

A537: Music Without the Octave: Wendy Carlos's Unique "Scales"

Student Preparation Information

Hello friends!

This page contains instructions on what to do to prepare for our class. It shouldn't take too long overall, so I ask that you please complete these steps so that we will have more time together to do the fun stuff! Please note that, while Ms. Carlos did create 3 scales (Alpha, Beta, and Gamma), for the sake of this class and my sanity, we will be working in Alpha only. When viewing documents, if it says you need to request access, check what google account you are on, as your school google account may not allow you to view documents from those outside the network, so check and change that to view!

Basic Information

Class date: November 14, 2020

Class time: 10:00-11:50

Zoom link: <https://northwestern.zoom.us/j/98513982828>

Zoom meeting ID: 985 1398 2828

Teacher name: Dianna Lauroesch

Teacher Splash email: A537-teachers@nusplash.learningu.org

1. Please complete the Questionnaire
 - a. This will give me a bit more information about who you are and let me know what additional information I will need to cover in class. Do not worry if you don't know something! I have allotted time for anything that needs to be covered.
 - i. **Can be found here** <https://forms.gle/QEfkybN3SS6asPgS9>
 - ii. This needs to be filled out by 11/13 at 5 PM so that I have time to look over the responses and plan accordingly
 - b. You will be asked for your Audiotool username. This is a free website with virtual synthesizers which I will be using. I will make projects for each of you with the tunings all set up (getting all these notes is quite the ordeal!) in alpha scale so that you may experiment in and outside of class.
 - i. **Visit** audiotool.com **and create an account.**
 - ii. It will be to your benefit to explore the program a bit ahead of time as that will make composing easier, although it is of course not required as I will show you how to use the needed applications.
2. If you wish, you may visit Wendy Carlos's page on these three scales to get a bit of background and context ahead of class (not required!)
 - i. **Visit** <http://www.wendycarlos.com/resources/pitch.html>
3. The SplashA537-Reference Google Sheet contains information that will be useful for during the class and after if you choose to continue exploring the alpha system
 - i. **Can be found here**
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1j6sIF04f1Pk450WT4v5glj9rM6rHpV8hiAZ2zfpfLyA/edit?usp=sharing>

- b. The first Sheet (“Notes equivalents”) is how I found the measurements for all the notes and how I tuned the synthesizers. It is color-coded for the synths (note: the synths interweave so 2 synths cover 2 P5’s as that is the only way I could figure out to tune given the constraints).
 - c. The second Sheet (“Audiotool ms ref”) tells what measures in my “alpha scale” project contain what. I will use this project in class to let you hear some basics regarding Alpha and share it with you so you can listen on your own as a reference if needed. The measure numbers correspond to the row numbers.
 - d. The third Sheet (“Keyboard”) is a visual guide to navigating the various synths with reference to a traditional keyboard. Because you will have to jump around, I hope this will prove useful.
 - e. The fourth Sheet (“Ratio above A”) compares the ratios in western music and Alpha, looking at possible intervals that we are familiar with that can be created.
4. Here is my lesson plan if you wish to have it (absolutely do not need to, just as a guide)
- i. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aTCCqqtNMI_LsxPwPBekRim6S9tOLfT6oVec_gjcsUuA/edit?usp=sharing
5. **Make sure you have your materials ready for class! They are:**
- a. **Questionnaire (filled out already by 11/13 at 5 PM)**
 - b. **Audiotool projects**
 - i. **alpha scale project (to view and listen to)**
 - ii. **alpha scale [your name] project (to compose in)**
 - c. **Way to take notes**
 - d. **SplashA537-Reference Google Sheet (in 3. above)**