UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
MUSIC 9596y
LYRIC DICTION FOR PERFORMERS OF VOCAL MUSIC:
ITALIAN DICTION
Dr. Todd Wieczorek
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MEETING TIME:  T 1:30-3:00pm, TC100 OFFICE HOURS: By appointment
REQURED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:
ISBN: 978-0-9894385-2-0
An Italian Dictionary containing indication of open and closed “e” and “o” for stressed syllables (and other IPA helps if desired)

SUGGESTED MATERIALS:
• 3 Ring binder for notes, handouts, and assignments
• Hand-held mirror
• Original scores of music for class performance
• Personal recording device for study

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. Gaining a proficient basic working knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as it relates to the Italian language
2. Learning general rules of pronunciation and syllabification for Italian
3. Transcribing Italian words and texts into IPA, including word-for-word translations from Italian into English
4. Incorporating the rules of pronunciation into spoken and musical contexts
5. Developing critical listening skills in regard to authenticity and flexibility of pronunciation
6. Developing performance strategies and skills through song/aria research

PROCEDURES:
1. Attending class periods, prepared for quizzes and scheduled examinations
2. Completing readings and homework assignments for the assigned class periods
3. Singing **two art songs/arias and one recitative** in Italian
4. Completing **one listening assignment and presenting your findings for the class**
5. Possible responsibilities in working with undergrad students in study groups

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS:
Attendance to each class period is expected. The professor should be informed of absences for medical reasons prior to the class period. These absences must be cleared with a medical note by the following class period to be accepted. Academic absences will be accepted when documented in accordance with university policy.

Tardiness to class sessions is strongly discouraged. Students who arrive tardy but less than fifteen minutes late will receive partial attendance credit for the day. Two partially attended classes will result in one unexcused absence. Students who arrive more than fifteen minutes after the beginning of a class session shall receive an unexcused absence for the day.

GRADING AND GRADING SCALE:
Your final grade will be based on the following percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>A+=100-90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D=59-50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listenings and Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>A=89-80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>F=&lt;49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singing #1, #2, and Recit.</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>B=79-70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (written and oral)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>C=69-60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GRADING STANDARDS:
1. You will be graded on accuracy of transcription of Italian into IPA, the accuracy of pronunciation of IPA symbols, and the accuracy of the sung representation of Italian. This includes participation and attitude during class sessions.
2. Assignments will be given during the class period, either on the syllabus or verbally. If you are absent from a class period, you are responsible for getting your assignments from the professor or TA through e-mail or individual appointment.
3. Assignments must be completed by the beginning of class time to receive full credit. Appropriate partial credit will be given for assignments that are incomplete or late. Students who are absent for reasons stated above should contact the professor to make arrangements for presenting assignments at the earliest reasonable opportunity. See below for Listening Assignment instructions and expectations
4. Songs, arias, and recitatives prepared for class performance MUST be memorized, with a sheet containing the song’s text, IPA transcription, and a word-for-word translation of the text. Performing additional background research will also add to your comprehension of the piece and potentially add to your performance
5. If you are unable to sing on your assigned day due to medical reasons, you must contact the professor the morning prior to the class period. If you are not seriously ill and contagious, you will recite your text and present your IPA transcription. Failure to perform the piece or to make appropriate arrangements with the professor will result in a failing grade for the performance
6. Oral examinations will be scheduled and administered during the final exam preparation period. The exam will take no more than five minutes and be comprised of reading a text in Italian. You will be given appropriate time during the oral exam to analyze the text for accurate pronunciation.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: (Assignments)

**September**
- 11- Course Syllabus, Accompanist Assignments, IPA introduction, syllabification (Units 1-3)
- 18-In-class exercises (Units 4-6)
- 25-In-class exercises (Units 7-9; Song #1 Transcriptions)

**October**
- 2-In-class exercises

9- NO SESSION-FALL READING WEEK

16- Singing Assignment #1
23- Singing Assignment #1

30-Graduate Listening Assignments; in-class exercises (Song #2 Transcriptions)

**November**
- 6- In-class exercises
- 13- Singing Assignment #2
- 20- Singing Assignment #2
- 27-Final/Recit preparation

**December**
- 4- Recit. Performances (Finals Due; Oral Exam)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
The Scholastic Offense Policy in regard to plagiarism states, “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. Western University uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.” This directly implies that all IPA work be done without the use of other aids beyond the assigned textbook.
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS:
As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help students achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing a graduate degree. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone in whom they feel comfortable confiding, such as a faculty supervisor, a program advisor, or the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies). Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:


**Song/Recit. Assignment Instructions**

- **Song #1**—October 16 and 23
- **Song #2**—November 13 and 20
- **Recit.**—December 4

For each assignment, prepare your text in the following manner:

**IPA**

Original text

**Translation**

Your assignment will be graded on the following: IPA transcription, translation of the text, spoken accuracy according to the written IPA, and sung accuracy according to the written IPA. Please provide at least 1.5 line spacing between each three-lined grouping (IPA, Original Text, and Translation). Marks will be taken off for lack of preparation or missing elements from the transcription sheets.

**Listening Assignment Instructions**

- **Due Date**—October 30

You will complete one listening assignment (separate or in groups) on two recordings of a song or aria. Your recordings should consist of one native Italian singer and one non-native singer. Your group will transcribe the text according to the rules of transcription discussed in class. After transcribing, you will listen to the recordings, indicating the discrepancies between what you transcribed and what was sung. You will present your findings to the class, combining efforts of your transcription and comparative listening of each of the recordings. Depending on the format of your presentation, professor/TA assistance will be provided for copies and AV support.

**Ex.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transcription:</th>
<th>Ombra mai fu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singer 1</td>
<td>[u bre I v ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singer 2</td>
<td>[ mai: ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You need not transcribe the entirety of each recording’s diction, only the deviations from the rules discussed in the class.