

Saint Louis Christian College  
PWM231 Sight Singing and Ear Training  
1 Credit Hour

Instructor: Kelly Stinnett  
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Fall 2014  
Class days TBD  
Class times TBD  
Prerequisite: Music Theory I

### **Mission Statement**

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.

### **Course Description**

PWM 231 is designed to develop aural skills by utilizing sight-singing, melodic dictation, assigned listening, and aural recognition.

### **Course Rationale**

Sight-singing and ear-training are vital parts of the music education process and are an important accompaniment to music theory courses. Worship leaders and musicians must be able to not just read music, but sight-sing or play, pick out harmonies, and create lead sheets by ear.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Sight-sing and recognize major and minor intervals as well as simple melodies.
2. Repeat and transcribe dictated melodies.
3. Recognize major and minor chords and identify with Roman numerals.
4. Pick out incorrect notes from a melody.

### **Course Expectations**

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is expected of all students. There will be no make up quizzes; therefore every absence results in a 0 quiz grade. In accordance with the SLCC Student Handbook, you will be withdrawn from the class after missing the 5<sup>th</sup> class hour.

**Timely Work:** Homework is due by the end of the class day. If you will be absent or need to turn your work in after class time, you may submit your work by another student, by email, or by campus mail. If you are submitting your work after class time, you may scan your homework and send it in an email. Please do not send pictures or JPGs of your work. No work will be accepted past the calendar day it is due.

**Practice:** To become a good sight-singer, one must practice sight-singing. It is a skill that can be developed, but you will need to put the time in to develop the skill. Students who spend time practicing will no doubt see the payoff for their work reflected in their grade for the course.

## Course Assessment

**Class Participation:** Sight-singing can be scary in front of an audience, but this is a necessary component of this class. Plan to be an active participant in every class to get all of your participation points. This includes singing when called upon and sharing your transcriptions of given dictations.

**Listening Assignments:** Listening to and analyzing music is vital to developing aural skills. Students will complete weekly listening assignments to be turned in via email.

### Projects:

- **Harmonizing Project:** For this project, you will be assigned a worship song that you will need to vocally harmonize with. Your harmony can be higher or lower than the melody, but should avoid including any melody notes. This project should be recorded electronically – a clear cell phone recording works.
- **Transcription Project 1:** You will be given a short recording of a piece in two parts. You will transcribe the parts on staff paper – one part in the treble clef and one part in the bass.
- **Transcription Project 2:** You will be assigned a worship song to listen to and transcribe. Write out the melody on staff paper and harmonize the piece with chords, drawing upon your knowledge from Theory I & II. Create a lead sheet using your melody and chords. We will perform these songs the final class session. You may play the melody or sing the melody and accompany yourself on piano or guitar for the final product, but you must write the melody out.

**Tests:** There will be four tests given throughout the semester. The lowest test score will be dropped. These tests are to be considered cumulative and may include material from previously tested sections. Each test will consist of melodic and rhythmic dictation as well as other listening test questions.

**Sight-singing Proficiency Exams:** Each student will demonstrate proficiency in mastering sight-singing skills listed in the course objectives section of the syllabus. These will be given one-on-one in a 15-minute session scheduled outside of class. Sign-ups will be taken for time slots via email.

**Final Exam:** A final comprehensive exam will be given the week of December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Assignment	% of Final Grade
Class Participation	10%
Listening Assignments	10%
Projects	20%
Tests	20%
Sight-singing Proficiency	20%
Final Exam	20%
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Total	100%

## Course Schedule

- There will be no class on September 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>; October 2<sup>nd</sup> or October 8<sup>th</sup>; or November 25<sup>th</sup> or November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- A full schedule will be made available no later than the third class period.

## Classroom Policies

- No electronic devices are to be seen or heard in class.
- Show respect to other students, the instructor, and any class visitors. Refrain from side conversations when someone else has the floor. If you must leave class early, please let the instructor know at the beginning of class.
- Students are responsible for completing their own work. Turning in work that is not your own will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade in this course.
- Come prepared for class by doing your reading and homework in advance. **Homework should be done in pencil so that corrections can be made.** For class, you should bring your book, blank staff paper, and note taking materials.
- Although the instructor does not have set office hours, please feel free to ask for help. Professor Stinnett is on campus Wednesdays and Fridays and will be happy to meet with you one of those days if you need assistance with an assignment.
- If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please see the Director of The Hundred (Center for Student Success) to discuss strategies that would enhance your ability to learn. The professor cannot implement any special accommodations without authorization from The Hundred.

## Course Textbooks and Recommended Resources

### Required Text:

Beck, Andy, Karen Farnum Surmani, and Brian Lewis. *Sing at First Sight, Book 1*. USA: Alfred Music, 2003.