semester, and one at the end of the term, which together constitute another 25% of your final grade.

Term paper

HKUST's flagship arts initiative, the Cosmopolis Festival, is curated to add value to our music courses. Attendance in two Cosmopolis Festival concerts relevant to your music class, as well as two educational events of your choice, are mandatory.

The two recitals for HUMA 1102 are:

- October 24, 7:30 PM: Concert by the Pavel Haas Quartet (Czechia)

- November 8, 7:30 PM: Filippo Gorini (Italy) solo piano recital

Attendance is free, but you will need to register a seat. We will provide a registration link closer to the concert and HKUST students get preferential treatment for the first few days. The full Cosmopolis Festival season will be announced at the beginning of September. More information, including about educational events, will be released on the festival website: <https://cosmopolisfestival.hkust.edu.hk/>

Attendance and participation

Attendance at lectures, and participating in the class by answering and asking questions, are an important part of the course.

Grading

Quizzes on reading assignments	25%
Cumulative mid- and end-of-semester quiz	25% (12.5% each)
Term paper (concert report)	35%
Attendance & participation	15%

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Class schedule — Fall 2025

Date:	Lecture:	Topic:
Tue, Sep 2	Lecture 1	Introduction to the Course
Thu, Sep 4	Lecture 2	Fundamentals of Listening
Tue, Sep 9	Lecture 3	Overview of Western Music History, I
Thu, Sep 11	Lecture 4	Overview of Western Music History, II
Tue, Sep 16	Lecture 5	Rhythm and Rhythmic Notation
Thu, Sep 18	Lecture 6	Chronological topic I: Ars Nova (14th Century)
Tue, Sep 23	Lecture 7	Chronological topic II: The Renaissance
Thu, Sep 25	Lecture 8	Melody, Harmony, and Pitch Notation
Tue, Sept 30	Lecture 9	Counterpoint
Thu, Oct 2	Lecture 10	Chronological topic III: Early Baroque
Tue, Oct 7	<u>Public holiday, no class</u>	
Thu, Oct 9	Lecture 11	Evolution of Instruments
Tue, Oct 14	Lecture 12	Chronological topic IV: Late Baroque
Thu, Oct 16	Lecture 13	More on Baroque music (Chronological topic IV) Term Paper Guidelines
Tue, Oct 21	Lecture 14	Mid-Semester Cumulative Quiz
Thu, Oct 23	Lecture 15	Formal Structure
Tue, Oct 28	Lecture 16	Chronological topic V: Classicism
Thu, Oct 30	Lecture 17	Revolutions and Music
Tue, Nov 4	Lecture 18	Chronological topic VI: Romanticism, 1

Thu, Nov 6	Lecture 19	Song Throughout the Ages
Tue, Nov 11	Lecture 20	Chronological topic VI: Romanticism, 2
Thu, Nov 13	Lecture 21	Chronological topic VI: Romantic Opera
Tue, Nov 18	Lecture 22	Chronological topic VII: Early 20th Century
Thu, Nov 20	Lecture 23	Chronological topic VII: 20th and 21st centuries, 1
Tue, Nov 28	Lecture 24	Chronological topic VII: Catching up, review; What is classical music today?
Thu, Nov 30	Lecture 25	Extended end-of-semester quiz