FOUNDATIONS IN SINGING – MU 2104A (Section 001)
Don Wright Faculty of Music, Western University
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Office: Talbot College Rm. 337
Office Hours: By appointment

CLASS SCHEDULE
Tuesdays from 7:00pm to 10:00pm in Talbot College Rm. 100

COURSE DESCRIPTION
GENERAL OVERVIEW: Foundations in Singing (MU 2104) is designed to provide an opportunity for students to develop their unique expressive skills. Students enrolled in the course must be able to read music. The anti-requisite to this course is Vocal Methods (MU 1801). Note: Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol 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.

CONTENT/LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will explore the fundamentals of techniques of singing, including (but not limited to) voice function, breath control, tone production, diction, vocal health, performance preparation, and interpretation of song.

FORMAT: The format of the class shall consist of a balance of lecture and performance. Through written assignments, students are encouraged to integrate concepts learned from lectures and their own vocal experiences through the analysis and performance of vocal solo music.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
Electronic device capable of recording video (eg. cell phone, laptop, camera)

OWL
The syllabus and other important course documents will be available for download on the OWL site by logging on to http://owl.uwo.ca. Follow the appropriate links to the MU 2104A course link.

METHOD OF EVALUATION
Practical Performances (45%)
- Solo performance #1 – 15%
- Solo performance #2 – 15%
- Final solo performance – 15%
Assignments (30%)
- Three written assignments, each worth 10%
Written Test (15%)
- Covers material from lectures, handouts, and textbook
Participation and Attendance (10%)
Because feedback from colleagues is a crucial part of this course and because each singer learns from observing and analyzing the performances of their colleagues, attendance is mandatory. It is expected that you will engage with the class in a professional manner – being punctual, focused, engaging in class discussion, encouraging and respectful of each other. Each unexcused absence will be assessed a penalty of 10% of the participation grade. Each time you are late or leave the class early without prior notification to the instructor, you will be assessed a penalty of 5% of the participation portion of your final grade.
Grading Scale for all aspects of the course:
A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

Evaluation Policy:
At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. Generally, students can expect some form of feedback on their performance in a course before the drop date.

Practical Performances

Evaluation
SOLO PERFORMANCES: Each solo performance will be evaluated by the instructor taking into account the following criteria: posture, breathing, tone, diction, stage presence, and interpretation. Each solo is chosen well in advance and approved by the instructor. Prior to each solo, the student is required to maintain a rehearsal journal to track their own progress. In addition, the student will self-evaluate each performance after observing each one on video and filling out an evaluation form. Submit the self-evaluation form and the practice log the following week after your performance.

Timeline/Requirements for solo performances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>PRE-PERFORMANCE</th>
<th>POST-PERFORMANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solo #1</td>
<td>Choose a song from LIST A (folksong, spiritual, or hymn in English)</td>
<td>- fill out rehearsal journal and hand in the following class</td>
<td>- watch video</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- must be memorized</td>
<td>- bring video recording device</td>
<td>- fill out self-evaluation form and hand in the following class</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- must be accompanied by piano</td>
<td>- rehearse with pianist at least once before performance</td>
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<td>Solo #2</td>
<td>Choose a song from LIST A or LIST B (folksong, artsong, or aria in English)</td>
<td>- fill out rehearsal journal and worksheet and hand in the following class</td>
<td>- watch video</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- must be memorized</td>
<td>- bring video recording device</td>
<td>- fill out self-evaluation form and hand in the following class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solo #3</td>
<td>Choose a song from LIST A, B, or C (musical theatre, jazz, folksong, artsong, or aria in English)</td>
<td>- fill out rehearsal journal and worksheet, hand in on Nov. 29 (Group A) or Dec. 6 (Group B) to the undergraduate assistant in the Music Student Services Office in Talbot College Rm. 210</td>
<td>- watch video</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- must be memorized</td>
<td>- bring video recording device</td>
<td>- fill out self-evaluation form and submit with Assignment 5 on Nov. 29 (Group A) or Dec. 6 (Group B) to the undergraduate assistant in the Music Student Services Office in Talbot College Rm. 210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- must be accompanied by piano</td>
<td>- rehearse with pianist at least once before performance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **SOLO #1:** Choose a song from LIST A (folksong, spiritual, or hymn in English) – **MUST BE MEMORIZED**
2. **SOLO #2:** Choose a song from LIST A or LIST B (folksong, spiritual, hymn, artsong, or aria in English) – **MUST BE MEMORIZED**
3. **SOLO #3:** Choose a song from LIST A, B, or C (musical theatre, jazz, folksong, spiritual, hymn, artsong, or aria in English) – **MUST BE MEMORIZED**
4. If you would like to perform a song outside of the textbook, you must do so in consultation with the instructor. The song you choose must match the criteria for the particular solo.

