**EARLY MUSIC ENSEMBLE**

**MUS 80a (2 credits)**  
**MUS 80a XC (no credit)**  

Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30 pm, Slosberg Concert Hall  
Prof. Sarah Mead, director  
Slosberg 229; email: mead@brandeis.edu; text: (508) 333-6148  
Office Hours: Wed. 1 - 3 (drop-ins); Thurs. 1 - 3 (by appointment)

*All students are encouraged to enroll for credit, unless they have exceeded their limit (see below for details). Students in the XC section are expected to fulfill all of the same obligations required of the for-credit section.*

**Course Description:**  
Early Music Ensemble examines the performance of music written before 1700 through hands-on participation. A large collection of historical instruments is available for student use and instruction. The class provides solo, ensemble, and one-on-a-part opportunities.

Open to singers and instrumentalists interested in learning about the historical ancestors of their modern instruments. Instrumental and/or vocal experience and competency in sight-reading required.

**Course Goals:**  
- To provide an understanding of the roots of Western music through hands-on experience of repertoire from the 15th-17th centuries.  
- To gain further insight into this music through exposure to period instruments, original notation, historical terminology, and ear-training.  
- To enhance the student's level of playing and understanding through repertoire study and performances before faculty, peers and the public.

**Course Objectives:**  
Through coached rehearsals and private practice, the student will develop and be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

- To play or sing in tune with others, with rhythmic accuracy  
- To listen for and imitate phrasing within the ensemble  
- To recognize and understand the notation and its musical implications  
- To communicate musical intention effectively within the group  
- To demonstrate independence of line in a polyphonic setting  
- To take personal responsibility for preparing for each rehearsal and performance  
- To present a professional attitude towards attendance, promptness, cooperation, and behavior

**Time Commitment:**  
- The Ensemble meets together for 3 hours weekly  
- Additional small-group rehearsals and individual coachings are scheduled as needed  
- **NOTE** that success in this 2 credit-hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 4.5 hours of study time per week in addition to the weekly scheduled rehearsals, in preparation for class (private & group practice, reading, extra coaching)

**Principal Resource Materials:**  
- The director will choose music related to the semester's theme, based on the skills and abilities of the participating students.  
- Music will be provided in either modern editions or original notation (or both)  
- Students must keep their music in a dedicated binder, and bring it (along with a pencil) to each meeting
Credit:
• All Music Department Ensembles are offered on a Credit/No-Credit basis
• One semester of ensemble is worth ½ course credit (2 credit hours)
• A maximum of 4 course credits (16 credit-hours) may be taken in ensemble and/or lessons (This means you can take an ensemble for 8 semesters for credit, or an ensemble and lessons together for 4 semesters for credit)
• After 4 course credits have been earned, you should register in the XC section

Creative Arts elective requirement:
• Two semesters of ensemble or one semester of private lessons plus the co-requisite ensemble satisfy the Creative Arts requirement for a music degree.
• Since two half-credit courses are required in this instance, you should contact the Registrar directly in order to count lessons/ensemble for Creative Arts credit.

Absences:
• Each student is allowed one unexcused absence per semester
• For any anticipated absence, students must contact the director (by phone, text, or email) at least 24 hours prior to the rehearsal (in an emergency, contact as soon as possible)
• Students who are unable to participate due to illness (but are not confined to bed) should attend class, listening and taking notes from the audience seats
• Missing two rehearsals or the concert will result in No Credit for the term.

Schedule, Fall 2017:
• "Brandeis Days" do not apply to evening ensemble rehearsals.
• Class WILL MEET on Wednesday, October 11th (even though it is deemed a "Brandeis Thursday")
• Because of the Thanksgiving Holiday, there will be no class on Wednesday, November 22; plan on additional pre-concert make-up rehearsals to be scheduled the weeks of 11/20 and 11/27
• Please note the date of the Fall Semester Concert in your calendars:

  SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017 - 3:00 pm

Notes on attendance:
• You should not schedule music lessons, meetings with faculty members, club or other organization meetings, make-up classes or exams, registration, doctor/dental appointments, job interviews, or any personal obligations during rehearsal times
• Unavoidable emergencies will be handled on an individual basis.
• Absences for the following reasons are considered EXCUSED:
  Institutional excuses given five days in advance
  Extended illness with doctor’s verification
  Religious observances (with prior notice)
  Death in the immediate family