

# MUSIC 3

## American Music

Summer 2012

Professor Theodore Levin  
Office Hours: by appointment

### Course Description

This special summer offering of “American Music” will address one of the core aspects of music in America—and indeed, of music in all nations and cultures: the role of music in community. Using an ethnographic approach, and drawing on the cultural resources of northern New England, class members will investigate how musical activities contribute—and have contributed in the past—to communities organized around beliefs, practices, and identities expressed through religion, spirituality, ethnicity, cultural interest, and personal taste. Course work will include reading, listening, and writing assignments as well as visits to community music activities. Each class member will participate in a small-group project to produce an ethnographic account of music’s role in a particular living community.

### Course Requirements

- Regular class attendance (see attendance policy below)
- Timely completion of listening and reading assignments.
- Submission of all written work in accordance with the deadlines stated in the syllabus; late submissions may be subject to grading penalties.
- Participation in a minimum of 7 of the following 10 off-campus activities:
  - Shape-note sing in Sunderland, MA (Saturday, June 30, morning and first part of afternoon)
  - Community Dance, Peacham, VT (Tuesday, July 3, evening)
  - Contra Dance, Nelson, NH (Monday, 9 July or 16 July, evening)
  - Village Harmony concert, Strafford, VT, (Tuesday July 10, 7:30 PM)
  - Shaker Museum, Enfield, NH (Tuesday, July 17, morning)
  - Cracker Barrel Fiddler’s Contest, Newbury, VT (Friday, July 20, evening)
  - Michèle Choinière concert of Franco-American folk music, Fairfax, VT (Wed. July 25, evening)
  - Weston Priory, Weston, VT (Tuesday, July 31, morning and first part of afternoon)
  - Fiddling jam session, Monday, (Monday, Aug. 6, Norwich, VT, evening)
  - Northern New Hampshire Arts Alliance (Tues., Aug. 7, Bethlehem, NH and vicinity, morning)
  - Opera North: “The King and I,” Lebanon, NH (Wednesday, Aug. 8, 7:30 pm)

### Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is essential and expected. The only excused absences from class are in the event of illness or a family emergency (if you are absent for one of these reasons, please ask your dean or a health services professional to email me confirming the reason for your absence). Attendance will be taken at random times throughout the term. Unexcused absence from class will affect the class participation component of your course grade.

### Course Materials

Reading Assignments: posted on Course Reserves or available on the Internet

Listening Assignments: available in audio streaming format on Course Reserves under the title indicated in the syllabus.

### Grading

Course grades will be calculated on the basis of the assignments and percentages listed below. Criteria for grading are those stated in the ORC.

4 ethnographic vignettes based on fieldwork trips @ 15%

Final music ethnography project: 30%

Class participation: 10% (attendance 5%, participation 5%)

All grading is numerical. Numerical totals will be converted to letter grades at the end of the term according to the following scheme:

95-100: A	83-86: B	73-76: C	63-66: D
90-94: A-	80-82: B-	70-72: C-	60-62: D-
87-89: B+	77-79: C+	67-69: D+	0-59: F

### **Laptop Computers in Class**

Please refrain from using laptop computers during class meetings.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students who may require special arrangements for completing assignments on account of a documented disability are invited to discuss their needs with the course instructor.

### **Music 3 and the Honor Code**

The Dartmouth Honor Code applies to your conduct in this course. In particular, written work submitted for grading is presumed to be your own except in the case of the group Music Ethnography project. For all writing assignments you are welcome to show a draft of your work to other Dartmouth students for critique as long as the writing is your own, both in the initial and final draft. In a footnote or Acknowledgments section, please note the name of anyone who has offered advice or critique, just as would be done in a scholarly article or book.

### **Distributive and World Culture Requirement**

This course satisfies the ART Distributive Requirement and the W (Western Cultures) World Culture Requirement. Music 3 cannot be used to satisfy other Distributive or World Culture requirements.

