Syllabus
American Music
Dartmouth College
Fall 2012
3A (Monday, 3 – 4:50; Thursday, 4 –5:50)

update 10/30/12

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Introduction to the Class
This class will focus on selected topics in American Music, through listening, reading, student research, guest lectures, musical participation, and presentations on specific topics.

Student Requirements
1) Attendance, readings, listenings
2) X-hours will be used occasionally, and will be announced
3) Three concert reports on American Music events at Dartmouth, but preferably, outside of Dartmouth.
4) Final project, topic and form of the project chosen in consultation with the instructor. Depending on class size, these will be class presentations/papers. These will be some “study” of American music in the community or at Dartmouth, a kind of “fieldwork.”
5) Pop quizzes on the readings, listenings, and guest presentations

Required Text
Judith Tick, ed. Music in the USA: A Documentary Companion
Digital Recorded Archive of American Music (available from the library as a digital resource)

Class Schedule
(all topics subject to change)

WEEK 1 September 13
Monday: No class: convocation.
Thursday: Introduction to the class. What is American Music? Ways of listening to and talking about music? A random walk through American music, a survey of what we know, what we don’t know.

WEEK 2 September 17, 20
Monday: Random walk continued.
Thursday: Guests, Tyler Gibbons and Robyn Macarthur, Vermont folk and indie musicians
Readings (Tick): 3, 4, 6, 13, 14, 26, 38
Listening (DRAM): The Colored Sacred Harp; Desire for Piety; White Spirituals from the Sacred Harp; Beeson, Three Settings from the Bay Psalm Book; Billings, Wake Every Breath

WEEK 3: September 24, 27
Monday: LP, topics in American music (focusing on the readings). Singing with Mary Ann Haagen (shape note, Hutchinson Family, Billings round).
Readings (Tick): 51, 56, 60, 61, 63, 65, 68, 70, 73
Listenings (DRAM): J.P. Sousa *El Capitan; The Original Recordings* (Sousa and Pryor bands); Amy Beach, *Songs*; Edward MacDowell, *Sea Pieces*; Ives, *Songs* (Majority, General William Booth Enters Into Heaven; The Cage; He is There); *Concord Sonata*; (Densmore) *Songs of Earth, Water, Fire and Sky;*

**WEEK 4:** October 1, 4
LP, topics in American music (focusing on the readings)
Readings (Tick): 74, 75, 83, 84, 85, 89, 95, 100, 101, 103
Final topic proposal due (Thursday)
Listenings (Dram): Joplin, *Treemonisha; Europe, The Clef Club March*; Grant Still, *Songs of Separation*; Cowell (Ives and Harrison); Piano Music (Anthony De Mare, *Wizards and Wildmen*); Ruth Crawford Seeger, *Nineteen American Folk Songs*

**WEEK 5:** October 8, 11
LP, topics in American music (focusing on the readings): the Carter Family, Seegers/Lomaxes, Cowell, Copland, Blitzstein, *Oklahoma*
Quiz on readings of week 4.
Thursday: Guest artist, Tony Barand, singing and discussing Vermont Ballads
Readings (Tick): 109, 110, 114, 115, 119, 131, 133, 134, 136, 146, 150, 156
Listenings (Dram): Bernstein, *Candide; Hills and Home (30 Years of Bluegrass)*; Cage, *Music of Changes* (Joseph Kubera, piano); *Freeman Etudes* (Irving Arditti, violin); “String Quartet in Four Parts” (Adritti Quartet); Tom Johnson, *Chord Catalogue* and *Rational Melodies*

**WEEK 6:** October 15, 18
Monday, Guests, composer Paul Epstein and guitarist William Ghezzi. Concert: Sunday, October 21, 4 p.m, Faulkner.
Monday: Final topic progress report, outline, bibliography, resource list due (in writing).
Thursday: Mary Ann Haagen guest teaching

**WEEK 7:** October 22, 25
Monday, Thursday: Guest Mary Ann Haagen (American singing styles)

**WEEK 8:** October 29, November 1
Mon., Thur. Special topics
Thursday: Second concert report due

**WEEK 9:** November 5, 8
Monday: Guest, Arturo O’Farrill (first half of class)
Thursday: Guest, Donald Harrison (first half of class; concert by O’Farrill and Harrison, November 10th)
Final presentations, time allowing, Thursday, second half of class: Laura, Carl

**WEEK 10:** November 12.
Third concert report due.
Final presentations: Brad/Alex, Colby, Jonathan