

*DePaul University*

College of Computing & Interactive Media / School of Cinema and Interactive Media

**DC380/480 Project Bluelight – 147 Pianos**

Fall 2013- TH 5:45-9PM DePaul Center 106C

*The team:*

*Dolores Wilber*

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773-882-1717

Office hours:

Th 3:00PM-5:00PM CDM 459

Register online or email to confirm appt.

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This course will produce a performance and documentary film of the performance including interviews of the two men who have run Lukas Piano Service for decades.

*147 Pianos* is about pianos, doing things together and Chicago. It's about Lucas Piano Service. Ed Lisauskas and his long-standing partner, Sylvester Czajkowski, tune and fix pianos, including lots of player pianos. They are treasures of information about the history of pianos, here in Chicago and elsewhere, and have a warehouse full of at least 150 well-worn but living pianos that they have refurbished for decades. The film is about longing and memory and honoring a history of work. It is also about joy and tenacity, endurance, making do, and the evasive joy of the moment.

Lukas Piano Service is located at 1500 S. Western (next to DePaul Cinespace) on Chicago's west side. These men are treasures of information about the history of pianos, here in Chicago and elsewhere, and have a dusty warehouse full of at least 150 rickety but living pianos with a few treasures that they have refurbished over the last 40 years.

The film will include a kind of call-and-response of many pianos, in varying states of repair, playing sometimes individually and sometimes simultaneously. This will be accompanied by a light show and poetic interviews with Ed and Sylvester. The class will produce and document the performance including interviews with these two men. *147 Pianos* is a performance happening that will take place on a single evening comprised of 147 pianos played by public participants. Piano players of every stripe and level of ability are invited to join us in creating this performance, together for each other. Though we welcome people who are seasoned and accomplished, you don't have to be a pro, you just have to want to play. Everyone is welcome to perform!

The music composition will be divided into three levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced/pro players. The pianos are 'as is' - having seen lots of life which we appreciate and hope you do as well. We will be in contact with anyone who is interested in playing and you will be sent a packet of more information regarding the structure and playlist. Remember, if you play "Chopsticks," you're in.

We are delighted to have Mikel Patrick Avery as one of our master piano players and collaborators, and [Marvin Tate](#) as a spoken word/vocalist. [Gretchen Brown](#) is our location scout. We are also thrilled to have Chris Connelly (musician, Revolting Cox) to come onboard.

*147 Pianos* is part of Chicago Artists Month 2013, the 18th annual celebration of Chicago's vibrant art community presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. [www.chicagoartistsmonth.org](http://www.chicagoartistsmonth.org).

## Dates & Schedules

The class formally meets on Thursday evenings but there will be lots of dates that will replace the Thursday evening formal class. We will work in Teams (described below) and will try to meet in the Thursday evening slots but that will allow us enough time to accomplish everything that needs to be done.

The schedule will fluctuate but these dates are firm:

### **Thursday, September 19**

Tour spaces

**5:00PM** - Meet at DePaul Cinespace

**5:45PM-6:30PM** – Meet at Lukas Piano Service, 1500 S. Western

### **Thursday, September 26**

Team Meetings

### **Thursday, October 3**

Team Meetings

### **Thursday, October 10, 5-9PM**

Filming Interviews - Ed Lisauskas and Sylvester Czajkowski

Filming and Staging - Lucas Piano Service lower level, ground floor entryway, front of building entrance

Locations - Lukacs Piano Service space, front room with special pianos and possibly back workspace

### **Wednesday-Thursday, October 16-17, 9AM-10PM**

No filming

Loading/staging materials - Building loading dock, building entry, 4<sup>th</sup> fl. Art & Design

Tenants will have first use access and DePaul agrees to accommodate tenants

### **Friday-Saturday, October 18-19, 9AM-5PM**

Filming/staging/loading - Building loading dock, elevators, stairs, building entry, Lukacs, 4<sup>th</sup> fl. A&D

### **Sunday, October 20, 10AM-10PM**

Clean-up

### **Thursday, October 24**

No class

### **Thursday, October 31**

Film construction

### **Thursday, November 7**

Film construction

### **Thursday, November 14**

Film construction

### **Thursday, November 21**

Film construction

## Student Teams

You will be on one-two teams. We will talk about the responsibilities of the individual teams in class. You can note your preferences and we will try to accommodate you; we will also assign you duties as well.

*Everyone is responsible for PR for the performance. Invite all your friends and family and find piano players. This is should be an over-the-top effort. The person who brings the most piano players will get a very special surprise prize. This effort is the most important piece of this puzzle right now. Post on FB, share the website. Email and call people. Do everything possible!*

*We also need table lamps for the pianos; please gather them up. We need at least 50 table lamps.*

Teams:

Producer/ Asst Producing Oversight (Dana)  
Camera Operators/Performance (Pete/Dana))  
Camera Interview (Pete/Dana/Dolores)  
Light (Pete)  
Sound Crew (Rob)  
G&E (Pete)  
Craft Services (Asst. Producers/Dolores)  
Greeters (Dolores)  
PR (Dolores)  
Art (Nick/Dolores)  
Invitations (EVERYONE)  
Admin: Contact sheet, scheduling sheet, etc.

## Film Research

Review these films for inspiration; suggest others!

