

FOUNDATIONS IN SINGING – MU 2104B (Section 001)

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Office Hours: By online appointment only

In this document, F2F denotes “face-to-face” / OL denotes “online” / ET denotes “Eastern Time”

CLASS SCHEDULE

Tuesdays from 7:00pm to 10:00pm ET (F2F in Talbot College Rm. 100 / OL via Zoom video conferencing). Classes on January 11, 18, and 25 will be online only. The status of the remaining lectures are pending COVID health and safety regulations.

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 prerequisites 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.*

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 lectures and performances. Lectures will be delivered synchronously F2F or online, as the situation with COVID may be. Prior to each class meeting, it is expected that students will have read the readings from the textbook and any assigned articles and videos. Rehearsals and performances will take place either in person or online. 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

- Textbook: *The Singing Book, 3rd Edition* by M. Dayme and C. Vaughn (Norton & Co., 2014)
- Electronic device capable to accessing video conferencing through internet connection
- If performing F2F: Electronic device capable of recording video (eg. cell phone, laptop, camera) and a triple-layer, non-medical paper mask (you will perform in these masks)
- If performing OL: An additional electronic device capable of playing recorded music at a high volume (eg. laptop, speaker attached to device)

OWL

The syllabus, resources, 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 2104 link.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Practical Performances (30%)

Solo performance #1 – 15%

Solo performance #2 – 15%

Written Assignments (45%)

Assignment 1 (10%), Assignment 2 (10%), Assignment 3 (10%), Assignment 4 (15%)

Mid-term Test (15%)

Oral exam, conducted by Zoom video conference

Participation / Engagement (10%)

Ways to engage in the course: Attend class meetings either F2F or OL and participate in discussions, offer feedback on colleague performances, post a question or comment on the class forum in OWL. Regular engagement/participation in the class meetings is strongly encouraged. It is expected that you will engage with the class in a professional manner – being focused, engaging in class discussion, encouraging and respectful of each other.

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. In addition, the student will self-evaluate each performance, after observing each one on video, and reflect on their preparation process as part of Assignment 3 (after Solo #1) and Assignment 4 (after Solo #2).

Timeline/Requirements for solo performances:

	CRITERIA	PRE-PERFORMANCE	POST-PERFORMANCE
Solo #1	- Choose a song from LIST A or LIST B (folksong, spiritual, hymn, artsong, or aria <i>in English</i>) - must be memorized - must be accompanied by piano	- fill out rehearsal journal (in preparation of Assignment 3) - FSF student: bring video recording device to record your live performance / OL student: recording of performance will be emailed - F2F student: one online coaching and one in-person rehearsal with accompanist / OL student: two online coachings	- watch video recording of your performance - complete Assignment 3 and submit by next class
Solo #2	- Choose a song from LIST A, B, or C (musical theatre, jazz, folksong, artsong, or aria <i>in English</i>) - must be memorized - must be accompanied by piano	- fill out rehearsal journal (in preparation of Assignment 4) - FSF student: bring video recording device to record your live performance / OL student: recording of performance will be emailed - F2F student: one online coaching and one in-person rehearsal with accompanist / OL student: two online coachings	- watch video recording of your performance - complete Assignment 4 and submit by April 1 (for Group A) or April 8 (for Group B)

REPERTOIRE LIST FROM TEXTBOOK (SEE BELOW)

1. INSTRUCTIONS: SOLO #1: Choose a song from LIST A or B (folksong, spiritual, hymn, artsong or aria in English) – MUST BE MEMORIZED
2. SOLO #2: - Choose a song from LIST A, B, or C (musical theatre, jazz, folksong, folksong, spiritual, hymn, artsong, or aria in English) – MUST BE MEMORIZED
3. 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	LIST B	LIST C
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 <i>Ah! simon moine voulait danser!*</i> <i>Dance of Youth</i> <i>Dubinushka</i> <i>Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit</i> <i>Flor, Blanca Flor*</i> <i>Mi Caballo Blanco*</i> <i>Paun I Kolo*</i> <i>Suo-gân*</i> <i>The Lark in the Clear Air</i>	Santa Lucia* Come Again, Sweet Love La Paloma Blanca* When Love is Kind I Cannot Sing To-Night <i>Gentle Annie</i> <i>He Shall Feed His Flock</i> <i>If You've Only Got a Moustache</i> You can also find songs outside of the textbook, in English. Here are some recommended composers of arias and artsong: G.F. Handel, John Ireland, Felix Mendelssohn, Aaron Copland, John Jacob Niles, John Dowland, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Thomas Morley, William Byrd, Edward Elgar, Roger Quilter, Gerald Finzi, Michael Head, Benjamin Britten, Charles Ives, Amy Beach	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 <i>Modern Major General</i> <i>Oh, better far to live and die</i> <i>The sun, whose rays</i>

*In English

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, 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. F2F students will work with the class accompanist for live performances. OL students will use the accompaniment track for their performances. **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 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, found on pages 9 and 10 of the syllabus, will indicate when you are assigned to perform your solos.

