



Aural Skills III (1 credit)

Fall 2025

Instructor: Prof. Samantha Brewer

Email: samantha.brewer@colostate.edu

Phone: (720)-445-0459

Office Hours: Thursdays at 12:00pm or by appointment via email, UCA 305A

Time and Location: TR 9:00-9:50 a.m., UCA 142

Catalog Course Description

Intermediate aural skills, including dictation of chromatic melodies; diatonic harmonic dictation with chromatic embellishments; rhythmic dictation in simple and compound meters; prepared singing and sight singing in new clefs.

Prerequisite: MU128

Course Type: Face-to-face

Course Objectives

By the end of the term, successful students will be able to:

1. Dictate melodies that imply modulations to closely related keys and include other chromatic inflections
2. Dictate and sing intervals, triad qualities, and all seventh chords in all inversions
3. Dictate and sing diatonic and chromatic progressions, noting soprano and bass pitches, solfège syllables, and Roman numeral analysis.
4. Dictate and perform rhythms in simple, compound, and asymmetrical meters
5. Sing diatonic and chromatic melodies, duets, and pitch patterns at sight and with advance preparation.

Course Materials

The following text is *required* material for this course.

Berkowitz, S., et al; *A New Approach to Sight Singing*, 7th Ed. W.W. Norton: 2024.

You are expected to have manuscript paper (available to download on Canvas), pencils, and erasers or a tablet on hand at all times. We will be continually working through materials in class, and you will be expected to actively participate in the process.

Evaluation

Sight-Singing Tests (4):	40%	
Dictation Tests (4):	40%	Last dictation test on Wednesday, December 17th: 6:20-8:20pm.
<u>Aural Assignments:</u>	<u>20%</u>	
Total:	100%	

Excessive absences override these percentages

Grades will be given with both a number and a corresponding letter. The following is the chart of letter/number equivalencies. Please note you must reach the number at the bottom of the chart in order to receive the corresponding letter. Final grades will not be rounded up.

A = 92-100	C+= 78-79
A-= 90-91	C = 70-77
B+=88-89	D = 60-69
B = 83-87	F = 0-59
B-= 80-82	

You must receive at least a C in the course to continue into MU228. Students receiving a grade lower than a C in the course may not continue until they have re-taken the course successfully (by achieving a grade of C or better). Music majors: You must also receive at least a C for this course to apply towards graduation.

Weekly Topics

Weeks 1-4: Review concepts from MU128; Melody: Tenor clef, less common meters, syncopation (Section II: Melodies 181-228); Progressions featuring tonicization and modulation to the dominant; Chord identification

Weeks 5-8: Melody: Chromatic NCTs, modulation to the dominant, use of Neapolitan and augmented sixth chords (Section II: Melodies 229-275); Progressions featuring mode mixture chords, secondary predominants, Neapolitan and augmented sixth chords; Chord identification, including augmented sixth chords

Weeks 9-12: Melody: Tonicization of any diatonic triad and modulation to other closely related keys (Section III: Melodies 288-339); Progressions featuring tonicization of any diatonic triad and modulation to any closely related key; chords in inversion

Weeks 13-16: Melody: Tonicization continued, modulation to keys outside of crks, mode mixture (Section III: Melodies 340-383); Progressions featuring mode mixture and chromatic mediants; chords in inversion; review

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code.

Please note the difference between collaborating with a colleague in the class and simply copying from one another. I recommend doing your own assignment first and then coming together to work on it. If you choose to work with another person, both parties will need to indicate that on the top of your homework assignment.

Student, Faculty, and Staff Health and Safety Information

The School of Music, Theatre and Dance and Department of music are very concerned about the safety and health of our students, faculty and staff. As you receive instruction in applied lessons, classes, and rehearsals, instructors will provide basic information regarding the maintenance of hearing, vocal, and musculoskeletal health and injury prevention. Non-music major students enrolled in ensembles and music appreciation courses should be aware of possible hearing loss related to loud volumes of music, especially listening to headphones at excessive levels. Student are requested to immediately report any physical discomfort or injury related to their instrument to their applied faculty and ensemble directors so that that student's learning plan may be adjusted to best overcome those challenges. Students are encouraged to supplement information obtained in their lessons, masterclasses, and guest lectures regarding performing artist health and safety issues by utilizing some of the resources listed at <https://music.colostate.edu/safety-and-health/>. Additionally, SMTD students are encouraged to take advantage of the Performing Arts Medicine Association (PAMA) in order to obtain information about local resources available.