

## FRENCH LYRIC DICTION – MUS 9597 y/a/b

University of Western Ontario  
Don Wright Faculty of Music  
Course Instructor: Prof. Patricia Green  
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### CLASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm, TC 100

### PREREQUISITE

MUS 2942y (Italian/German lyric diction)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Intensive study of French lyric diction and mélodie performance practice; including IPA assignments, tests, transcription and pronunciation practice, study of French composers of song, and performances of songs. The second semester involves application of lyric diction study in performances of works in French and English by Canadian composers and by contemporary French composers.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

For the student to learn correct pronunciation of French in singing, to gain further facility in the use of IPA for the same purpose, and to build an understanding of the syntax and word stress of the French language and French poetry. Singers are to gain knowledge of composers of mélodie and learn the correct interpretive style for singing mélodie, employing it in performance.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

C. Montgomery: *French Lyric Diction Workbook – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*, S.T.M. Publishers, 2014

P. Bernac: *The Interpretation of French Song*. New York: Norton, 1976.

*Strongly Recommended:* C. Kimball: *SONG- A guide to Art Song Style and Literature*. Hal Leonard, 2006

French/English dictionary: Suggested title - *Larousse Pocket French/English Dictionary*. If you choose another dictionary, be certain it includes IPA for French. Oxford is not recommended.

Songbooks of Berlioz, Gounod, Massenet, Duparc, Chabrier, Chaminade, Chausson, Fauré, Debussy, Satie, Caplet, Roussel, Ravel, Poulenc, Hahn, Milhaud, Messiaen, Jolivet, Dutilleux, Papineau-Couture, Garant, Hétu

*The Textbook is required for every class in the first 7 weeks of first semester.*

*The Bernac is required for every class from Week 8 – 13.*

### COURSE PIANIST

Two pianists will be assigned to this course. You must provide a copy of your List A and B songs to them *by Sept. 30th*. It is your responsibility to book a rehearsal for the week preceding your class performances. If you do not do so, the pianist is not obliged to accompany you and you must provide your own pianist. It is your responsibility to know the text and the score.

### COMMUNICATION

Important class announcements and information may be sent to you by email. It is your responsibility to check your e-mail regularly and respond as necessary.

### OVERVIEW OF SCHEDULE

Weeks 1 - 6:	Introduction, Intensive work on Diction mastery
Week 7:	Written Diction exam
Weeks 8 - 10:	Mélodie Performances (Round I)
Weeks 11 - 13:	Mélodie Performances (Round II)
Exam period	Final Exam Mélodie Performance

**ASSIGNMENTS** From week one – seven, there will be weekly IPA transcription and vocabulary assignments. The IPA and translation of each song you will perform will be handed in 2 weeks preceding your performances. Texts will be spoken preceding the performance, and understanding of the word for word poetry is expected. A song profile will also be required.

#### EVALUATION

IPA Assignments	20%
First Mélodie Performance*	15%
Second Mélodie Performance*	15%
Written Exam (Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup> )	20%
Final Exam Mélodie Performance*	20%
Attendance, Répertoire, Participation	10%

\*includes recitation of song text, IPA and song profile.

#### MIDTERM EXAM

This written exam will include IPA transcription, questions on vocabulary, and diction rules.

#### UNIVERSITY POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

Sources can be obtained in which ready-made IPA transcriptions may appear. The copying of these translations is easily traceable, and will result in disciplinary action under the plagiarism provision of the scholastic offense policy of the University of Western Ontario. “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. The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking”

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS

The Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at "[www.studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm](http://www.studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm)" of May 2008, the University has a new policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, which states that “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.”  
[www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf)

#### STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, found at "<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>"

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