### **Learning Goals for the Course**

- Develop a broad familiarity with the musical geography of Northern New England
- Learn about how music serves as a building block of community
- Develop a more sophisticated and precise vocabulary in which to speak about music
- Improve skills in critical writing
- Challenge yourself to step outside your own cultural conditioning to hear sound and music through the ears of listeners from other times and places

# Course Syllabus

(Reading and listening assignments are listed under the date on which the material will be discussed)

21 June            Introductory session: “Studying” Music  
Thursday

26 June            The Origins of American Music  
Tuesday

Reading: Charles Hamm, *Music in the New World*, Chapter 2: “Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs in the Colonies” (24-46)  
[available on Course Reserves and Paddock Music Library reserve shelf]

28 June            Shape note singing

Thursday      Guest musician: Tim Eriksen  
                 Reading: Look at Wikipedia article "Shape note"

**\*\*\* Saturday, 30 June: fieldtrip to Shape Note Sing in Sunderland, MA.**

3 July            New England contra-dancing and square dancing  
Tuesday        Guest presenter: David Millstone (dance caller and dance historian)

**\*\*\*\* Tuesday, July 3: Peacham, VT: community dance called by David Millstone**

5 July            New England contra-dancing and square dancing  
Thursday       Guest presenter: David Millstone

10 July          "World Music" as Community Singing: Village Harmony  
Tuesday        Carl Linich, Suzannah Park (tentative)

**\*\*\*\*\* Tuesday, July 10, 7:30 PM: Village Harmony concert: Strafford, VT**

12 July          Arts and Community in the Upper Valley  
Thursday       Guest presenter: Margaret Lawrence, Director of Programing, Hopkins Center  
                 for the Arts  
                 Discussion of group ethnography projects

**\*\*\*\* Monday, July 16: Nelson, NH contra-dance**

17 July          Music of the Shakers: visit to Enfield Shaker Museum  
Tuesday        Guest presenter: Mary Ann Haagen

19 July          Music of the Shakers (continued)  
Thursday

Reading: Daniel Patterson, *The Shaker spiritual* (excerpts)

Listening: "I am Filled with Heavenly Treasures"/The Enfield Shaker Singers  
(M2131.S4 E64 2004)

"Early Shaker Spirituals" (M2131.S4 E37 1996): "Tis the gift to be simple"  
Aaron Copland, "Appalachian Spring"

**\*\*\*\* Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>: Cracker Barrel Fiddler's Contest, Newbury, VT, 7:00 PM**

24 July          Michele Choinière: Franco-American Music from Northern New England  
Tuesday  
                 Reading and listening: *Mademoiselle, voulez-vous dancier?*: Franco-American  
                 Music from the New England Borderlands, Smithsonian Folkways CD

**\*\*\*\* 25 July: Michele Choinière: Fairfax VT concert, 7:30 PM**

26 July          Music and Monastic Communities  
Thursday       Reading: Willi Apel, *Gregorian Chant*, pp. 6-32

David Hiley, *Western Plainchant: A Handbook*, Chapter 1: "Plainchant in the Liturgy," pp. 1-30.

Familiarize yourself with the Rule of St. Benedict

31 July  
Tuesday      Visit to Weston Priory, Weston Vermont  
Presentation by Brother Michael

2 August  
Thursday     Folk Music and Community  
Guest Presenter: Tim Eriksen

\*\*\*\* Monday, 6 August: fiddling jam session, Norwich, VT, 7:00 pm

7 August  
Tuesday      Art and Community Revitalization in Northern New Hampshire  
Guest Presenter: Frumie Selchen, Executive Director, The Arts Alliance of  
Northern New Hampshire

Note: This class meeting will take place "on site" in several communities in  
northern New Hampshire where the Arts Alliance is engaged in projects.  
Please be prepared for departure from campus at 7:00 AM. Return to campus  
will be no later than 12:00 PM.

\*\*\*\*\* Wednesday, 8 August: "The King and I," Opera North

9 August  
Thursday     Community Opera: Opera North  
Visiting presenter: Louis Burkot, Artistic Director, Opera North

14 August  
Tuesday      Group presentations of fieldwork projects

16 August  
Thursday     Group presentations of fieldwork projects

21 August  
Tuesday      Group presentations of fieldwork projects