Course Objectives

To develop a personalized regimen of vocal exercises for warm ups and technical mastery which, in turn, fosters a superior vocal technique; to cultivate independence, confidence, and personal initiative in vocal repertoire selection; to develop musicality and personal stylistic intuition; to raise an awareness of proper vocal hygiene; and to foster a genuine enjoyment of singing.

Course Content

Students registered in any of the following Applied courses receive 24 lessons of 50 minutes each, normally 12 per term. Students registered in undergraduate credit recitals will receive an additional 12 hours of lessons, spread throughout the year. These lessons might be scheduled concurrently with the regular weekly lesson for a total of 75 minutes per week.

The first portion of the lesson will be devoted to the development of a personalized regimen of vocal exercises for warm ups and technical mastery. The focus will lay on the establishment and reinforcement of positive and healthy singing reflexes through a series of short and intensive exercises.

The remainder of the lesson will be devoted to repertoire. Technical and musical instruction will be achieved through the singing of vocal repertoire suited to the level and voice type of each student in order to obtain optimal vocal, musical, and personal development.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to record their assigned exercises and repertoire in a notebook, which they must bring to each lesson. In addition, it is strongly recommended that each lesson should be recorded. Students are required to practice daily. “In preparing for juries or recitals, students should pace their practicing carefully, doing regular amounts every day. Practicing, like any other physical activity, requires fitness and a daily routine; students who cram in many hours of practice in panic preparation for a coming examination and who have not been practicing regularly throughout the year, run the risk of physical injury, and possible serious interruption of their Applied courses” – MPS
Handbook

Students are responsible for obtaining any assigned music by the following lesson, as well as completing a translation and an IPA transcription. Students must run their repertoire with their accompanist prior to their lesson.

Students are required to attend and participate in the weekly Performance Class. A schedule will be provided at the beginning of each semester. Unless discussed with the professor, students are required to sing on their assigned dates. A sign-up sheet will be posted outside the professor’s studio on which students must indicate which selections they will perform. This must be completed the Friday prior to the class. All repertoire to be performed for the class must be memorized. Students are also expected to introduce their pieces to the class (background information on composers and poets, etc). Finally, students are responsible for obtaining an accompanist for their respective dates.

In addition to attending Faculty and colleague recitals, students are expected to review three (3) vocal concerts per semester: solo and chamber recitals as well as operas and oratorios are acceptable on and off-campus. Note that Performance classes may not be reviewed. These reports must be one (1) page, single-spaced, and accompanied with a program of the performance. They are due one (1) week after the reviewed performance date. Note that plagiarism is unacceptable and consists of a serious Scholastic Offence.¹


Students are responsible for acquainting themselves, via the website, with Jury Requirements, as well as information contained in the Music Performance Studies Handbook. These two documents together as well as this syllabus comprise the course outline for the Applied Music Instruction and students must receive the course outline during the first week of class. The Music Performance Studies Handbook and the Jury Requirements for each instrument are posted on the Faculty of Music website. The links to both documents can be found at http://www.music.uwo.ca/. Look under “Departments,” then “Performance.”

Lesson Times

After the lesson times have been arranged, the time will be changed only to mutually convenient times.

Cancellations

¹ “Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnote or citation. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.” – University of Western Ontario Senate (2004).
1. If the student is unable to attend a scheduled lesson time, the student must contact the professor via e-mail at least 24 hours prior to the lesson time.
2. If the student awakes with a sore throat that affects her/his ability to perform, the professor will accept cancellations between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. at her home telephone (473-8447).
3. E-mails sent less than 24 hours prior to lesson time can be used in addition to a phone call, but will not be accepted as a proper cancellation procedure, should the professor not acknowledge receipt of the e-mail by 8:00 a.m.
4. Under no circumstance will a note on the professor’s door be accepted as proper cancellation procedure.
5. All lessons that have been cancelled according to one of the proper procedures may be made up at mutually convenient times.
6. Lessons cancelled by the professor will be made up at mutually convenient time.

Tardiness

1. The student is expected to arrive on time for each lesson, as directly impacts the productivity of a lesson. No tardiness will be made up at the end of the regular lesson time.
2. If the professor is not present at the beginning of the lesson time, the student is expected to wait for up to 15 minutes. If the professor is still not there after the 15-minute deadline, the student is expected to check voicemail and e-mail for instructions.

Accompanists

1. The student is responsible for retaining the services of an accompanist.

Grading


The Studio Instruction mark will consist of weekly in-lesson evaluations on the assigned materials (exercises and repertoire – see above Course Requirements) as well performance reviews. These reviews will form 10% of the Studio mark.

Additional Information:

Course Pre-requisites: It is the student’s responsibility to ensure they have met all requirements of course pre-requisites. University policy states: Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.
Accommodation for Medical Illness: In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean’s office. [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/appeals_discipline/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/appeals_discipline/index.html)

Academic Integrity: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ([http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

Special Needs: If you have special needs due to a physical, psychological or learning disability, and need course materials in alternative formats or other considerations, please contact the office Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in the Student Development Centre. For more information, please see the following link: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/appeals_discipline/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/appeals_discipline/index.html)