**Your Presence Matters**

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This page just serves as a reminder that your presence in class matters. You may be wondering why this needs to be said. Below are a few reasons that your presence matters and that this should be taken into account when you are deciding if you want to use an absence.

**1. I don't say much. Why does it matter if I am there?**

Whether you are speaking up or sitting quietly, every person brings an energy to the room. The class feels much different if there are only 2 people there than if there are 20 people there. Your energy contributes to how everyone feels during class. There are people who sit next to you that feel your energy too! Think about what it feels like when someone you always sit next to isn't there. It makes the space different. So whether you are silent in class or not - your presence matters!

**2. I understand all the material. Why does it matter if I am there?**

There is never a moment where we all completely understand music, but aside from that, your contributions to the class are important. There may be an idea you have or a way you hear something that will be a unique perspective the class wouldn't get unless you are there! I have had many students share what they hear and it is unique from the way I teach. It adds to the classroom and to collaborative learning! I learn from you as well. You also help set the bar for what is possible. In music, when all ships rise, we have more fun. When your peers become better musicians, you become a better musician. We see each other in rehearsals, classes, and practice areas, and seeing how well others do inspires us all. Your presence matters!

**3. I can just do the homework and figure it out. Why does it matter if I am there?**

Sure - but in Aural Musicianship there are so many opportunities for spontaneous learning that can never happen again. Sometimes we will do a dictation and I'll ask for your mistakes. Maybe you will hear a mistake that leads to a discussion of how we hear a diminished triad that wasn't on the lesson plans. Maybe you will raise your hand to tell us about a mistake you made, and someone who was too scared to speak up made that same mistake. Our classroom is as much about you bringing learning opportunities in as it is for me to bring learning opportunities in. Each class we experience together can never be duplicated and it never completely sticks to my lesson plans because of the questions and thoughts each of you bring and offer. Your presence matters!

These are just a few situations that your presence matters in class. We are all in this together and no matter what, you are bring something to the classroom, to your peers, and to me. I see you. I enjoy having you in my class!