**LIST A**

- Shenandoah
- The House of the Rising Sun
- Scarborough Fair
- Danny Boy
- The Water is Wide
- Salley Gardens
- Western Wind
- Red is the Rose
- Niño Precioso*
- L’hirondelle messagère*
- Amazing Grace
- Wayfaring Stranger
- My Lord, What a Mornin’
- I’ve Got Peace Like a River
- How Can I Keep From Singing
- Ah! simon moine voulait danser!*/**
- Dance of Youth**
- Dubinushka**
- Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit**
- Flor, Blanca Flor/**
- Mi Caballo Blanco/**
- Paun I Kolo/**
- Suo-gân/**
- The Lark in the Clear Air**

**LIST B**

- Santa Lucia*
- Come Again, Sweet Love
- La Paloma Blanca*
- When Love is Kind
- I Cannot Sing To-Night
- Gentle Annie**
- He Shall Feed His Flock**
- If You’ve Only Got a Moustache**

**LIST C**

- There’s a Fine, Fine Line
- Someone Like You
- Goodnight, My Someone
- Not While I’m Around
- Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’
- I Got the Sun in the Morning
- Over the Rainbow
- Somewhere Out There
- I Sing for You
- Fields of God
- Puttin’ on the Ritz
- Blue Skies
- When I Fall in Love
- Skylark
- Side by Side
- Summertime
- Come Ready and See Me
- Modern Major General**
- Oh, better far to live and die**
- The sun, whose rays**

*In English

**Found on Norton Singing Book website. Find the link on the course OWL page and download the music score. Note that before you can download and print off the music, you must download SIBELIUS SCORCH which is a free notation reader software. Instructions are found on the website.

**Guidelines on choosing repertoire:** Choose songs that are suitable to your voice classification, range, tessitura, and level of study. Be creative in choosing contrasting songs that you really like to sing and that will encourage a healthy vocal technique. Do not choose music that is too demanding technically or artistically for your level of study.

**Sources of vocal repertoire:** All songs that can be performed in the class are found in the course textbook (see below for lists of acceptable repertoire). If you would like to perform a song outside of the textbook, you must do so in consultation with the instructor. Other sources of repertoire include
the music library (second floor of Talbot College), conservatory songbooks, personal collections, www.musicnotes.com, or other sources. Listening to recordings is also a valuable resource for finding repertoire.

**Repertoire restrictions:** Time does not allow for specific vocal techniques in the “pop” idiom or “belt” style, therefore repertoire is not to include any “pop” songs or show pieces requiring a “belt” technique.

**Accompaniment:** All songs must be accompanied by piano. You may choose to work with the class accompanist or an accompanist from outside of the class. You may not accompany yourself.

**Absence policy:** Missed solos will receive a mark of zero. Please note that in the case of illness or emergency, an arrangement can be made to make up for the missed performance, but you must call and e-mail your instructor as soon as possible to alert her of your situation. You will be asked to present proper medical documentation as soon as possible to the appropriate Dean’s office.

**When will you perform?** Within the first week of the term, your instructor will designate and inform you on whether you are in Group A or in Group B. The term schedule, Appendix A, found on page 7 of the syllabus, will indicate when you are assigned to perform your solos.

**Policy on guests attending performances:** As a courtesy to those students that are particularly nervous when performing, guests from outside the class are not permitted to attend performances.

