<u>Composition Project for Music 11 Fall 2019</u>

Due date: December 6, 2019

The project: Compose a piece of music at least 16 measures or 4 phrases in length. Your composition will contain a melody and accompanying harmony written in standard notation, and Roman Numeral analysis below. The coordination between the melody and harmony should reflect an understanding the various rules of composition learned throughout the quarter – this may include Classical styles, folk tunes, and/or pop music.

As a capstone project, this composition is an opportunity for you to get creative while demonstrating the skills and knowledge gained from the class. The following instructions and rubric will help you write a high-scoring composition. Please also feel free to take liberties in other areas to make the piece *yours*.

1. The <u>melody</u>: Must be demonstrably tonal, must be mostly consonant with the harmony, and must have correctly notated rhythms.
    a. Guidelines for writing an A-level melody
        i. Choose a starting pitch on $\hat{1}$ or $\hat{5}$, and end on $\hat{1}$. [4 points]
        ii. Each downbeat should use a pitch from the triadic harmony, unless tied over a barline. [16 points]
        iii. The melodic intervals are mostly seconds and thirds with the occasional leap (4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th) for variety and interest. [12 points]
        iv. Key signature [2 points]
    b. Some suggestions and challenges to try
        i. Use syncopation to give it interesting rhythm
        ii. Use lyrics, and notate with the words' natural rhythm
        iii. Use contrasting phrases
2. The <u>harmony</u>: Must begin on a I chord, must end on a fitting cadence (PAC or DC for Classical, PC or PAC for pop or folk), and use triadic harmony.

    a. Guidelines for writing A-level harmony

        i. The overall piece must begin and end on a tonic chord in root position [8 points]

        ii. Move at a rate of one or two chords per measure [14 points]

        iii. Each chord must be an identifiable triad or dominant seventh [16 points]

            1. If the piece is in a minor key, there must be the appropriate accidentals for harmonic minor, and the Roman Numeral should reflect the correct quality.

        iv. Each chord must make sense in the stylistic context. For instance, in Classical music IV or vi generally move to a V to prepare an authentic cadence, whereas in pop songs a V may move to a IV or vi to prepare a plagal cadence [4 points]

    b. Some suggestions and challenges

        i. Use inversions

        ii. Use an interesting rhythm instead of a held 'block chord' ("comping")

        iii. Arpeggiate the chords

3. The <u>rhythm</u>: All notes in the melody and harmony must use correctly notated rhythms; the time signature must be one we have discussed in class.

    a. Correct notation of rhythms (beaming, stems, rests, ties, etc.) [32 points]

    b. Rhythms should be performable. [4 points]

    c. Time signature [2 points]

4. The <u>Roman Numerals</u>: Each measure must have a Roman Numeral for the chord (or the most prominent chord, if there is more than one) of each measure.

    a. Roman Numerals must use the proper capitalization and symbols. [16 points]

    b. Roman Numerals must use the appropriate numbers to indicate inversions. [16 points]

c. You must label each cadence. There should be no fewer than two cadences (4 is average, for four 4-bar phrases) in the entire piece. Based on what we cover in this class, the options are: PAC (V7-I), IAC (V7-I6), DC (V7-vi), HC (x – V), and PC (IV-I). [6 points]

5. Short essay: In 3-5 sentences, describe the essential features of your piece. State your chosen style, how/why your chose your key signature or time signature, or if your piece has any special inspiration or meaning behind it. [10 points]

Total points: 162

The composition should be written neatly or typed using a notation software.

If it is handwritten, it must be in pencil. Ensure your work is legible so your TA can grade it fairly.

If it is written with software, there may be no handwritten elements added after printing. Tip: input the Roman Numerals with the lyrics function.

Some common notation software: MuseScore, Denemo, Sibelius, Finale. The first two are free, the second two have free trial versions available.