

HONORS III

Section Moderator: Jon Thorndike
Hitch Science Building 202
3:30 – 5:00 PM

3:30-4:00

“Total Immersion: How The Concert Experience Defines The Artist”

Blake J. Breithaupt
Faculty Advisor: Pr. Sandra Dudley

There have been many musicians throughout modern history. Many have had successful careers. However, only a certain group can call themselves musical icons. These musical artists stand apart from the others of their time. So, what is it that defines a musical artist as a music icon? Three key aspects of what defines an artist is his or her music, image/brand-name development and the production of his or her concerts. It is when these three elements work seamlessly together that an artist can approach iconic status.

In order for artists to be successful, they must record the right songs, develop their image as artists, develop their brand-name and market themselves successfully to the right audience as well as put together concerts that connect them with their fans, keeping their audience wanting more from them project after project. When artists are able to combine all these aspects and repeat these processes many times over the span of a lengthy career, then they become music icons.

A great place for the developing music artist to find advice about these aspects of the music business is to read books by and talk to the industry executives who are responsible for making the artists into the successful superstars they are. The Total Immersion thesis contains personal interviews from such prominent music industry mega-players as hit songwriter/American Idol judge Kara Dioguardi, former Evanescence piano player/hit songwriter David Hodges, Co-COO of the William Morris Talent Agency’s Nashville Office Paul Moore, and many more.

Discipline: Honors/Commercial Music

4:00-4:30

“The Least Of These”

Brandon L. McGuiness
Faculty Advisor: Jeff Lisenby

I believe that music can be a catalyst for change. Under the right circumstances, music can move people, not just emotionally, but physically towards action. Music can be used a tool that can both fill the heart and inform the mind. Over the ages, music has been used to define the situations that were present at their conception. From the spirituals of the slaves to the jazz and swing of the depression, the supportive songs of both world wars to the cries for peace and love during the 70s, music is a canvas for human nature and circumstance.

In Nashville, right outside our front door, is a social issue that is often shrugged off. It is impossible to go downtown without encountering the homeless. In connection with the Campus For Human Development, a local avenue for the homeless and poor to regain footing in their lives, I have planned a concert to

showcase a collection of original songs centering on homelessness. Like rock band U2, I have taken an issue I am passionate about and given it a human face with the help of music. My desire in composing these songs is to shed new light on many of the negative stereotypes that haunt the homeless community.

Discipline: Honors /Music

4:30-5:00

“Styles for the Versatile Drummer”

Marcus A. Hill

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jeff W. Kirk

Drummers have specific roles in various styles of music. Artists want drummers who can be trusted to handle the rhythmic foundation of their music, whatever the style may be. This book examines five common commercial music styles in a way that demonstrates the versatility required for a working musician to express each style effectively. These are the styles explored: Straight-Ahead Jazz, Contemporary Latin Jazz, R&B/Funk/Hip-Hop, Pop/Rock, and Traditional Country. Accompanying the discussions of the styles are transcribed examples, a five-song CD, charts and drum transcriptions from the studio session, and interviews with seven professional drummers who share their years of experience. This book presents an overview of stylistic drumming for young professionals who aspire to work as musicians, and the result is a source that encourages drummers to have a solid foundation that will be the launching pad for their own creativity and style.

Discipline: Honors /Music