**Resources for Performance Preparation**

**Accompanist**
There is an accompanist TA available to accompany you on your solos during the term. Her name is Debbie Grigg and her e-mail address is debbiegrigg.dg@gmail.com. You must you rehearse with your accompanist at least once before your song is performed in class. Rehearsals with Debbie will be scheduled online through SignUp Genius. You will receive an e-mail notification to inform you that sign-up times are available. You must let her know what your piece is (if it is in the text book) or give her a copy of your piece at least two weeks in advance of your performance date. Your accompanist TA has the right to refuse to perform your piece if you have not prepared it together beforehand, thus affecting your grade on the solo. If the song is not from the textbook The Singing Book, then you are responsible for providing a copy of it for your accompanist.*

Music can be given to Debbie in class or can be placed in the envelope outside of Music Building Rm. 545. Please hole-punch all music and double-side any pieces longer than three pages. Be sure to write your name and group you are in on the first page.

For further direction on how to submit music to your TA, see Appendix B of the syllabus.

If you would like to work with another accompanist other than the TA, please clear this with the instructor well in advance before your performance.

*The publisher of the textbook has provided a website on which you may change the key to any of the songs and print them out. If you choose to sing one of these songs in an altered key, then please provide a copy for your accompanist.

**Instructor**
Your instructor is available by appointment, if necessary, to provide brief sessions of vocal coaching to aid you in the preparation of your solos.
ASSIGNMENTS
Marks are awarded for content, proper grammatical usage, and spelling. Please submit printed copies only. Electronic copies will not be accepted. Late submission of assignments for non-medical/non-emergency reasons will be assessed a penalty of 10% (of the assignment grade) per day late.

Assignment 1: Personal Voice Profile / Reflection
Due: September 24, 2019 in class

Assignment 2: Comparative Recording Review
Due: October 29, 2019 in class

Assignment 3: Final Progress Report / Reflection
Due: November 29, 2019 by 4 p.m. for Group A, December 6, 2019 by 4 p.m. for Group B – submit to one of the undergraduate assistants in the Music Student Services Office in Talbot College Rm. 210
(Submit with rehearsal journal and worksheet for Solo #3)

WRITTEN TEST
A written test, worth 15% of your final grade, will assess content from the course, covering material from lectures, all in-class discussions, handouts, and textbook. If you miss the test due to non-medical or non-emergency reasons, you will receive a mark of zero. Please note that only in the case of illness or emergency, an arrangement can be made to make up for the missed test, but you must call and e-mail your instructor as soon as possible to alert her of your situation. You will be asked to present proper medical documentation as soon as possible to the appropriate Dean’s office before you will be permitted to write a make-up test.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
The university’s attendance policy may be found at:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
The following websites may be useful to you in obtaining support during your studies:
Office of the Registrar
This site provides you with information on things like course enrollment, student finances, and student records, as well as the latest updates from Student Central. http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/

The Student Development Centre
The Student Development Centre is home to a variety of services specially designed to meet the needs of undergraduate and graduate students on campus http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/

Student Services
Within this portal you will find services, application, personal information, along with connections to other services offered to help you during your time here at Western! https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm/

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION
Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing more than 30% of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation in the form of a completed and appropriately signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities, or the equivalent documentation for non-medical or compassionate grounds.
Students seeking academic consideration must communicate with their instructor no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence. Documentation, if required, shall be submitted to the appropriate Dean’s office.

Note that the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal may not be used for requesting academic relief for work worth more than 30%, or for Final Exams scheduled during the official examination period. Students are directed to read the full Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf)

A pdf copy of a Senate approved Student Medical Certificate (SMC) may be downloaded here: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

In cases where students miss work that is worth 30% or less of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online absence report is submitted using the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal, or if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the appropriate Dean’s office and that Dean’s office deems that accommodation is warranted, then the missed assignment(s) or performance(s) may be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not submitted voluntarily then the missed assignment(s) or performance(s) will receive a grade of zero.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western at the following website [https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Students may be excused to observe a religious holy day of their faith without penalty provided they notify the instructor in advance. Students are responsible for material covered in their absence and each student shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.