How F2F and OL singing performances will work: F2F students will perform live in the classroom with medical grade (ASTM Level 3) mask on. Cloth masks are not permitted at the time of the publishing of this syllabus. Online students will log into the class by video conference and perform live while singing along with their backing track on another device. All students, whether F2F or online, are encouraged to offer feedback on performances and support your colleagues.

Policy on guests attending lectures and performances: Guests from outside the class are not permitted to attend lectures or performances.

Performance Preparation Information

Accompanist

You have 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**.

Coachings/Rehearsals

Before each solo performance, you will receive one online coaching either with your TA or with the instructor. In addition, F2F students will receive one in-person rehearsal and online students will receive one additional online coaching from the instructor. *What is the difference between a coaching and rehearsal?* In coachings, there is a little more time to work in a bit more detail on problem areas. Rehearsals are generally shorter in length and are straight run-throughs of the song to determine tempo, phrasing, and entries, etc. Online coachings and in-person rehearsals will be scheduled online through **SignUp Genius**. You will receive an e-mail notification to inform you that sign-up times are available. Note that for your online coachings, you will need a separate device to play the accompaniment track (see note below about “accompaniment track”) and it is expected that you will have already warmed up vocally beforehand.

Declaring your song to instructor and reporting/submitting music to the accompanist

The schedule for the course is tight, so it is crucial that you abide by the deadlines proposed for declaring your song to the instructor and reporting/submitting music to the accompanist (see next section on how to submit music score). If the song is from the textbook, then all you need to do is email the TA with the title and (high or low) key of the song. If the song is not from the course textbook, then you are responsible for providing a copy of it to your accompanist TA. See below for how to submit scores to the accompanist TA.

How to submit music to the accompanist

If the music is not in the textbook, then you can submit music scores to Debbie either by scanning a file in PDF format and emailing to debbiegriigg.dg@gmail.com or a hard copy of the score can be placed in the envelope outside of Music Building Rm. 545. Please double-side copy any pieces longer than three pages. Be sure to write your name and group you are in on the first page.

Accompaniment (backing) track

After the accompanist TA receives your song choice and score (if applicable), she will record an accompaniment backing track for your song and email the file to you. This can be used as your practice track, and as a backing track for your online coachings and online performances (for those who are online students).

ASSIGNMENTS

Marks are awarded for content, proper grammatical usage, and spelling. Please submit electronically via OWL. 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: January 25, 2022 at 11:55PM ET

Assignment 2: Listening Analysis Assignment

Due: February 8, 2022 at 11:55PM ET

Assignment 3: Solo #1 Self-evaluation / Reflection

Due: February 15, 2022 by 11:55PM ET for Group A; March 1, 2022 by 11:55PM ET for Group B

Assignment 4: Solo #2 Self-evaluation / Final term report

Due: April 1, 2022 by 11:55PM ET for Group A; April 8, 2022 by 11:55PM ET for Group B

MID-TERM TEST (ORAL)

A mid-term test, worth 15% of your final grade, will assess your understanding and synthesis of the material from the course, which incorporates video lectures, class meeting discussions, handouts, and readings. This will take place on **March 8, 2022** in the form of an oral examination and will be conducted through video conferencing (eg. Zoom). Notes or books are not permitted during the examination.

NOTES

- i) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence:** Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. **Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus.** Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:
- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
 - absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
 - assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
 - if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. **Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.**

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office. For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Special Notes for Covid-19-related Situations:

i) As a guideline, if a student has been contacted by the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to self-quarantine due to a Covid-19-related situation, then the Self-Reported Absence system is not to be used to report this absence or to request an academic accommodation. The student should contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as they are notified. In general, students are advised to not self-determine when to self-isolate. Unless directed by the MLHU students should go about their business as usual. But if a student chooses to self-isolate due to a suspected Covid-19-related situation while waiting to receive direction from the MLHU then the student is directed to contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as possible for further direction on receiving accommodation consideration.

