

# Orange County High School of the Arts

## Music Technology

**Instructor: Mr. Gene Wie**

**Email: [gene.wie@ocsarts.net](mailto:gene.wie@ocsarts.net)**

Welcome to Music Technology, an elective course for grades 11/12. You may also view this syllabus on-line at the class web site at <http://www.solscope.com/~ochsa>.

This is a year-long introductory course that covers a broad spectrum of technologies in use in music today, which includes digital audio recording, editing, sampling, effects processing, sequencing, and innovative forms of music notation. We will also be discussing digital media distribution and current issues in copyright law. Guest artists from the field of electronic music will also join our class on occasion to share their ongoing work and demonstrate how the skills you are learning are related to possible careers in music technology fields. Some of the more recent areas of study that the class has covered include:

- Digital Media Distribution
- Copyright Law, Fair Use, and the Internet
- Basic Audio Editing (Waveform)
- Electronic Music Composition (Sequencers)
- Software Engraving Tools
- Free Open Source Software (FOSS), Licensing
- Overview of Media Hardware

While you need not be a computer expert to understand and use the concepts covered in this course, some basic computer literacy will be necessary. You need to be comfortable downloading and installing software. The programs you will use in this course are all free, open source, and available on all computer platforms (including Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux). You must have access to a computer system of fairly recent manufacture (within the past three years) to use the software.

In-class discussions of course topics constitute the majority of the work involved in Music Technology. You will also be assigned several homework projects, which ask you to research, write about, and successfully manipulate several software programs and record their accompanying output. The homework in general is very concise, allowing you to master the basic concepts without taking up too much of your valuable time.

In addition to the class web site which you are visiting now, there also exists a group on the social networking site Facebook.com that will be used to communicate information for this class. Please find the group and join it; you are not required to be “friends” with Mr. Wie to join the class group.

## Grading

The course grade for Music Technology is structured as follows:

Participation (Class Discussions) – 50% (based on the rubric below)

Projects (Homework) – 50% (graded on completeness)

Category	4	3	2	1
<b>Preparation</b>	In the classroom when bell rings; immediately takes seat; brings required materials; ready to learn	Most of the time in the classroom when bell rings; most of the time takes seat in a timely manner; most of the time has all materials present; ready to learn	Many times not in classroom when bell rings; seat not taken in timely manner; forgets to bring materials to class; attention wanders in class	Most of the time late for class; many times in no hurry to take seat; many times forgets to bring materials; most times, attention wanders in class
<b>Discussion</b>	In each class: raises hand to answer questions; raises hand to ask questions	In most classes: raises hand to answer questions; raises hand to ask questions	In some classes: sometimes raises hand to ask questions	Rarely raises hand to answer questions; rarely asks questions
<b>Attitude</b>	Always shows respect for teacher by not talking out of turn; shows respect for other students by not talking to them unless appropriate; always interested in classroom activities	Most of the time shows respect for teacher by not talking out of turn; most of the time shows respect for other students by not talking to them unless appropriate; most of the time interested in classroom activities	Often disrespectful to teacher by talking out of turn; often talks out of turn to other students; often disinterested in classroom activities	Consistently talks to teacher out of turn; consistently disrupts other students by talking out of turn; consistently disinterested in classroom activities

Please note that not being prepared for discussions (i.e. not studying assigned source materials for the topic at hand) and forgetting to turn homework in will result in severe grade penalties. As all assignments for the class are posted on the web site and the Facebook group many weeks in advance, absolutely no late work may be submitted for any reason except as outlined in school policies regarding excused absences.

**To The Parent**

I am committed to helping your son/daughter learn, and I look forward to working with your family. If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact me at any time by email at:

**gene.wie@ocsarts.net**

(Detach and sign below)

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**Syllabus Agreement Form – Music Technology Fall 2010**

We have read and understand the policies and procedures of Mr. Wie’s Music Technology class and by returning this document signed confirm our agreement to abide by the terms for class conduct and participation.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email (Student) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note that this form must be completed and turned in by the second class meeting, and constitutes part of the grade for this course.**