MU310 -- Spring, 2010

Artist/Lecturer: Lou Carol Fix
Studio: Music Building, Organ Studio-Room 322, and Room 227, Church St. campus
Cell phone: 610.248-3882, Music Office: 610.861-1650
E-mail: LCFix@moravian.edu
Office hours: by appointment

Course description: Private organ lessons. Curriculum will be determined for each student individually based on their previous experience and current ability. Most students study a variety of repertoire from different historical eras (pre-Bach, early Baroque to Contemporary 21st-century music and different styles (North and Central German early Baroque, French Classical, Italian Baroque, Bach and his contemporaries, 18th-century English voluntaries, 19th-century German, French and Belgian repertoire, 20th-century German Neo-Baroque, French Romantic and contemporary American organ music). Lessons also include instruction in hymn playing, improvisation, sight-reading, pedal technique, accompanying and conducting from the console.


…plus a hymnal from a mainline denomination. Specific and selected organ music to be determined at first lesson.

Lesson Policy: Each student receives 13 lessons (12 for majors – the final jury is the 13th lesson) during the school term, with each lesson lasting 45 minutes. If the college has a holiday on your lesson day, that lesson will not occur for college students. Please be on time for your lesson and ready to play, with organ shoes on. Habitual lateness will lower your grade, as will unexcused absences. If you arrive early and the organ studio is unoccupied, feel free to warm up on the instrument before your lesson. If you must miss a lesson kindly give 24 hours notice for an excused absence. You may call me on my cell phone or leave a message with the music secretary, Rose. 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 at each lesson. You are also expected to perform for each of the two 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 a Tuesday morning. 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.

Attendance: 20%
(3 late arrivals reduces this part by 1/3 letter grade; each unexcused absence also reduces this part by 1/3 letter grade).

Lesson preparation: 40%
(60% for non-majors)

Performance in 2 Master classes: 20%

Performance in Performance class and Final Jury (majors only): 20%

Organ Master Class: In order to expand your knowledge or organ literature and provide you with necessary performing experience, two organ Master classes will be scheduled each term. We will use either the Hartman-Beaty organ in room 322 or the Möller organ in room 227. We may occasionally use the Möller organ in Central Moravian Church. 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 and expand your knowledge of organ repertoire.

Master classes will be scheduled for the weeks of March 1 and April 19.

Practicing: Students should spend the majority of their practice time on the Hartman-Beaty tracker organ in room 322, next to the Music Library. This instrument offers the most sensitive response and full-bodied sound for your performance. Sign up sheets for practice will be posted outside and students should reserve time on the organ 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.

All organ students are strongly encouraged to secure a part-time job playing the organ at a local church to gain experience in performing and accompanying. Current job listings are posted on the 1st floor bulletin board in the Music building.