

Deborah Dunham
Adjunct Professor of Double Bass and Chamber Music
Studio 101.3
936-294-3484 (o)
617-699-6994 (c)
ddunham@shsu.edu
Sam Houston State University
School of Music

String Bass Instruction:

Ind Performances-Strg Bass – 22992 – STBS 3201 - 02

Ind Performances-Strg Bass – 22990 – STBS 1201 - 02

The student participating in String Bass Individual Performance Lessons at Sam Houston State University receives an assessment of his or her technical and musical skill at the beginning of each semester. Personal performance goals are set, and a strategy is built to accommodate optimal progress. Twice more during the semester, the student is assessed via a midterm audition and a mock jury, both designed to prepare the student for the final semester jury.

Studies are comprehensive and require the student to work through repertoire chronologically. These studies build technical vocabulary and skill while providing an historic through-line and perspective: This also enables the student to move more adeptly between musical genres and musical styles upon graduation, whether in performance or teaching music or both.

Expectations of the Student

Over the 15 weeks of a semester the student is expected to prepare for, attend and play for all Lessons, Studio Classes, a Recital or a Jury at the end of the semester.

Lessons

The student is required to attend all scheduled private lessons over the course of the semester.

All assigned materials before the next lesson, as agreed upon in the previous lesson, are to be well prepared.

[Arrangements are made ahead of time to make up a lesson should a lesson need to be missed. However, the instructor is NOT required to make up a lesson if the student fails to appear or does not make arrangements in advance for an alternate session.]

The student is to arrive on time and present his “studied” lesson in a professional manner. It is up to the student to determine how many hours of practice are required for sufficient preparation. (It is recommended that a student practice privately from 2-4 hours a day, depending on workload and difficulty of the repertoire to be prepared.) Lessons consist of four parts:

I.

Each student will work with foundational materials throughout his or her studies at Sam Houston State University. These materials include, but are not limited to, the following:

- o All Major and Minor Scales

(Three-octave proficiency is required for the performance major sophomore barrier*)

- o Chord Studies and Standard Progressions
- o Bowing Exercises and Pizzicato Techniques

II.

Studies or Etudes will be used and assigned as needed to strengthen an area of weakness and or enhance particular techniques required for current solo or ensemble repertoire.

III.

Solo repertoire as determined by level and proficiency, based on the skills/musical assessment at the beginning of the semester, and the requirements of the String Jury (please see below).

IV.

Ensemble Repertoire as determined by the student's participation in University ensembles and preparations required for outside auditions and professional performance opportunities in which the student chooses to participate.

Grading criteria:

1. 30% Consistent Attendance
2. 35% Preparation of Each Lesson
3. 35% Jury/ Recital Performance

Studio Class

Studio Classes are scheduled throughout the semester on a weekly basis. These sessions provide an arena for bassists to interact constructively with each other and give students an opportunity to perform current works in progress. These classes also make it possible to focus on important topics that come up for bassists during the semester. Topics may include discussion and exploration of practice techniques, strategies for preparing auditions, overcoming stage fright, etc. All students are to be in attendance, and all are encouraged to participate.

Recitals

Seniors are expected to present a full-length recital and Juniors are encouraged to share half a recital with another colleague. (Please contact Professor Dunham for details.)

Semester Juries

Each student is required to participate in a jury at the end of each semester unless he or she presents a recital as a Junior or Senior.

Further Information

The Student can refer to the School of Music Handbook

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/89da18b8-64e1-427d-a1b6-f3ab3eb5f7e8.pdf>

SHSU Student Guidelines.

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/>

<http://www.shsu.edu/SYLLABUS/>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely because of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines on providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect your work adversely in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the University policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>