

APPLIED ORGAN

SPRING 2026

MVK1413/2423/3433/4443

Class Meets:

Organ Studio Class: TBD

Individual Applied Lesson: TBD

Individual Practice Sessions: TBD

Instructor: Dr. Laura Ellis, MUB 326

Phone: 352-273-3181

E-mail: lrellis@ufl.edu

Office Hours: TBD (office hours will be announced following the scheduling of applied organ, harpsichord, and carillon lessons)

Auditorium Manager: Daniel Villamil

Auditorium Phone: 352-392-2346

E-mail: dvillamil@performingarts.ufl.edu

Studio Events & organ related events in the area

Friday, February 6, 6:00PM—First Friday Series, Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine

Sunday, February 15, 4:00PM—Robert Hobby, guest recitalist at First Presbyterian Church

Thursday or Friday (Feb 26/27)—presentation for studio by David Cherwien (exact day/time TBD)

Friday, February 27, 7:00PM—organ/trumpet recital at First Presbyterian Church

Saturday, March 7, 1:55PM—Pipe Organ Demonstration

TBD, Studio Recital at First Lutheran Church

Friday, April 17, 7:20PM—Organ Studio Recital

Other Events of Interest

ORGAN CRAWL: date TBD

Studio Class

Studio class will be held weekly in the University Auditorium. Please be prepared to share information about your piece and composer when you perform.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Throughout the course of the semester the student may be required to purchase organ literature books relevant to their level of expertise. The *Little Organ Book* by Flor Peeters is the required text for students in their first semester of organ study. Other method books of interest include: *The Beginning Organist* by Roger E. Davis (hoping for a reasonably priced reprint of this text!) and *The New Oxford Organ Method* by Anne Marsden Thomas and Frederick Stocken. *All organ students must purchase organ shoes and have access to the hymnal of their denominational preference.

PURPOSES AND GOALS

Applied organ lessons are designed to provide the student with a solid foundation in pedal and keyboard techniques. The beginning organ student is required to have a piano performance level equivalent to Classical sonatinas and/or the two-part inventions of J.S. Bach. The course of study will include technical exercises and representative literature. In addition, the student will become proficient in the service music and hymnody relevant to their denominational tradition.

ATTENDANCE

STUDIO AND LESSON ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED OF ALL STUDENTS. Students are required to attend studio class and lessons and are responsible for all information presented or assigned. Attendance will be taken and participation in class is greatly encouraged. Predicted absenteeism should be discussed with the instructor no less than one week prior to the event. When possible, lessons will be rescheduled. Tardiness and leaving early will affect attendance record.

If you must be absent, please contact me prior to lesson or studio time:

Phone: 352-273-3181; E-mail: lrellis@ufl.edu

JOURNAL

All students taking applied organ lessons are encouraged to record their progress in a "Goal Journal." This journal will list daily, as well as long-term goals. Entries in your journal will be a constant reminder to keep you focused on your short- and

long-term goals. Maintain a separate notebook for this journal and be prepared to bring it to each lesson! Seven areas should be recorded:

- 1) Long-range Goals --- Five to Ten Years
- 2) Medium-range Goals --- One to Five Years
- 3) Short-range Goals --- Two to Fifteen Weeks
- 4) This Week's Goals
- 5) Today's Goals
- 6) Next Week's Goals
- 7) Practice Log

*As time goes by and various goals are met -- make sure to keep your journal up to date. Add new pages -- put a line through goals that have been achieved -- but don't throw out your old lists.

*Your long-term goals may change -- update them. This journal is for your use and growth. ***Items #3, #4, #5, and #7 are the goals that will allow us **to use your lesson time most efficiently**. If these goals are clear, you will find that you will soon be identifying the problem areas and making progress toward solving them. Bring your journal to your lesson every week.

For more information about journals and their effectiveness, read The Inner Game of Music, by Barry Green with W. Timothy Gallwey (Doubleday, 1986). While the entire book is useful for music performance, chapter 5, entitled "The Power of Will" can encourage all of us to use our time wisely. **ML850 .G73 1986**

WEEKLY LESSON GRADE

The following elements will be assessed to determine the weekly lesson grade:

- 1) Attendance at weekly lesson
- 2) Attendance of required events
- 3) Progress on assigned literature and exercises
- 4) Development of technique
- 5) Studio class attendance and participation

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Weekly Lesson Grade:	---60%
Studio Attendance/Performance:	--- 25%
Jury:	---10%
Repertoire Sheet:	--- 5%

GRADING SCALE

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points may be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Requirements for attendance and other work in this course are consistent with university policies:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

PRACTICE HOURS

Practice time in the University Auditorium, MUB 332, MUB 337, and MUB 338 is available to all organ students.

Practice protocol:

- 1) Utilize your assigned time. If you have a consistent conflict and need to reschedule, please notify Dr. Ellis so that the schedule can be updated.
- 2) Wash your hands prior to and after your practice session.
- 3) Shoes must be worn (no bare feet or stocking feet).
- 4) Feel free to use hand sanitizer **after** touching shared surfaces.

Keep track of practice hours in your journal and strive to schedule consistent practice throughout the week. To truly see improvement, daily practice is essential!

Regarding rehearsal in the University Auditorium:

- 1) Rehearse only during your scheduled times. The auditorium staff is responsible for having the organ console out and available for your use.
- 2) The organ will remain "on" during the day to minimize stress to the blower. **IF YOU HAVE THE LAST PRACTICE SESSION OF THE DAY PLEASE BE SURE THAT ORGAN IS TURNED OFF WHEN YOU LEAVE.**
- 3) **Be sure to properly cancel organ stops and open boxes when you complete your practice! If you are the last person scheduled to use the UA organ for the day, please turn off the blower.**

Regarding rehearsal in the facilities in the Music Building:

Be sure to properly cancel organ stops, turn off organ, turn out all lights, and check that the door is locked as you leave the organ studio and practice rooms!

Most disinfectant cleaners are terrible for organ keys (particularly wood). Any liquid introduced to wood will have a damaging effect. Don't forget, the safety of all of us requires the following:

1. Players must thoroughly wash hands before and after each use. Hand sanitizer may be used *after* practicing.
2. Players must wear shoes at all times.

JURY/PROJECT

All students will be expected to present a jury at the end of the semester. Literature will be determined in consultation with the instructor. The jury will consist of up to 10 minutes of your organ performance. Keyboard juries will occur on **Tuesday, April 28, 2026**.

JURY SHEET

At the end of the semester, all students will be required to turn in a jury sheet that outlines the achievements of the semester. The jury sheet will contain the following items:

- 1) jury sheet
- 2) repertoire sheet
 - a. don't forget to list date of performance in studio or recital
 - b. if you have prior study on the carillon, please make this a cumulative repertoire sheet.

Jury Sheets must be submitted to Dr. Ellis no later than NOON on Monday, April 27, 2026.

PRESENTATIONS IN STUDIO CLASS

All students are encouraged to develop one presentation each semester for studio class. This could include a short biography of a composer, analysis of an organ work, hymn study, or related information. Please consult with Dr. Ellis regarding appropriate topics.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES

To ensure consistent and accessible communication of university-wide student resources, please visit [Academic Policies & Resources](#). There you can find information regarding attendance and makeups, DRC accommodations, UF grading policies, student evaluations, the UF Honesty Policy, and in-class recording. You can also access information and contact information for a wide variety of academic resources.

Additional Course Fees: MVK1413: \$31.00; MVK 2423: \$62.00; MVK 3433: \$31.00; MVK 4443: \$31.00.