

Meadville Lombard Theological School
M423/523 INT Music as the Doorway
Intensive Course: January 25 – 29, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
Faculty: The Rev. Ed Thompson

Goals:

This class in music is designed to be both theoretical and practical. Participants will be able to increase their skills in and knowledge about music as it relates to congregational life and worship. Through exercises in singing and listening it will be shown how music has the capability to aid the individual and the community toward patterns of wholeness.

Requirements:

Grades will be based on attendance, participation, and the thoughtfulness of questions that are posed.

1. Read or familiarize yourself with the following books assigned:

Singing the Living Tradition. Beacon Press: Boston, MA, 1993, and the supplement, *Singing the Journey*. Please bring to class both STLT as well as the addendum, *Singing the Journey*. Other brief written essays will be handed out at the class as well as a bibliography for further studies.

Required Reading:

Saliers, Don E., "Music and Theology", Nashville, Abington Press, 2007.

John Tolley "Art and Religion: Twin Manifestations of the Same Spirit."

2. Attendance and Participation: participation and attendance are required at all class sessions.

3. Each person in the class will also share a piece of music (a cut from a CD) which for them has been transformational and briefly discuss why.

4. Each person will be expected to make a musical presentation to the class by singing (with or without accompaniment). The function of this exercise is to experience the relationship of the body/mind and how it relates to authenticity. It is not about a polished musical response. There will be instruction, free coaching and support available throughout the week

5. A further purpose of the class is to take a closer look at STLT, including the various indexes in the back of the hymnal. How can we get more out of this valuable resource? We will also look at the supplement, *Singing the Journey*, for more singing resources.

6. There will also be a time for discussion about building or improving a music program, including a review of resources that are available. Included in this discussion will be the subject of clergy/music director communication.

7. Final assignment: at the conclusion of the week there will be due a short (one-two page) written report that summarizes what the student has learned as well as the means by which he/she has done so. Final Deadline is 5:00PM Friday, Jan. 29, 2007, or by special arrangement with the professor.

Questions regarding the course should be directed to:

The Rev. Ed Thompson

Musical Consultant, etmusici@aol.com

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