

Syllabus for MUSI 4371: Independent Study

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Overview

In the summer 2019 semester, I plan on enrolling in MUSI 4371 (Independent Study in Music) under the direction of Prof. Enric Madriguera, Russell Cleveland Director of Guitar Studies. The focus of the study will be the six-string classical guitar and bass guitar in solo and ensemble contexts. All relevant coursework (aside from a pre-departure paper and a reflection paper) will take place at El Conservatorio Municipal de Gandía (near Valencia, Spain) June 29th-July 7th in the form of private lessons, daily ensemble classes, and modern guitar classes/ensembles led by Prof. Madriguera, Prof. Ruben Parejo, and Prof. David Lopez.

Motivation

I am primarily a jazz bassist but have found that studying classical guitar has improved my bass technique, deepened my understanding of harmony, augmented my improvisational capacity, and strengthened my multi-voice sight-reading skills.

One of my foremost goals in graduate school is to play in an ensemble that fuses the music of different cultures (i.e., Berklee Indian Ensemble, Frost School of Music Afro-Cuban Ensemble, The Meadows World Music Ensemble etc.). Studying classical guitar in Spain will teach me how to interact through music across different cultures, a skill essential to being admitted to and succeeding as a member of any such ensemble.

Many of these ensembles also require bassists to demonstrate competency on guitar, as bassists are sometimes asked to play classical or electric guitar as a doubled instrument. This independent study will give me the opportunity to focus exclusively on my classical guitar technique for a prolonged period of time, an investment that represents perhaps the most efficient way to become the competent sight-reader and performer of the guitar that these ensembles demand.

Goals

- ◆ Learn classical guitar repertoire
- ◆ Refine right-hand fingering technique
- ◆ Improve left-hand dexterity
- ◆ Gain familiarity with the fingerboard
- ◆ Explore history of guitar in Spain
- ◆ Acquire non-verbal leadership and communication skills
- ◆ Strengthen Spanish skills

Curriculum

- ◆ Write and share a pre-departure paper on Julian Bream's *The Guitar in Spain*.
- ◆ Attend daily technique classes and ensemble rehearsals
- ◆ Take two private lessons
- ◆ Perform with ensemble at the end of the week
- ◆ Participate in the culminating Guitar Competition
- ◆ Write and share a reflection paper