If you require academic accommodations because of a disability, please let the instructor know during the first week of classes, and, if you have not done so already, register as soon as possible with Accessible Education (formerly known as Services for Students with Disabilities). You can learn more about the Student Success Centre’s services for accessible education at [http://success.uwo.ca/academics/sas/index.html](http://success.uwo.ca/academics/sas/index.html).

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON PLAGIARISM**

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). Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking. 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 for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system.
STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

STATEMENT ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES
No electronic devices are allowed in class during quizzes, tests and examinations.

STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH
Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western at https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Western’s Wellness Education Centre is located in the UCC, room 76.
http://westernusc.ca/blog/2016/02/25/wellness-centre-and-mentalhealth-guide-created-work-to-promote-better-student-holistic-health/
## APPENDIX A:
### FOUNDATIONS IN SINGING (MU 2104A) TERM SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC/EVENT</th>
<th>TEXT READING (2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; EDITION)</th>
<th>TEXT READING (3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; EDITION)</th>
<th>DUE DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>How is sound created? Basic laryngeal anatomy and function</td>
<td>7-10, 279-291 300-307</td>
<td>7-11, 259-271 280-287</td>
<td>- Declare to instructor your selection for Solo 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>Last day to add a first term half-course</td>
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<td>- Sept. 20 - last day for Group A to inform accompanist of Solo 1 selection and submit copy of music (if applicable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>Posture, Breathing, Tone</td>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>18-19</td>
<td>- Assignment 1 due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Resonance, Registers</td>
<td>21-22</td>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>- Last day for Group B to inform accompanist of Solo 1 selection and submit copy of music (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Song preparation</td>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>18-19</td>
<td>- Rehearsal Journal/Self-Evaluation for Group A due</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Practice habits</td>
<td>21-22</td>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>- Declare to instructor your selection for Solo 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Warming up the voice</td>
<td>11-15, 341-344 23-25</td>
<td>12-15, 317-320 22-24</td>
<td>- Oct. 13 - last day for Group A to inform accompanist of Solo 2 selection and submit copy of music (if applicable)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Performance anxiety</td>
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<td>Solo coaching opportunity (optional – perform eight measures from solo)</td>
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<td>October 1</td>
<td>Solo 1 Performances – GROUP A</td>
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<td>October 8</td>
<td>Solo 1 Performances – GROUP B</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diction</td>
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<td>- Last day for Group B to inform accompanist of Solo 2 selection and submit copy of music (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>Solo 2 Performances – GROUP A</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>Solo 2 Performances – GROUP B</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>Fall Reading Week (November 4-10) – No lecture</td>
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<td>November 12</td>
<td>Last day to drop a first term half-course</td>
<td>292-299, 319-327</td>
<td>272-279, 299-307</td>
<td>- Rehearsal Journal/Self-Evaluation for Group B due</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 19</td>
<td>Written Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26</td>
<td>Solo 3 Performances – GROUP A</td>
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<td>- Assignment 3 and Rehearsal Journal/Self-Evaluation due for Group A on Friday, November 29. Submit to Undergraduate Assistant in Talbot College Rm. 210 by 4:00pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>Solo 3 Performances – GROUP B</td>
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<td>- Assignment 3 and Rehearsal Journal/Self-Evaluation due for Group B due on Friday, December 6. Submit to Undergraduate Assistant in Talbot College Rm. 210 by 4:00pm.</td>
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APPENDIX B: Instructions on submitting music to TA

Is my song in the textbook?

Yes

Will I sing it in the original key?

Yes

Simply let TA know title of song and page number

No

Make a copy of song and give to your TA in class or drop off song to envelope outside of MB545 (write your name and group)

No

1. Go to the website for the textbook (through OWL) and find your song
2. Follow instructions and download Sibelius Scorch (notation reading software). Use the program to change the key
3. Print a copy and give to your TA in class or drop off song to envelope outside of MB545 (write your name and group)