*Website with a great list:*

<http://www.timeout.com/london/film/50-greatest-music-films-ever>

*Other top hits include:*

*Last Waltz (The Band)*

*Monterey Pop* (pre-Woodstock; 1968 concert film by D. A. Pennebaker that documents the *Monterey Pop Festival* of 1967)

*Gimme Shelter* Back (Rolling Stones)

*Shine a Light* (Rolling Stones)

*Searching for Sugar Man* (Stephen 'Sugar' Segerman)

*A Hard Day's Night* (Beatles)

*Don't Look Back* (Dylan)

*The Legacy of Sun Records* (history of Memphis' Sun Records, the legendary label that started the careers of such rock and country icons as Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis)

*The Howlin' Wolf Story*

*Thirty-two Shorts Films About Glenn Gould*

*Nina* (Nina Simone)

*Black Magic Punks* (Vimeo)

*Space is the Place* (Sun Ra)

## Interview

### Questions

What do pianos do?

How do you fix pianos?

What makes a 'good' piano?

What makes a 'good' piano tuner?

What are your famous piano stories? – the out-of-tune piano that was preferred by the woman who never picked-up her pianos  
What is your business model/ethic?

## Music

We are discussing how to handle copyright issues with the music. Music will be copyright free (before 1922) in order to avoid any problems in showing the film or we will need to obtain copyright release.

The playlist is on a separate document that will be distributed in class. There will be segues of vocalists doing spoken word, poems, scat, song and stories in between Music segments. We are still looking for vocalists of this sort. Suggestions welcomed.

## Performance Structure

Separate document that will be distributed in class.

## Contact information

Separate document that will be distributed in class.

## **Course Policies**

### **Add/Drop Dates**

Tuesday, September 17: Last day to add classes this quarter

Tuesday, September 24: Last day to drop classes with no penalty; last day to select pass/fail option

Tuesday, October 29: Last day to withdraw from classes this quarter

### **Grades**

If you work really hard, are productive and collaborative, you will do well in this course. It is very important to be present for all the class meetings.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students must abstain from any violations of academic integrity and set examples for each other by assuming full responsibility for their academic and personal development, including informing themselves about and following the university's academic policy?

Violations of academic integrity include but are not limited to the following categories: cheating; plagiarism; fabrication; falsification or sabotage of research data; destruction or misuse of the university's academic resources-alteration or falsification of academic records; and academic misconduct. Conduct that is punishable under the Academic Integrity Policy could result in additional disciplinary actions by other university officials and possible civil or criminal prosecution.

-DePaul Student Handbook

<http://condor.depaul.edu/~handbook/code17.html>

### **Attendance & Punctuality**

Attendance is mandatory!

Three absences will result in a lower grade (from B to C, for instance) without a verified excused reason. Further absences will result in failure of the course. An excused absence is allowed in the case of a medical or personal emergency (illness with doctor's letter; death in the family). An absence is defined as not showing up for class or showing up 15 minutes or more late for class.

### **Harassment**

The policy as specified in the DePaul Student Handbook will be adhered to in this class.

### **Syllabus Changes**

Every effort will be made to adhere to the syllabus but sometimes, changes may occur. You are responsible for keeping up with changes that may occur even when you are not in class; so keep in touch with your fellow students and the teacher.

### **Changes to Syllabus**

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>.

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

## **Withdrawal**

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connection system (<http://campusconnect.depaul.edu>). Withdrawals processed via this system are effective the day on which they are made. Simply ceasing to attend, or notifying the instructor, or nonpayment of tuition, does not constitute an official withdrawal from class and will result in academic as well as financial penalty.

## **Retroactive Withdrawal**

This policy exists to assist students for whom extenuating circumstances prevented them from meeting the withdrawal deadline. During their college career students may be allowed one medical/personal administrative withdrawal and one college office administrative withdrawal, each for one or more courses in a single term. Repeated requests will not be considered. Submitting an appeal for retroactive withdrawal does not guarantee approval.

College office appeals for CDM students must be submitted online via MyCDM. The deadlines for submitting appeals are as follows:

Autumn Quarter	Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent winter quarter
Winter Quarter:	Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent spring quarter
Spring Quarter:	Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter
Summer Terms:	Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

## **Excused Absence**

In order to petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the Absence Notification process through the Dean of Students office. The form can be accessed at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/forms.html>. Students must submit supporting documentation alongside the form. The professor reserves the sole right whether to offer an excused absence and/or academic accommodations for an excused absence.

## **Incomplete**

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. CDM policy requires the student to initiate the request for incomplete grade before the end of the term in which the course is taken. Prior to submitting the incomplete request, the student must discuss the circumstances with the instructor. Students may initiate the incomplete request process in MyCDM.

- All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval.
- If approved, students are required to complete all remaining course requirement independently in consultation with the instructor by the deadline indicated on the incomplete request form.
- By default, an incomplete grade will automatically change to a grade of F after two quarters have elapsed (excluding summer) unless another grade is recorded by the instructor.
- An incomplete grade does NOT grant the student permission to attend the same course in a future quarter.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will

remain confidential.

To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at:

Student Center, LPC, Suite #370

Phone number: (773) 325.1677

Fax: (773) 325.3720

TTY: (773) 325.7296