ii) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work:** In cases where students are unable to submit work due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online self-reported absence is submitted, or if appropriate supporting documentation is submitted to the Associate Dean's office, and the accommodation is granted, then the missed assessments may be rescheduled or discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course, at the discretion of the instructor. If neither a self-reported absence nor an appropriate supporting document is submitted to the appropriate office, then the missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

iii) **Academic Offences:** Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. 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

iv) **Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

v) **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

vi) **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

vii) **Contingency Plan:** Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

viii) **Examinations & Attendance:** Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

ix) **Electronic Devices in Classrooms:** The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

x) **Plagiarism Detection Software Usage:** 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. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

xi) **Masking Guidelines:** Students will be expected to wear a medical grade (ASTM Level 3) mask at all times indoors the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation. Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks. Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

xii) **Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire**

Missed assessments (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically self-reported absences and/or academic counselling). Methods for dealing with missed work and course content are at the discretion of the instructor(s). Students should be aware that some learning outcomes cannot be easily made up and may need to be completed in a subsequent year. Your instructor will provide you with further information as to how this applies within this course. Students who demonstrate a pattern of routinely missing coursework due to self-reported COVID symptoms, and therefore do not demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes of the course, will not receive credit for the course.

FOUNDATIONS IN SINGING (MU 2104B) TERM SCHEDULE

DATE & MEETING TYPE	LECTURE TOPICS & VIDEOS / CLASS MEETING CONTENT	TEXT READING (2 ND EDITION)	TEXT READING (3 RD EDITION)	OTHER READINGS & VIDEOS	DUE DATES / NOTES
January 11 ONLINE CLASS MEETING	LECTURE MODULE 1: 1a) Introduction to course/syllabus 1b) How is sound created in instruments and the voice? 1c) How to choose a song and where to find songs? 1d) Introduction to Assignment 1 Optional: Finding vocal range (via brief virtual meeting with instructor)			Article: “What vocal sounds are made of”	
January 18	<i>Last day to add a first term half-course</i>				
January 18 ONLINE CLASS MEETING	LECTURE MODULE 2: 2a) Posture, Breathing, and Tone 2b) Resonance 2c) Registers 2d) How to describe vocal qualities (voice classification, elements of the voice)	7-10, 279-291 300-307	7-11, 259-271 280-287	Videos on vocal technique, different voices qualities	Declare any time conflicts, declare first song and indicate range by Jan. 17 Submit or report music to TA (indicate key) by Jan. 19 TA records and sends tracks to Group A students
January 25 ONLINE CLASS MEETING	LECTURE MODULE 3: 3a) Warming up the voice 3b) Song preparation 3c) Practice habits 3d) Performance anxiety 3e) Introduction to Assignments 2, 3, and 4	18-20 21-22 11-15, 341-344 23-25	18-19 20-21 12-15, 317-320 22-24	Article and video on performance anxiety	Assignment 1 due by Jan. 25 at 11:55PM ET TA records and sends tracks to Group B students
February 1 IN-PERSON (Pending) / ONLINE	In-person (pending) rehearsals with & In-person (pending)/Online coaching with Instructor for online performers – <i>to be scheduled</i>				
February 8 IN-PERSON (pending)	Solo Performance #1 – GROUP A Live (pending) and online performances All participate				Assignment 2 due by Feb. 8 at 11:55PM ET
February 15 IN-PERSON (pending)	Solo Performance #1 – GROUP B Live (pending) and online performances All participate				Declare second song by Feb. 14 Submit or report music to TA (indicate key) by Feb. 16 Assignment 3 due for Group A by Feb. 15 at 11:55PM ET TA records and sends tracks to Group A students
February 22	<i>Fall Reading Week (February 21 - 25)</i>				
March 1 IN-PERSON (pending)	LECTURE MODULE 4: 4a) Interpretation & Expression 4b) Diction (Part I: Vowels) 4c) Diction (Part II: Consonants) 4d) Vocal anatomy & Vocal health	335-336 308-318, 337-340 292-299, 319-327	315-316 288-298, 321-324 272-279, 299-307	Videos on singing with expression Article on vocal health	Assignment 3 due for Group B by March 1 at 11:55PM ET TA records and sends tracks to Group B students
March 8 ONLINE – by <i>scheduled appointment</i>	Mid-term Test (Oral)				

March 14	<i>Last day to drop a first term half-course</i>				
March 15 IN-PERSON (pending) / ONLINE	GROUP A: In-person (pending) / Online rehearsals with TA GROUP B: Online class meeting (Content: masterclass with instructor)				
March 22 IN-PERSON (pending) / ONLINE	GROUP B: In-person (pending) / Online rehearsals with TA GROUP A: Online class meeting (Content: masterclass with instructor)				
March 29 IN-PERSON (pending)	Solo Performance #2 – GROUP A Live (pending) and online performances All participate				Assignment 4 due for Group A due by April 1 at 11:55PM ET
April 5 IN-PERSON (pending)	Solo Performance #2 – GROUP B Live (pending) and online performances All participate				Assignment 4 due for Group B due by April 8 at 11:55PM ET