

St. Louis Christian College  
PWM 422 Writing and Arranging for Worship  
2 Credit Hours  
Spring Semester 2012  
Mondays 12:30 – 1:50pm

Prerequisites: Music Theory (PWM 101 and PWM 201)

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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 422 is a basic survey of the skills and techniques used for composing original worship music and arranging for vocal and instrumental ensembles. Learning the foundation and the application of writing and arranging music is fundamental in the process and role of the musician and worship leader. This class will review the basics of writing and arranging music and provide opportunities for application.

TEXT

Baloche, Paul and Jimmy and Carol Owens. *God Songs: How to Write and Select Songs for Worship*. Lindale, TX: Leadworship.com, 2004.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of music theory principles that can be applied both personally and when serving in the worship ministry of the church.
2. Demonstrate skills in transposing, preparing lead sheets and/or chord charts, writing vocal harmonies, and arranging songs for worship.
3. Write and arrange original music for worship.
4. Write and arrange music for instrumentalists in worship.
5. Analyze and evaluate songs to see if they are appropriate for corporate worship.

COURSE ASSESSMENT:

1. Grading Policies. The official Saint Louis Christian College grading policies will be used as stated in the catalog.
2. Class assignments/Projects: Assignments are graded on accuracy and are due no later than the beginning of class on the due date. Assignments will **not** be accepted late.
3. Extra Credit may be offered periodically. Details will be given during class.

Assessment Method	Percentage
Attendance and Participation	15%
Reading and Test	15%
Weekly Assignments/Projects	45%
Final Project	25%

## CLASSROOM POLICIES:

### Attendance Policy:

\*Class attendance will comprise 15% of the overall final grade. Regular attendance is expected of all students. Each missed class, tardiness, or early departure from class **will** result in points being deducted from the daily attendance and participation grade. If you know that you are going to be absent ahead of time and you notify me of your upcoming absence, you may be given partial points for showing responsibility and professionalism. **This will be at my discretion.** You may notify me by phone, e-mail or text. Failure to notify me ahead of time will result in a zero for your daily attendance and participation grade for that day. If a student is absent, it is his or her responsibility to get assignments, worksheets, and notes before the next class period. In accordance with the SLCC Student Handbook, you will be withdrawn from this class after missing the 7<sup>th</sup> class hour.

### Electronic Device Policy:

**No cell phones, pagers, or any other electronic devices are to be heard in class.** Cell phones should be turned off and put away. I-pods and MP3 players are not to be used during class. Surfing the internet and chatting online are not allowed during class time as well. **Failure to comply with these rules will result in point deduction in your daily attendance and participation grade.**

### Additional Classroom Policies

1. **Show Respect**—All participants in this course are expected to show respect for other students, the instructor, and any visitors to the classroom. This includes coming to class prepared to participate, and treating others' viewpoints, learning process, and opinions with respect and fairness. Refrain from side conversations when someone else (including your instructor) has the floor. If you must leave class early for some reason, let me know in advance.
2. **Be prepared**—do your reading and homework in advance of class. Come to class with your textbook, folder, paper and a pencil.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

- Wyatt, Keith and Carl Schroeder. *Harmony & Theory*. Milwaukee: Hal Leonard Corp., 1998.
- Miller, Michael. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Music Composition*. New York: Penguin Group, 2005.
- Sterling, Robert. *The Craft of Christian Songwriting*. New York: Hal Leonard, 2009.
- Scheer, Greg. *The Art of Worship: A Musician's Guide to Leading Modern Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006.

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

1. There will be no class on January 16<sup>th</sup> (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
2. There will be no class March 19 which is Lab Week.
3. The final project will be in lieu of our final exam.

A tentative schedule of reading and assignments will be on a separate page. Dates are subject to change. Assignments will be given and explained weekly in class. Because this is class is for 2 hours of credit and we will only be meeting for 80 minutes, the assignments will make up for our lack of classroom time.

Test: March 5, 2011

Weekly Assignments and Reading: on separate sheet

Final Project: (25% of your grade)

Write, arrange, rehearse and perform your own composition for corporate worship. This will include vocalists (2 -3 part harmony), band (4 instruments), and a special instrumental part (tabs for an electric lead line, keyboard solo, instrumental descant or counter melody). Extra credit for using a non-C instrument. You may use people from your church, the community, faculty, students, family members, etc. to perform your piece.

First Draft of Lyric	2/27/11
First Draft of the Melody*	3/5/11
Chord progression for your composition.*	3/12/11
*The order of these assignments can be switched if you prefer to start from a chord progression and then write the melody.	
Chord chart of your composition.	3/26/11
Melody and Vocal harmonization	4/2/11
Special instrumental part	4/9/11
Final composition turned in: Lead sheet, vocal harmonies, chord sheet, arrangement, instrumental part.	
Performance of composition with instrumentalists and vocalists.	4/23/11
	4/30/11