MUS 310.x Music Major Private Lessons
MUS 200.x, and MUS 100.x
MUS 375.x Recital

Spring 2005

Alison Gillespie, Celtic Fiddle
Studio #103, Single Brethren's House
Wednesdays (1:45 to 9 p.m.), Thursdays (9:15 am to 1:15 pm).

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Overall goals of course: To gain a fundamental appreciation and understanding of the elements which lend Celtic fiddle music its distinctive sound, and to build a basic repertoire of Irish and Scottish fiddle dance tunes geared toward the individual student’s level of proficiency.

Specific objectives for Celtic Fiddle Majors:
- Perform a Performance Class piece (except for first-term with instructor)
- Perform a Jury Piece at completion of semester
- BM Performance: Junior half recital; senior full recital
- BM Music Education: Senior half recital
- BA Music: Optional
- Recital notes

Perform Etudes
Perform Scales: all major and minor scales up to four flats and four sharps, two octaves, plus chromatic G to G, three octaves.

General objectives for all students:
- Learn traditional fiddle tunes by ear, in keeping with the oral tradition of Celtic music, as well as through written music.
- Learn the unique ornamentation and bowing styles commonly used in Celtic fiddling.
- Learn to distinguish the many forms of Irish and Scottish dance music, including jigs, reels, hornpipes, and strathspeys, as well as slow airs.
- Listen to recordings of Celtic fiddling, and if student’s schedule permits, participate in a local “Irish music session” and/or local Celtic fiddle competition for performance and ensemble experience.
- Perform etudes, scales, arpeggios, and bowing exercises to develop the student’s technique, intonation and tone.

Required texts: Mel Bay’s Complete Irish Fiddler by Peter Cooper. Additional tune collections and/or tutorials and etude books will be required depending on the playing level of the student.
Required Materials:
Violin and bow in good working order; an extra set of strings, rosin, shoulder rest, small tape recorder and blank cassette tape; notebook; pencil.

Attendance Policy:
If you are five minutes or more late to a lesson, your grade for the day will drop 10 percentage points, or the equivalent of one letter grade. You may miss a lesson once for sickness. A doctor’s note is required for subsequent absences. An unexcused missed lesson will result in an automatic 0 lesson grade for that day. If you are not planning to come to your lesson you must contact me by phone or be visiting my studio at least one hour before the scheduled start of the lesson.

Grading: Each student will be evaluated on their understanding of and incorporation of Celtic fiddling elements into their performance, and on their overall progress in instrumental technique. They may also be asked to participate in a fiddle competition for a performance grade, and/or attend a local Irish music session or a Celtic Music concert.

1 Major lesson (75%) & 1 Large Ensemble (25%)
1 Major lesson (50%), all other lessons (25%), & 1 Large Ensemble (25%)
Concert attendance and juries raise, lower, or keep the final grade.
Note: Music Majors attend 10 concerts and all performance classes per term;
Music Minors attend a combination of 8 concerts and performance classes.

Additional Notes: Students can expect to work six hours per week outside of class preparing for this course.

Students who believe they need special accommodations in this class are encouraged to register documentation of that disability with the Learning Services Office so that accommodations can be implemented in a timely fashion.