Syllabus for Organ Lessons January 2005

MU310 – Spring 2005

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Course description: Private organ lessons. Curriculum will be determined for each student individually based on their previous experience and current ability.

Lesson Policy: Each student receives 13 lessons during the school term, with each lesson lasting 45 minutes. Please be on time for your lesson and ready to play, with organ shoes on. If you arrive early and the organ studio is unoccupied, feel free to warm up on the instrument before your lesson. The organ in Room 227 is also available for practice before a lesson or any other time. If you must miss a lesson kindly give 24 hours notice for an excused absence. You may call me on my cell phone at 610.248-3882 or leave a message with the music secretary 610.861-1650. Any lesson that I must cancel will be rescheduled for later in the term. For commuter students who miss lessons due to bad weather, these lessons will be made up if the National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Warning, Heavy Snow Warning, or Traveler’s Advisory.

Grading: Your grade will be based primarily on how well prepared you come to each lesson and how well you have applied the instruction of previous lessons to new musical problems. Students will be graded weekly on a rubrics sheet which they will sign. You are also expected to perform for each of the three Master Classes scheduled during the term. Organ majors in their second term (or later) of instruction with me must perform once in Performance Class on Tuesday mornings at 11:30am. This performance must include at least three minutes of musical material. All organ majors must also play a jury during Final Exam week, and their performance will include 1-2 selections from a variety of styles and composers, not to exceed 8 minutes in length.

Organ Master Class: In order to expand your knowledge of organ literature and provide you with necessary performing experience, three organ master classes have been scheduled this term for February 24, April 7 and April 28, all on Thursdays at 12:00pm in the Organ Studio. Every student studying organ must play a selection at each class. You may include previously learned pieces, pedal scales, hymns, new pieces, etc. The purpose is to gain confidence and experience while performing at the organ and to hear and listen to music other students are working on. These classes also have the added benefit of building a certain “esprit de corps” among all the organ students.

Practicing: Students should spend the majority of their practice time on the Hartman-Beaty tracker organ in the Organ Studio, Room 322. This instrument offers the most sensitive response and full bodied sound for your performance. An electro-pneumatic Moller organ is also available for practice in Room 227. Sign up sheets for practice will
be posted outside these two organ rooms and students should reserve time on the organs as soon as possible. Recommended daily practice time for students includes the following: Organ Performance Major: 3-4 hours; Music Education Major with Organ as the primary instrument: 2-3 hours; B.A. degree with Music Major and organ as the primary instrument, 2 hours; all degrees with organ as the secondary instrument, 1-2 hours.