

PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC

Texts

Peter Kivy, *Introduction to a Philosophy of Music* (OUP, 2002).

Stephen Davies. *Themes in the Philosophy of Music* (OUP, 2005).

Bruce Ellis Benson, *The Improvisation of Musical Dialogue:
A Phenomenology of Music* (Cambridge U.P., 2003)

WGL contact

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Written work

Option 1: Four short papers (ca. 1500 words) during the semester, due on September 22, October 20, November 17, and December 8. Topics will be of your own choosing, but I will offer suggestions.

Or 2: If you like, after September 22 you may substitute one 3000-word paper for two consecutive shorter ones.

Or, 3: Write just one short paper due September 22 and one term paper due December 8.

Syllabus

(Listening assignments will be provided separately.)

September 1: Background. *Reading*: A. Kania, "The Philosophy of Music," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2012)
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/music/>.

September 8: History regarding music and the emotions. *Reading*: Kivy, Chs. 1-4.

September 15: Formalism. *Reading:* Kivy, Chs. 5-8.

September 22: Music and words. *Reading:* Kivy, Chs. 9, 10. **Short paper due from everyone.**

September 29: A “work” and its performance. *Reading:* Kivy, Chs. 11-13.

October 6: Ontology. *Reading:* Davies, Chs. 1-3.

October 13: More on music and emotion. *Reading:* Davies, Chs. 8-11.

October 20: More on “authentic” performance and authenticism. *Reading:* S. Godlovitch, “Authentic Performance”; J.O. Young, “The Concept of Authentic Performance.” **Second short paper due.**

October 27: Authenticism and body English. *Reading:* Davies, Ch 4; <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/21/science/playing-mozart-piano-pieces-as-mozart-did.html?emc=eta1&r=1>.

November 3: Evaluation of music. *Reading:* Davies, Ch.12.

November 10: Musical understanding. *Reading:* Davies, Chs. 13-15.

November 17: Composing. *Reading:* Benson, Chs. 1, 2. **Third short paper due.**

December 1: Performing. *Reading:* Benson, Ch. 3.

December 8: The phenomenology part. *Reading:* Benson, Chs. 4, 5. **Final paper due from everyone.**